

# Rainforest Cafe

## Instructional Unit Resource Guide

Based on Principles of Universal Design and Differentiated Instruction



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# Authors' Note

This unit was designed to promote the five big ideas in beginning reading within a rainforest theme. The big ideas are phonemic awareness, the alphabetic principle, fluency and accuracy, comprehension, and vocabulary. Although the big ideas are actually taught all year, we anticipate using this unit at the end of the last quarter of the school year. The students will be able to combine their breadth of knowledge to create their own published books, stories and reader's theater which they will practice reading for presentations. We would like to make global friends by sharing our literary works with students in Costa Rica through the internet.

We are fortunate to have our speech clinician as part of our UDL Team. We are aware that speech deficits impact reading and fluency. Her valuable insight will be used both in the classroom and in her office.

The rain forest by nature promotes a wealth of student engagement. Students love the colors, sounds, and biodiversity and we hope this will provide a palette of information for each student to write and read their own work about this biome. The shared vocabulary students will learn will be incorporated into the stories, reader's theater, and other writings. The students will read to each other to help build fluency. The excitement will build as they prepare to present to others. Our insight of Universal Design brought excitement and energy to the lesson when we thought of all of the ways technology could support and enhance reading fluency and writing.

Our technology requirements are vast as we anticipate our students using digital cameras, and video cameras, iPods with microphones, and computers for picture searches, web quests, and research. We will use publishing software with text to speech and highlighting capabilities. A smart board/projector/scanner will be needed for presentation, instruction, and student kinesthetic interaction. Simon Sounds It Out and Edmark Software will be used for phonological instruction and practice. AspireREADER, an enhanced version of the CAST ereader would be beneficial for our students for reading text and web information. Subscriptions to [readingassistant.com](http://readingassistant.com) ([scilearn.com](http://scilearn.com)) can help us with assessment of fluency and data

We hope to use to a web cam capable computer to communicate with our global friends.

Team members are (back row, left to right) Robin & Mary (front row) Susan & Rachel.



# Standards

Students will meet the following standards in this unit:

## **Reading**

K.1.2

Follow words from left to right and from top to bottom on the printed page. (Core Standard)

1.3

Understand that printed materials provide information. (Core Standard)

K.1.4

Recognize that sentences in print are made up of separate words. (Core Standard)

K.1.5

Distinguish letters from words. (Core Standard)

K.1.6

Recognize and name all capital and lowercase letters of the alphabet. (Core Standard)

## **Science**

The Nature of Science and Technology

K.1

Students are actively engaged in beginning to explore how their world works. They explore, observe, ask questions, discuss observations, and seek answers.

Common Themes

K.6

Students begin to understand how things are similar and how they are different. They look for ways to distinguish between different objects by observation.

**To find more information on the Indiana State Standards click on the link below:**  
***<http://www.indianastandards.org/>***

# Planning for Academic Diversity

Before you begin planning your unit, consider the following types of scaffolds that should be built into your unit to support diverse learners:

For **students that cannot read at grade level...**

Text to speech

<http://www.readplease.com>

[http://www.donjohnston.com/products/read\\_outloud/](http://www.donjohnston.com/products/read_outloud/)

<http://www.kurzweiledu.com/>

[www.childrensbookradio.com](http://www.childrensbookradio.com)

Read Please

Read Out Loud

Kurzweil

Books on iPod

For students who has **difficulty comprehending the material...**

Cloze activities <http://www.cricksoft.com/uk/products/clozepro/default.aspx>

Early Reading Booster

[http://www.meritsoftware.com/software/early\\_reading\\_booster/index.php](http://www.meritsoftware.com/software/early_reading_booster/index.php)

For students who have **difficulty mastering the vocabulary** of the unit...

