

Rainforest

This striking poster will fascinate the children and provide a stimulating introduction to rainforests

Activities across the curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Look at the poster together. Explain that rainforests are being destroyed as more and more trees are being cut down. Talk about how paper is made from trees and how families can help by recycling paper items. Visit www.kids.mongabay.com and www.ran.org to find out more about the rainforest.
- Use the poster as reference to create a rainforest scene. Spread paper on the floor and encourage the children to splash it with green paint. Suggest that they distribute the paint by hand, or with large brushes and sponges. When the paint is dry, help them to glue green vegetation on top made from fabric, string, twisted tissue paper and Cellophane. Invite the children to create colourful collage flowers and paintings of rainforest creatures to add to the scene. Use the finished creation as a backdrop for rainforest role play or as part of a rainforest display.

Communication, Language and Literacy

- Read *Walking Through the Jungle* by Julia Lacombe (Walker Books) and make up sentences relating to the poster, for example, 'Creeping through the rainforest, What did I see? I saw a red snake hissing at me'.
- Read rhyme and story books about rainforests and jungles, for example, *Rumble in the Jungle* by Giles Andreae (Orchard Books) and *Monkey Puzzle* by Julia Donaldson (Macmillan) to stimulate creative writing. Encourage the children to write a simple story, and support them with captions for their illustrations.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy

- Explore colours and patterns on the poster. Explain that some creatures, such as the humming bird, are brightly coloured so they can be noticed and others, such as the tree frog, like to blend into the background. Ask the children to describe the pattern on the snake and leopard and try to recreate animal patterns using a range of different media.
- Use the poster to promote positional language, for example, introduce the words 'along', 'above', 'on top', 'under' and 'beside' to describe where the creatures are situated.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World

- Use the poster, books such as *Wayland Atlas of Rain Forests* by Anna Levington and websites such as www.nationalgeographic.com to find out more about rainforest creatures. Point out interesting facts, for example, how the humming bird's bill is pointed to fit inside the flower to gather nectar, and how the sloth hangs upside down with strong limbs.
- Encourage the children to find the features on the poster that indicate a rainforest habitat. Emphasise that the vegetation is



How to use the poster

Create a rainforest display focusing on a scene created by the children. Drape green fabric over a table and stand it underneath the scene with books and related resources, such as small-world creatures, puzzles, puppets and trekking equipment for the children to explore.

thick, green and leafy because of the hot and damp climate. Use this information when creating a rainforest scene.

Physical Development

- Encourage the children to create a small-world rainforest in a Tuff spot or builder's tray. Suggest they use natural resources such as twigs and moss, and add model trees, bubble-wrap rivers, and small-world creatures and people.
- Suggest that the children create a role-play rainforest. Make clear forest walkways using benches, crates and planks, and hang string creepers festooned with paper leaves above them. Cover the floor with leaves and drape boxes in green fabric. Hide soft toy creatures among the 'vegetation'. Provide the children with trekking resources, such as backpacks, water bottles, cameras and camouflage outfits. Emphasise that they must only climb along designated walkways.

Creative Development

- Look at the different-coloured creatures on the poster, then invite the children to paint their favourite creature. Encourage colour mixing, for example, to create a purple humming bird or a pink chameleon.
- Ask the children about the sounds they might hear if they crept through the rainforest. Listen to some rainforest sound effects (www.audionetworkplc.com) and try to recreate the sound of the creatures, such as a chattering monkey or ribbiting frogs, using the voice, instruments and everyday objects.

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