

LESSON 3: PEOPLE OF THE RAINFOREST

Lesson plan overview

In this lesson, students will discover that people live in the rainforest and have a deep connection to nature. Through storytelling, visuals, and discussion, students will begin to understand the idea of interdependence—how people rely on nature for food, shelter, and medicine, and how they help take care of it in return. The lesson introduces Indigenous communities and highlights their traditional knowledge and sustainable practices, helping students appreciate different ways of living in harmony with the environment. This lesson encourages respect for both people and nature.

Educational materials

- **Videos:** ‘We Belong in Nature, Too’; ‘Indigenous Knowledge’; ‘At Home in the Rainforest’
- **Worksheet:** My Nature Connection—draw a way you help or live with nature
- **Quiz:** Matching terms (rainforest, people, homes, animals)
- **Math tie-in:** Counting rainforest resources
- **Art tie-in:** Shoebox diorama
- **Classroom discussion questions:**
 - What does your home have in common with rainforest homes?
 - How do rainforest communities take care of the forest?

WORKSHEET: My Nature Connection



Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions:

Watch the video about Indigenous rainforest communities. Then draw a picture of how people live with and take care of nature.

Think about homes, food, animals, and plants.



Write one sentence about how people and nature help each other:

QUIZ: Defining Rainforest Terms



Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions:

Match each word with its correct meaning.

1. Rainforest _____
2. Indigenous _____
3. Home _____
4. Animals _____
5. People _____
6. Interdependence _____



- A. Creatures that live in the forest, like monkeys or frogs.
- B. The first people to live in a place, with special knowledge about it.
- C. A place where someone lives.
- D. A warm, wet place filled with trees, plants, and animals.
- E. When people and nature help each other.
- F. Humans who live and take care of the rainforest.

MATH TIE-IN



Counting Rainforest Resources

Objectives:

- Practice counting and addition
- Learn about natural rainforest resources (bananas, wood, water)
- Explore the idea of collecting and trading in a rainforest setting

What you need:

- Whiteboard/chalkboard or smartboard
- Dry erase markers or chalk
- Student whiteboards/paper or verbal responses
- Optional: Dice or number spinner

HOW TO PLAY

On the board, draw 3 big symbols or write the words:

 Bananas

 Sticks

 Water

Tell the students:

"You are all living in the rainforest! Each turn, you'll collect some resources that help you live with nature.

Let's see what you get!

 Game rounds (repeat 3–5 times):

Each round, the teacher randomly "gives out" resources by saying or showing combinations like:

"You found 3 bananas, 2 sticks, and 1 water drop! How many items do you have altogether?"

"This time, you only got 1 banana and 4 sticks. What's your total?"

MATH TIE-IN (continued)



Counting Rainforest Resources

Students respond by:

- Writing the total on paper/whiteboard
- Saying their answer aloud (great for early age learners)
- Holding up fingers to show the total

Optional challenge questions:

"If you trade 2 bananas for 1 water, how many items do you have now?"

"You used 3 sticks to build a shelter—how many do you have left?"

"If your friend gave you 1 more banana, what's your new total?"

Winning and sharing:

- No one "wins"—it's cooperative and imaginative
- You can end by asking:
 - "What did you build or do with your resources today?" (e.g., "I made a canoe with my sticks!")

Why play?:

- No materials to prepare
- Builds counting, adding, subtracting, and thinking in real-world context
- Reinforces that rainforest resources are important and limited
- Promotes cooperation and imagination

ART TIE-IN

Shoebox Diorama



MATERIALS:

- Drawing paper
- Crayons, coloring pencils, or markers
- Optional: natural materials (leaves, twigs, brown paper) for collage

OBJECTIVES:

- Help students imagine living in harmony with nature
- Reinforce the concept of people living in the rainforest
- Encourage creative thinking about home, shelter, and environment
- Promote empathy and appreciation for Indigenous rainforest communities

INSTRUCTIONS:

Discussion prompt (5 mins):

Begin by asking:

- “What does your home look like now?”
- “What if your home was in the middle of the rainforest?”
- “What would it be made of? How would you stay dry? Where would you get food or water?”

Introduce the project (5 mins):

Tell students:

“Today, you’re going to imagine your home as part of the rainforest! You can use leaves for a roof, vines for swings, or a river for water. You get to design it yourself.”

Create (20–30 mins):

Students draw or collage their “rainforest home” using art supplies. Encourage creativity, imagination, and a focus on nature:

- Trees growing through the house
- Homes on stilts or treehouses
- Banana or palm-leaf roofs
- Nearby animals or rivers
- People gardening, fishing, or gathering fruit

Share (optional):

Invite a few students to share their rainforest homes with the class and explain:

“How does your rainforest home live with nature?”