



Tropical Rainforest

An Activity Guide for Teachers



IN A NUTSHELL

Educational Resources
Science Museum of
Minnesota
120 West Kellogg Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55102

phone:
(800) 221-9444 ext. 4543
fax: (612) 221-4777
website: www.sci.mus.mn.us/

Cost: \$7.95

SUBJECTS

Economics
Fine Arts
Science
Social Studies

Using crafts, games, and research projects involving household items, these eleven activities encourage students to explore the biology of tropical rainforests and the environmental issues associated with them. Students learn about the geography of rainforests and learn to observe the interaction of different elements in an ecosystem by creating and conducting experiments in a simple terrarium.

Students are asked to consider what actions they would take in certain situations, and are encouraged to see the importance of the rainforests in their own lives by taking note of the many products around them which are derived from rainforest plants.

Attention is given to the rate of extinction in the rainforest and the benefits of developing a sustainable economy in rainforest nations. The material was designed to be used in conjunction with the Omnimax film *Tropical Rainforest*, but can be used independently as well. The text features maps, diagrams, an annotated bibliography, and a list of things that students can do to help the rainforest.

Grade Level	K-8
Length	35 pages
Date Published	1992

THE BOTTOM
LINE

"Concepts that are difficult to visualize, such as how fast the rainforest is disappearing, are presented in ways that students can understand."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Information is factually accurate.	Gives little attention to point of view of people living in the rainforest. Material has a bias, assumes that rainforests need protection and encourages students to do so. Does not list sources of information.
	Depth	Develops awareness of relevance of rainforest issues.	No conceptual framework provided.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Develops critical and creative thinking skills.	
	Action Orientation	Dilemma cards activity develop sense of personal stake and responsibility.	Provides few ideas of specific actions which can be taken. Many suggestions are vague or unclear.
	Instructional Soundness	Activities are student-centered and involve different learning styles.	
Usability	Activities involve materials that are readily available. Handouts can be easily copied. Instructions and illustrations are clear.	Provides no follow-up support.	

"Because of the bias, you will need more complete, balanced material to complete this curriculum."

"Ideas are varied and would keep students thinking and busy."