

## RAINFOREST MAKEOVER



Bring your research to life and transform your classroom into a rain forest. Add various animals and plants of the rain forest to your room as you study them. Students enjoy the integration of facts and fancy, and are much more likely to remember what they have learned when they participate in its display. At the end of the unit, invite students from other classrooms and parents in for a personal tour through rain forest.

Make the rain forest authentic: the animals and plants should be correctly named (*clown tree frog* rather than *frog*) and correctly placed (“in the rainforest canopy” rather than “in the rainforest”). Older students may further specify continents and countries.

It’s possible to assign single animals to individual students (“John will present a project on the scarlet macaw”), or groups of animals to groups of students (“The four of you will be in charge of rainforest birds”), or to request groups of students to present a good cross-section of animals (“Each group should present one primate and one other mammal, one snake and one other reptile, and one bird.”). The same approach can be used with plants.

Your classroom rain forest should reflect the research and inquiry of your students. The presentations may vary from a drawing of a toucan in a lower-grade classroom to a two page typed report on the dietary requirements of the blue bird of paradise from older students. One good rule of thumb is that regardless of the age of the students, the presentation should be accurate (that is, a drawing of a golden-mantled tamarin should not be purple). There are lots of great forms for “did you know” fact cards and more on abcteach; students can use these to create impressive presentations.

Students (or students and teachers) can make vines using construction paper or paper bags. Starting at one corner and cutting about 1½ inch thick strips in continuous spirals makes dramatic and easy vines. Birds and other animals can be hung from the vines

## POPULAR RAINFOREST ANIMALS and PLANTS

### BIRDS

- Scarlet Macaw
- Blue and Gold Macaw
- Cock of the Rock
- Cock-a-too
- Toucan
- Blue Bird of Paradise
- Quetzal

### MONKEYS/APES\*

- Spider monkey
- Howler monkey
- Golden-mantled Tamarin
- Gorilla
- Mandrill
- Chimpanzee
- Gibbon

*\*Make sure your monkey has a tail; apes do not.*

### SNAKES

- Emerald Tree Boa
- Boa Constrictor
- Cobra
- Coral Snake
- Python

### OTHER POPULAR ANIMALS TO ADD

- Anteater
- Lizards
- Butterflies/Moths
- Insects
- Sloth
- Jaguar

### PLANTS

- Orchids
- Bromeliads
- Palm Trees/Coconuts
- Rubber Trees
- Banana Plants/bananas
- Venus Fly-trap