

# 1<sup>st</sup> Grade WebQuest Lesson Plan: Exploring the Rainforest

<b>Title</b>	Exploring the Rainforest
<b>Grade Level/Subject</b>	First Grade/Multidisciplinary
<b>Overview of Lesson</b>	Students will be using the Internet to research the rainforest. The primary learning objectives are to identify strata of the rainforest, discuss how animals meet their needs, and evaluate the most important reasons for saving the rainforest. They will be using Tux Paint as well as paper and pencil to demonstrate what they have learned.
<b>Web Address for Activity Information</b>	<a href="http://blogs.bgsu.edu/ramy/inquiry-learning-project-2/">http://blogs.bgsu.edu/ramy/inquiry-learning-project-2/</a>
<b>Essential Question</b>	What are the most important reasons you would give to convince someone to save the rainforest?
<b>Suggested Foundation/Subsidiary Questions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is a rainforest? What are its parts?</li> <li>• What animals live in a rainforest?</li> <li>• Why do animals live in different layers? How does the rainforest provide what they need?</li> <li>• Why is the rainforest important? How does it help us?</li> </ul>
<b>Content Standards Addressed</b>	<p><i>Science</i> Living things have basic needs, which are met by obtaining materials from the physical environment.</p> <p><i>Language Arts: Writing</i> With guidance and support from adults, recall information from experiences or gather information from provided sources to answer a question. Write informative/explanatory texts in which they name a topic, supply some facts about the topic, and provide some sense of closure.</p>
<b>Activities/Tasks</b>	<p>This Webquest is designed as collaborative and independent. The Internet research portions are to be done with a partner because some students will not be able to read the information independently. Working with a partner will allow the text to be accessible to more students, but then asks all students to demonstrate what they have learned independently.</p> <p>In step 1, students will work with a partner to explore a website with basic introductory information about rainforests. There is a diagram included that students can use to create</p>

	<p>their own rainforest painting in Tux Paint. They will use the four strata, or layers, in their paintings.</p> <p>In step 2, students will explore a different website that allows them to click on a diagram and see where different animals live. They will record the names of the animals in the correct place in the chart. Deepen students thinking by following up the activity with a discussion about why animals live where they do. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why is the macaw the only animal listed in the emergents layer? Why wouldn't a poison dart frog live there?</li> <li>• What would happen if ants tried to live in the understory? Would they have the resources they need to survive?</li> </ul> <p>In Step 3, students will learn about why it is important to save the rainforests. Start by reading and discussing <i>The Great Kapok Tree</i> by Lynn Cherry. Then allow students to work with their partners to explore the final website. They should record ways the rainforest is helpful or important. Ask students to share and discuss the reasons to be sure they understand the information they found.</p> <p>Finally, in step 4, students will evaluate which of the reasons they found were most important. Making a decision about the most important reasons causes them to think more critically. They will share their final decisions in a letter to the man who wanted to cut down the tree in <i>The Great Kapok Tree</i>.</p>
<p><b>Possible Resources</b></p>	<p>United Streaming Video to use as an introduction:  <a href="#">The Tropical Rainforest Habitat</a></p> <p>TeacherVision page with links for lesson plans, printables, and other activities:  <a href="#">TeacherVision: Rainforests</a></p> <p>Teacher Website with lots of links to more in-depth information for teachers:  <a href="http://www.naschools.net/teachers/rainforest.htm">http://www.naschools.net/teachers/rainforest.htm</a></p>
<p><b>The Final Product</b></p>	<p>Students' final product will be a letter that they write in which they share the most important reasons to protect the rainforest.</p>
<p><b>Assessment</b></p>	<p>See rubric on teacher page</p>
<p><b>Teacher Commentary</b></p>	<p>The biggest potential obstacles I see in this WebQuest is the</p>

<b>Reflection</b>	<p>amount of text students are exposed to online. The students are asked to pull information from a body of text much bigger than they are used to. In order to support them, I have designed research portions to be done with a partner, asked them to pull information from diagrams, and followed up research of important information with class discussions.</p> <p>This lesson fits into our Rainforest science unit, and ties in as a writing project for the week as well.</p>
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