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 (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.readplease.com) - Read Please
- [www.childrensbookradio.com](http://www.childrensbookradio.com) - Books on iPod

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

Early Reading Booster

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

Try a visual thesaurus [http://www.visuwords.com](http://www.visuwords.com)
Kindsay
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](http://babelfish.altavista.com)
Google Translation box

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

Consider dictation [http://www.idictate.com](http://www.idictate.com)  Kindsay

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

Inspire.org
Teacher Library

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

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.

Online and printable resources to teach concepts about rainforests.

Click on different areas of the picture to hear sounds from the rainforest.
Rainforesteducation.com has games, early reader information, quizzes, pictures etc. that can be used by the student or teacher.
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/](#))
Smart Kids Software-Interactive Trade books ([http://www.smartkidssoftware.com/livbk.htm](http://www.smartkidssoftware.com/livbk.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](#) [Podcasts (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


Podcasting - newsletter

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- This website gives information and pictures for students to use.

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/amanimals/amanimals.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.


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/](http://www.junglephotos.com/amazon/) Any visuals you need can be found here


Everything Preschool: Rain Forest - [http://www.everythingpreschool.com/themes/rainforest/index.htm](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](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”

KidsConnect: Rainforest -
http://kidskonnect.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 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

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/preschoolThemes/rainforest/rainforest.htm Ideas for integrating

Rainforest Alliance -

Rainforest Teaching Curriculum -


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 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.