Try a visual thesaurus <http://www.visuwords.com>

[Kidspiration](http://www.kidspiration.com)

[http://www.softwaretime.com.au/product/product\\_list1.shtml?sid=&prod\\_code=MWDBV1](http://www.softwaretime.com.au/product/product_list1.shtml?sid=&prod_code=MWDBV1)

Bingo Dingo Primary Sight Word Bingo Software

For students who **need the instructional materials in a language other than English...**

Babel Fish <http://babelfish.altavista.com>

[Google Translation box](http://www.google.com/translate)

For students who have **difficulty with handwriting**, (either speed or accuracy), then...

Consider dictation <http://www.idictate.com> [Kidspiration](http://www.kidspiration.com)

For **students to conduct research...**

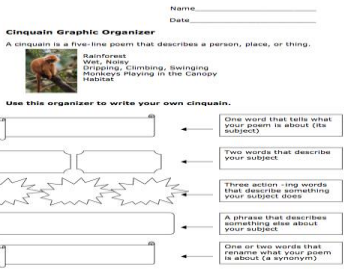


Google Toolbar <http://toolbar.google.com/>

Internet Search Engine for Kids <http://www.ivyjoy.com/rayne/kidssearch.html>

[Inspire.org](http://www.inspire.org)

# Teacher Library

Briefly describe instructional resources that will be useful to teachers when preparing this unit for diverse learners.

 <p><b>Cinquain Graphic Organizer</b></p> <p>A cinquain is a five-line poem that describes a person, place, or thing.</p> <p>Use this organizer to write your own cinquain.</p> <p>One word that tells what your poem is about (its subject)</p> <p>Two words that describe your subject</p> <p>Three action-ing words that describe something your subject does</p> <p>A phrase that describes something else about your subject</p> <p>One or two words that rename what your poem is about (a synonym)</p>	<p>This printable graphic organizer, from a ReadWriteThink lesson, provides students with a sample cinquain about the rainforest and then guides students through the process of writing their own cinquain poem.</p>
 <p><b>All About Rainforests</b></p> <p><b>What is a Rainforest?</b></p> <p>Rainforests are very dense, warm, wet forests. They are havens for millions of plants and animals.</p> <p>Rainforests are extremely important in the ecology of the Earth. The plants of the rainforest generate much of the Earth's oxygen. These plants are also very important to people in other ways; many are used in new drugs that fight disease and illness.</p> <p><b>Strata of the Rainforest</b></p> <p>Different animals and plants live in different parts of the rainforest. Scientists divide the rainforest into strata (zones) based on the living environment. Starting at the top, the strata are:</p> <p><b>EMERGENTS:</b> <i>(Tallest trees that are much higher than the average)</i> <a href="#">Tropical Rainforest Strata</a></p>	<p>Online and printable resources to teach concepts about rainforests.</p>
<p><b>You can hear them, but can you see them?</b></p> <p><i>Point to a part of the rainforest and click! As frustrating as it may be, sometimes you experience rainforest life through hearing it more than seeing it!</i></p> 	<p>Click on different areas of the picture to hear sounds from the rainforest.</p>



Rainforesteducation.com has games, early reader information, quizzes, pictures etc. that can be used by the student or teacher.

# Content Accessibility

The UDL principle of multiple means of representation is an important design principle for creating accessible and engaging instruction. The following resources will be provided to ensure that diverse students have access to the instructional content presented in this unit.

## **Text-based content:**

Changing font size in your browser or word processor

Accessing Digital Textbooks ([Bookshare](#), [NIMAS](#))

Public Domain e-books ([Project Gutenberg](#))

Sylvan Dell eBooks ([www.sylvandellpublishing.com/](http://www.sylvandellpublishing.com/))

New York Public Library ([http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/home\\_tumblebooks.asp](http://www.tumblebooks.com/library/asp/home_tumblebooks.asp))

Smart Kids Software-Interactive Trade books

<http://www.smartkidssoftware.com/livbks1.htm>

## **Web page content:**

Copy text to text-to-speech program (Macintosh: TextEdit – Windows: [Readplease](#))

