

Science Story Adventures



African Rainforests

Learning outcomes

- » Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Life Sciences - Grade 1)
- » Students know examples of diverse life forms in different environments, such as oceans, deserts, tundra, forests, grasslands, and wetlands. (Life Sciences - Grade 3)

From: *California's Science Content Standards*

Books we read

Chameleon, Chameleon by Joy Cowley
Bitter Bananas by Isaac Olaleye

Activities we did

» We did a call and response song called *A Walk Through a Rainforest*. The leader says a line, and then the audience repeats it. Throughout the activity there are various actions. To start out, beat a rhythm on your laps to symbolize walking.

Look! (Pointing)
Over there! (Pointing)
There are some bushes.
There are some thick bushes.
We can't go this way. (Lean to one side)
We can't go that way. (Lean to the other side)
We'll have to go through it. (Make motion with your hands like you are brushing aside branches).

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Today's craft: Rainforest Vine



You will need:

- » Paper plate with the stiff edge cut off
- » An assortment of leaves and flowers cut from construction paper.
- » Glue or glue stick
- » Scissors
- » Hole punch
- » Yarn

Directions:

1. Draw a spiral on the plate and cut along the lines.
2. Glue on the leaves and flowers to cover the plate.
3. Make a hole in the middle of the spiral and thread some yarn through. You can use this to hang your vine up.

A Walk Through the Rainforest cont'd

Look! (Pointing)
Over there! (Pointing)
There's a tree.
There's a tall tree. (Looking up)
We can't go this way. (Lean to one side)
We can't go that way. (Lean to the other side)
We'll have to climb it. (Climbing motion, standing up.
Stop for a moment to look out when you get to the top,
then climb back down, sitting down.)

Look! (Pointing)
Over there! (Pointing)
There's a river.
There's a wide river. (Spreading arms out)
We can't go this way. (Lean to one side)
We can't go that way. (Lean to the other side)
We'll have to swim across it. (Swimming motions)

Look! (Pointing)
Over there! (Pointing)
There's some mud.
There's some dirty, sticky mud.
We can't go this way. (Lean to one side)
We can't go that way. (Lean to the other side)
We'll have to go through it. (Sucking sound and hand motions)

Look! (Pointing)
Over there! (Pointing)
There's a cave.
There's a dark cave.
We can't go this way. (Lean to one side)
We can't go that way. (Lean to the other side)
We'll have to go in it. (Looking a little scared and nervous)

Look! (Pointing and whispering)
Over there! (Pointing and whispering)
There are some eyes.
There are some green eyes.
There are some green, mean eyes.
The eyes of...the eyes of...A LEOPARD!

Do all of the motions in reverse, this time slapping your thighs hard and fast as if you were running until you arrive safely back home.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

A is for Anaconda by Anthony D. Fredericks. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .R27 F73 2009

Exploring the Rainforest: Science Activities for Kids by Anthony D. Fredericks. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .R27 F74 1996

The Rain Forest by Billy Goodman. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .R27 G63 1991

Rain Forests by Philip Sauvain. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .R27 S27 1996

Tropical Rain Forest by Linda Tagliaferro. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH541.5 .R27 2007

Websites

Africa: Explore the regions - Rainforest

http://www.pbs.org/wnet/africa/explore/rainforest/rainforest_overview_lo.html

Learning About Rainforests

<http://www.srl.caltech.edu/personnel/krubal/rainforest/Edit560s6/www/people.html>

Life in the African Rainforests

<http://www.sbs.utexas.edu/levin/bio213/biomes/rainforests/africa.rainf.life.html>