

Lesson Overview

Age Group: 7 years old

Duration: 60 minutes

Theme: Environmental Protection and Conservation

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Understand what a rainforest is and why it's important
- Recognize the basic impacts of deforestation
- Identify ways to help protect forests
- Show empathy for wildlife affected by deforestation

✓ Colorful pictures of rainforest animals

✓ Green construction paper

✓ Scissors (child-safe)

✓ Coloring supplies

✓ Tape or sticky tack

✓ Story props

Introduction: Welcome to the Amazing Amazon!

Opening Story: "The Magical Forest City"

"Imagine a magical city where the buildings are giant trees that touch the sky. Instead of cars, you see colorful birds flying between branches. Instead of streets, you see winding rivers. This magical city is called the Amazon Rainforest, and it's one of the most amazing places on Earth!"

Teaching Tip: Use hand gestures when describing the height of trees and encourage students to stretch their arms up high to demonstrate how tall rainforest trees can grow.

Ask students:

- What do you think lives in a rainforest?
- Why do you think we call it a RAINforest?
- Have you ever been in a forest? What was it like?

The Amazing Amazon Rainforest

Did You Know?

- The Amazon is so big it could fit 2,000 Disney Worlds inside it!
- A single tree can be home to over 1,000 different types of insects
- The Amazon creates its own rain by releasing water into the air

Activity 1: Create Our Classroom Rainforest

1. Give each student green paper to cut out leaf shapes
2. Have students write their name on their leaf
3. Create a classroom tree display using all the leaves
4. Add pictures of rainforest animals to the display

Engagement Strategy: As students add their leaves, discuss how each person's contribution helps make the forest complete, just like real forests need all their trees to be healthy.

Understanding Deforestation

Story Time: "The Disappearing Home"

"Once there was a family of toucans living in a big, beautiful tree. One day, they heard loud noises. Their tree, along with many others, was being cut down. The toucan family had to fly far away to find a new home. Many of their forest friends also lost their homes."

Role Play: Forest Homes

1. Assign students to be different rainforest animals
2. Set up "trees" (chairs or desks) in the classroom
3. Remove "trees" one by one
4. Discuss how the animals feel when losing their homes

Protecting Our Forest Friends

Simple Ways We Can Help:

- Use less paper and recycle
- Plant trees in our community
- Learn more about rainforests
- Tell others why forests are important

Activity 2: Promise to the Planet

1. Students draw a picture of something they promise to do to help forests
2. Write a simple sentence explaining their promise
3. Share promises with the class
4. Create a "Forest Protectors" wall display

Take It Further:

- Start a classroom recycling program
- Create "Save the Rainforest" posters
- Plant seeds and watch them grow

Assessment Activities

Understanding Check:

- Draw and label three animals that live in the rainforest
- Show thumbs up/down for true/false statements about forests
- Complete a simple matching activity connecting animals to their forest homes

Reflection Questions:

- Why are trees important?
- How do you feel about protecting forests?
- What can you do to help save trees?

Additional Resources and Activities

Creative Expression Activities

- Create rainforest animal masks
- Write a simple poem about the rainforest
- Make rain sounds using different classroom objects
- Design a "Save the Rainforest" badge

Closing Story: "The Forest Guardian"

"Every time you help protect a tree, you become a Forest Guardian. Forest Guardians are special people who understand that trees are precious and help take care of them. Remember, even small actions can make a big difference!"

Home Connection:

- Send home a simple fact sheet about rainforests
- Suggest family activities like recycling or planting
- Share photos of classroom activities with parents

Success Indicators:

- Student can name at least three rainforest animals
- Student shows understanding of why trees are important
- Student demonstrates empathy for wildlife
- Student can suggest ways to help protect forests