Commercial Products ([Read, Write, Gold](#); [Kurzweil 3000](#), [WYNN](#))

[Free Audio Books](#)

**Video-based** [BrainPop](#)

[Discovery Education](#)

Pod Casts (National

Geographic)

Michigan City Area Schools-United Streaming Link

[www.mcas.k12.in.us](http://www.mcas.k12.in.us)

## **How-to guide**

[Wired How-to Wiki](#)

[Atomic Learning](#) (Assistive Technology and More)

Promoting Reading Success

[http://sz0114.ev.mail.comcast.net/zimbra/public/launchNewWindow.jsp?skin=velodrome2&localeId=en\\_US&full=1](http://sz0114.ev.mail.comcast.net/zimbra/public/launchNewWindow.jsp?skin=velodrome2&localeId=en_US&full=1)

<http://www.learninginhand.com/podcasting/index.html> Podcasting

Podcasting -newsletter

<http://www.hsmjs.org/assistive%20technology%20news%20letters/AT%20News%201-07%20newsletter.doc>

<http://atiapodcast.wikispaces.com/> Steps for podcasting



**Simplified language:**

[Simple English Wikipedia](#)

[Cognitive Rescaling](#) (using AutoSummary in Word, PDF download)

**Concept Map (Graphic Organizer):**

[Kidspiration](#)

[Graphic Organizers](#) (print templates)

**Vocabulary support**

[VisuWords](#)

[Visual Thesaurus](#)

[The Internet Picture Dictionary](#)

My Reading Coach <http://udlresources.com/index.html>

**Physical and sensory access**

[Tools for Access](#)

[Alternative Access: Keyboards and Alternative Input Devices](#)

[Alternative Access: Pointing Devices](#)

[Braille and Low Vision Aids](#)

[Assistive Technology Evaluation](#)

<http://www.bergen.edu/documents/ccde/working%20with%20SLI%20in%20your%20classroom.pdf> Sign Language in the classroom

# Learner Activities

The UDL principle of multiple means of engagement is an important design principle for creating meaningful learning activities. The following materials will be used to engage diverse learners in the subject matter of this unit.

<http://www.rainforest-alliance.org/education.cfm?id=kidsmain> Interactive rainforest website.

[www.wildernessclassroom.com](http://www.wildernessclassroom.com)- This website gives information and pictures for students to use.

[http://rainforestweb.org/Rainforest\\_Information/Sites\\_for\\_Kids](http://rainforestweb.org/Rainforest_Information/Sites_for_Kids) - This website list many websites for students to navigate.

<http://www.zoomschool.com/subjects/rainforest/> - This websites gives information about the rainforest.

<http://www.kidsplanet.org/> - This is a place where kids can go to play WILD games and read information.

<http://www.kathimitchell.com/rainfor.html>- This is an interactive website for students to explore.

<http://kids.mongabay.com/elementary/201.html> - Wonderful pictures for students to explore.

<http://www.junglephotos.com/amazon/animals/animals.shtml> A great place for kids to get pictures

<http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/sounds.html> Rainforest sounds

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/Animals/CreatureFeature/Anaconda> Great interactive website with pictures and information.

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/player/kids/animals-pets-kids/amphibians-kids/frog-poison-dart-kids.html> Great rainforest videos!



**Video.nationalgeographic.com**  
Click on the link above.

Click below for photos of animals you'd like to see:



**Junglephotos.com**  
Click on the link above.

A to Z Kids Stuff: Rainforest - <http://www.atozkidsstuff.com/rainforest.html> A couple of songs, plus some art ideas

abc Teach: Rainforest - [http://abcteach.com/directory/theme\\_units/habitats/rain\\_forest/](http://abcteach.com/directory/theme_units/habitats/rain_forest/) printables

Amazon Photos - <http://www.junglephotos.com/amazon/> Any visuals you need can be found here

Child Fun: Rainforest Activities - <http://www.childfun.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=77> Ideas for integrating across the curriculum

