

CLASS PLAN

Operation Rainforest

Hone your observation skills as you embark on an adventure to the lush rainforest inside Discovery Place Science. Children will encounter plants and animals that call the rainforest home, discover how the rainforest is connected to their lives, and brainstorm ways to protect it.

Location: Discovery Place Science

Program Area: Early Childhood

Duration: 50 minutes

Group Maximum: 25 students

Audience: PreK-K

Major Concepts:

- Characteristics of the rainforest ecosystem and the adaptations of plants and animals that live in the rainforest
- The importance of the rainforests and how the rainforests and the participants are connected

North Carolina Essential Standards:

K.L.1: Compare characteristics of animals that make them alike and different from other animals and nonliving things

North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development:

CD-14: Children observe and describe characteristics of living things and the physical world

CD-15: Children explore the natural world by observing, manipulating objects, asking questions, making predictions, and developing generalizations

South Carolina Standards:

K-ESS3-3: Obtain and communicate information to define problems related to human impact on the local environment.

Next Generation Science Standards:

K-LS1-1: Use observations to describe patterns of what plants and animals (including humans) need to survive

K-ESS3-1: Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants and animals (including humans) and the places they live

Class Objectives:

Children will:

- Gain an understanding of the rainforest ecosystem including location, climate, and structure
- Identify animals that live in rainforests and the adaptations they have that aide in their survival there
- Increase awareness of how the lives of students and rainforests are connected

Methods and Activities:

- Children will be introduced to the rainforest and its defining characteristics.
- Children will visit Discovery Place Science's *World Alive* to observe plants and animals found in the rainforest.
- Children will share their observations and discuss ways the rainforest impacts their lives and how their lives impact the rainforest.



Key Vocabulary:

Ecosystem, rainforest, adaptation, camouflage, emergent layer, canopy, understory, forest floor, deforestation, observation, tropical, temperate