

The following units are themed units integrating the areas of science, social studies, math, language arts, literature, art, drama, dance, music, etc. Integrated units are a great way to cover many subject areas.

RAINFOREST

The following is an integrated unit. Students will learn about science through art, dance, music, language arts, etc. In this unit, students will also get a chance to express themselves creatively. It includes a web of activities you can choose from including the subjects of science, social studies, math, language arts, literature, art, drama, dance, music, etc. Students will love this unit. It is interesting and will keep their minds and bodies active.

Level: ~~Primary~~ to ~~Intermediate~~

Pronged Focus: Students will learn about the rainforest, a part of science, through art, dance, and music.

Student Objectives: Students will learn to express themselves through art, dance, and music while learning about the rainforest.

Teaching Procedure:

Introduction: Get students' attention by eliminating distractions & using signals.

- 1) Tell the students that the world's largest tropical rainforest is along the Amazon River. It is home to 2 million insect species, 10,000 plants, 2,000 species of fish, 600 mammals; many not found anywhere else in the world.
- 2) Provide interest in the rainforest with the following questions. *Write answers on tagboard and hang in room.*
 - A) Who can tell me what the two levels of the rainforest are? Answers: Forest floor and Upper Canopy
 - B) Does anyone know what animals might be on the ___ forest floor?
Answers: Jaguars, Manatees, Otters, Frogs, Tapirs, Pumas, Bush Dogs, Anteaters, Ocelots
 - C) Does anyone know what animals might be found in the upper canopy?
Answers: Eagles, monkeys, birds, butterflies, toucans, macaws, etc.
 - D) Who can tell me, what are some of the movements that some animals on the forest floor might make? Answers: crawl, slither, slash, stomp, run, etc.
 - E) What movements might the animals in the upper canopy make? Answers: fly, soar, swing, climb, etc
- 3) Play rainforest music to set the mood.
- 4) Explain that the purpose of the assignment is to help them learn about the rainforest and express themselves.
- 5) Make sure all students are listening.

- 6) Present visual aid: Poster of rainforest with animals in the rainforest located in the correct places.

Development: Present Activities

- 1) Start by sharing a poem about the rainforest.
- 2) The students first activity will be to make a poster of the rainforest in groups with the animals where they belong.
- 3) The second activity consists of students experimenting with movement. To rainforest music, the teacher will read some of the movements listed on the board and the students will experiment with these movements to music.

Conclusion:

- 1) Students will present their posters, explaining what animals they chose and where they are located. Students will evaluate themselves and each other as well as the teacher will evaluate by praise and suggestion.
- 2) If time allows, students will write a poem about the rainforest while listening to the rainforest music. Students will take time before to think about and write down what they would see, touch, smell, taste, and hear in the rainforest to help them.

Assessment: Ask the students how they expressed themselves and what they learned about the rainforest that they did not know before. Students will then collect all projects and put them into a portfolio.

Rainforest Poem

What is a rainforest? I bet you'd like to know. It's a place where
animals live, And plants and trees grow.

It's got birds, amphibians, and mammals, Reptiles, insects, and fish. There
are many kinds of fruits, Which make a lovely dish.

There are millions and millions of species, Of animals, plants, and trees. But
they're all disappearing, They need your help, please!

The trees are all being cut, Only seven percent remain. What have
we done to our world? We must be completely insane.

The animals live in the forest,
Over one million kinds.
When the trees go, so do they, So don't just act as if your blind.

We need the trees for oxygen,
And the animals need it too.
The rainforest provides many products we need,
With many things to study and do.

We have to take care of the forests,
'Cause half the world's creatures live there.

So write a letter or talk to your friends,
To show you really care!

Rainforest Web:

Lesson uses Science, Art, Dance

Science: Discuss content such as where certain animals are located in the rainforest and how many species there are.

Art: Make a giant poster of the rainforest with pictures of the animals where they would be located such as the forest floor or upper canopy. Make puppets for a puppet show using animals of the rainforest.

Dance: Have students dance to sounds of the rainforest as the teacher reads different animals movements such as leap, run, crawl; the children will experiment with these movement to music.

Social Studies: Go over maps and locate different rainforests around the world.

Drama: Create a puppet show using puppets you have or make puppets using animals of the rainforest.

Math. Compare and contrast how many plants, fish, and mammals there are in the rainforest to other areas around the world.

Language Arts: Write a fantasy story using animals in the rainforest as some of the characters and using the rainforest as a setting.

Literature: Write a poem using the five senses.

Music: Create a song or chant using sounds animals in the rainforest would make.