Enchanted Learning: Rainforests - <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/rainforest/> Printables

Everything Preschool: Rain Forest - <http://www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/rainforest/index.htm> Several ideas in each category to integrate learning

Gander Academy's Tropical Rainforest Theme - <http://www.cdli.ca/CITE/rforest.htm> Links to research sites, online lessons, and activity sheets

Jan Brett: Rainforest Mural - [http://www.janbrett.com/mural\\_umbrella/umbrella\\_mural.htm](http://www.janbrett.com/mural_umbrella/umbrella_mural.htm) Lots of drawings that can be blown-up to create beautiful murals; from her book "The Umbrella"

Kathi Mitchell's Rainforest Links - <http://www.kathimitchell.com/rainfor.html> A nice variety

KidsConnect: Rainforest -

<http://kidskonnnect.com/Rainforest/RainforestHome.html> Lots of links to research and information sites

Learning About Rainforests -

[http://www.srl.caltech.edu/personnel/krubal/rainforest/serve\\_home.html](http://www.srl.caltech.edu/personnel/krubal/rainforest/serve_home.html) Links to quicktime movies; research data, facts, art ideas, and lessons

Lesson Plans: Kindergarten Rainforest Unit -

<http://www.lessonplanspage.com/SSMDRainForestUnitK.htm> 15 days of activities

Living Rainforest: Kids - <http://www.livingrainforest.org/for/kids/>

<http://myschoolonline.com/page/0,1871,48624-196200-51-104533,00.html>

PBS: Amazonia - <http://www.pbs.org/journeyintoamazonia/> Teacher resources is a good place to start here

Perpetual Preschool -

[http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/preschool\\_themes/rainforest/rainforest.htm](http://www.perpetualpreschool.com/preschool_themes/rainforest/rainforest.htm)  
Ideas for integrating

Rainforest Alliance -

<http://www.rainforestalliance.org/programs/education/kids/activities.html> Links to projects Rainforest Animals - <http://www.rainforestanimals.net/> Research data, sounds

Rainforest Teaching Curriculum -

[http://www.rainbird.com/pdf/rainforest/rainbird\\_k-1.pdf](http://www.rainbird.com/pdf/rainforest/rainbird_k-1.pdf) A 16-pg. pdf document with ideas from Gr. 1- Gr. 5

Step by Step: Rainforest - <http://stepbystepcc.com/rainforest.html> Great for kindergarten ideas

The Rainforest: People, Animals and Facts -

<http://www.christiananswers.net/kids/rainforest/home.html> Prepared by a Christian group

Whitehorse Elementary: Rainforest Theme -

[http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/wes/webquests\\_themes/rainforest\\_animals/rainforest\\_theme.html](http://www.yesnet.yk.ca/schools/wes/webquests_themes/rainforest_animals/rainforest_theme.html) Excellent resources: Webquests, internet links, online games, and teacher resources and plans Zoo School - <http://www.zooschool.ecsd.net/> Check out the 3 primate sections of this telecollaborative project to get great ideas for research and projects.

# Assessment

The UDL principle of multiple means of expression is an important design principle for assessment. The following materials and resources will be useful for assessing student knowledge, skills, and application of their learning.

Resources that could be used:

Readingassistant.com- Students will read a passage on the screen into the microphone. The computer then checks for errors. Scored by rubric.

Tim Rasinski "Three Minute Assessments" Students can read into the ipod and record.

Acuity-Computer based assessment

NWEA-Computer based assessment

Rubrics-

Student response systems for teacher made assessments.

i pods with microphones- students will read into ipod microphone and then listen back.

Teachers could also listen for errors and scored by rubric. Mp3 could be put on cd and sent home for parents to listen.

My Own Bookshelf- students create and read their own rainforest book. This would assess fluency but also the science standard.

Running Records- done one on one with student. This could be done with a subscription with AIMS Web or DIBELS on a PDA.