

Geography Alive: Stage 2 (Topic 2: The Earth's Environment)

Lesson 6: Tropical forests		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson, students investigate the characteristics of the tropical forests (with a focus on rainforests) and the animals that live there. In doing so, students investigate the adaptations of animals and plants to the rainforest environment. Students learn to identify different types of animals and explore their needs and how the environment meets these needs.</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YouTube video: <i>Facts About Tropical Rainforest</i> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6uUB7LjJtM] • <i>Resource Sheet 1: Tropical Forest Fact Sheet</i> • <i>PowerPoint 1: Tropical Rainforests</i> • <i>Worksheet 1: World map</i> • Access to computers or iPads
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes tropical rainforests unique? • What plants and animals live in tropical rainforests? • How have these plants and animals adapted to the tropical rainforest environment? • Why are tropical rainforests threatened by deforestation? • Why are tropical forests so important to the wellbeing of living things including humans? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes the characteristics that make tropical rainforests unique • describes the climate of the tropical rainforest environment • identifies plants and animals that live in tropical rainforests • explains, in simple terms, how selected plants and animals have adapted to the tropical rainforest environment. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Students watch and listen to the YouTube video: Facts About Tropical Rainforest. At the end of the video, ask the students: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What are some common features of a rainforest? - What are some examples of vegetation that you might find in a rainforest? - What are some examples of animals that you might find living in a rainforest? • Step 2: Ask students to study Resource Sheet 1 and PowerPoint 1. Ensure that the students understand: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - where tropical rainforests are located - the climate of tropical rainforests - the vegetation and animals that live and grow in a tropical rainforest. • Step 3: Ask the class to discuss the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why is the temperature of those parts of the world where tropical rainforests are found much the same throughout the year? - How does the climate of the tropical rainforest affect the types of animals that live there? - Why are the soils of the tropical rainforest described as poor? - If the soils are so poor, how do they support such lush vegetation? - What are the threats to the world's remaining rainforests? • Step 4: Ask the students to take out Worksheet 1 – the world map of vegetation zones – from the previous lesson. Using the map included in the <i>PowerPoint 1</i>, ask students to colour in the distribution of tropical rainforests. As they are working, remind students to be as accurate as possible when locating and shading the areas of tropical rainforest around the world. • Step 5: Once the students have completed their maps gather together as a class. Encourage the students to use their maps to identify some of the countries around the world where tropical rainforests are located. Discuss the difference between a rainforest, coniferous forest and deciduous forest. Explain to students that depending on the latitude (how high) the location changes the type of forest. • Step 6: Using Slide 9 on PowerPoint 1 as a guide, ask students to draw a picture of a rainforest environment in their workbook. Try and label the layers of the rainforest and see if they can identify any animals that may be found in a rainforest. • Step 7: Quick research tasks: Do we have any rainforests in Australia? And. Why is it important to protect the world's remaining rainforests?