

The Rainforest

Geography

Year 3/4

Lesson 2 of 5

Learning Objective		Resources
To explore the layers of vegetation in a rainforest.		Slides Worksheet 2A/2B Information Sheet Challenge Cards (FSD? activity only) Art materials, e.g. brown/green paper, paints, tissue paper, paints, chalks, etc. (FSD? activity only)
Teaching Input		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Imagine you travelled to the rainforest. What do you think it would be like? What do you think the temperature would be like? What do you think you would see when you got there? Children to think, pair, share their ideas. Go through the information on the slides explaining that the climate of the rainforest is very hot and humid. This makes it perfect for plant growth. Explain that the rainforest is full of thousands of different species of plants that are home to thousands of species of animals. Go through the information about the different layers of vegetation in a rainforest: the emergent layer, the canopy, the under storey and the forest floor. Explain that each layer (strata) has different temperatures, humidity levels and amount of sunshine and different types of animals who live there. 		
Main Activity		
<p><u>Lower ability:</u></p> <p>On worksheet 2A, children to draw a picture of the different types of plants that would be found in each layer of the rainforest. Children to use the descriptions of each layer written on the worksheet as a guide. Children could include animals in their pictures to show which kinds of animals live in the different strata.</p>	<p><u>Middle ability:</u></p> <p>On worksheet 2B, children to describe what each level of the rainforest is like, using the words in the word box to help, then draw a labelled picture.</p>	<p><u>Higher ability:</u></p> <p>Provide children with the Information Sheet and any other relevant books or sources. Children to then create their own diagram to show the different levels of the rainforest, including plants, animals, labels and descriptions.</p>
Fancy something different...?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a class, create a large display showing the different levels of the rainforest. Split the class into four groups and give each group one of the Challenge Cards. Each group is then responsible for creating plants, trees, animals and labels for the strata they have been allocated. Children may need books or access to the internet to find the information they need. Children will need brown paper, green paper, plain and/or coloured paper, tissue paper, paints, chalks, crayons, etc. to create their section of the display. You may also want to give each group measurements for how big their should make their section of the display. When all groups have finished the different parts of their displays, put up the emergent layer first, then the canopy, then the under storey and finally the forest floor. Ask children to spot the animals and plants that other groups made for the display. 		
Plenary	Assessment Questions	
<p>Ask children to discuss in pairs the different levels of the rainforest. What are the layers called? What are the features of each layer? What kind of animals live in this layer. Children to discuss ideas together then check as a class for any misconceptions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children describe what the rainforest is like? Can children name the four layers of vegetation in a rainforest? Can children describe the features of each layer of vegetation and identify animals that live there? 	