

Lesson Plan – Day 1: Introduction to the Rainforest

Theme: Rainforest Animals

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Duration: 20 minutes

Date: [Insert Date]

Objective

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

- Identify the rainforest as a type of habitat.
- Name at least one animal that lives in the rainforest.
- Recognize and form the letter "R" for Rainforest.
- Count rainforest animals and match quantities to numbers.
- Segment and count syllables in rainforest animal names.

Standards

English Language Arts (ELA)

- **RF.K.1d:** Recognize and name all upper- and lowercase letters.
- **RF.K.2b:** Count, pronounce, blend, and segment syllables in spoken words.

Mathematics

- **K.CC.B.4:** Understand the relationship between numbers and quantities.

Science

- **K-ESS3-1:** Use a model to represent the relationship between the needs of different plants or animals and the places they live.

Visual Arts

- **VA:Cr1.2.Ka:** Engage collaboratively in creative art-making.

Materials and Resources

- Book: *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry
- Large chart paper with a picture of the rainforest
- Real or printed rainforest animal pictures (e.g., jaguar, parrot, monkey, sloth, frog)
- Letter "R" posters (upper and lowercase)
- Playdough (green or brown preferred)
- Animal counters or rainforest animal cutouts (10–15)
- Large number cards (1–10)
- Markers, crayons, and paper for mural
- Syllable cards with animal pictures
- Whiteboard or chart for group discussion

Lesson Procedures

1. Introduction & Read Aloud (5 minutes)

- Begin with the question: "Have you heard of the rainforest? What do you think lives there?"
- Read *The Great Kapok Tree* aloud, showing the illustrations and pausing to point out animals and plants.
- After reading, briefly discuss: "What is the rainforest like? Who lives there?"

2. Phonemic Awareness Activity – Syllable Clapping (3 minutes)

- Show pictures of rainforest animals (e.g., jaguar, parrot, sloth).
- Say each animal name aloud and have students clap the syllables.
- Students repeat and count the syllables together.
 - Example: “Jag-u-ar” = 3 claps
- Record results briefly on the board (animal name – syllable count).

3. Letter Recognition Activity – Letter R (4 minutes)

- Show uppercase and lowercase “R” on a chart.
- Model how to make “R” using a finger in the air, then using playdough.
- Each student uses playdough to form uppercase and lowercase “R” on a mat.
- Review that “Rainforest” begins with R.

4. Math Activity – Counting Rainforest Animals (3 minutes)

- Use rainforest animal cutouts or counters.
- Show a small group of animals (e.g., 5 monkeys).
- Students count out loud.
- Show matching number card and ask students to repeat: “Five monkeys.”
- Do 2–3 examples with different quantities (1–10).

5. Hands-On Mural Activity – Build the Rainforest (5 minutes)

- Begin creating a class rainforest mural on chart paper or butcher paper.
- Today, students will draw or color trees, leaves, clouds, and rivers.
- As students contribute, ask them to talk about what they’re adding: “This is a tree where the sloth can hang!”

Student Work Samples

- Playdough “R” letters
- Participation in syllable clapping chart
- Verbal counting with animal counters
- Contributions to rainforest mural (trees and habitat elements)

Formative Assessment

- **Observation:** Teacher circulates to observe students’ participation in:
 - Syllable counting
 - Forming the letter R
 - Matching quantities to numbers
 - Sharing their drawing contribution to the mural
- **Checklist:** Teacher notes on a checklist:
 - Can identify at least one rainforest animal
 - Can clap syllables in an animal name
 - Can form and recognize the letter R
 - Can count a set of rainforest animals accurately

Differentiation

- **ELL:** Use picture cues and repeat animal names slowly and clearly. Pair with native English speaker.
- **Students Needing Support:** Use fewer counters (1–5) for math activity.
- **Advanced Learners:** Challenge to count syllables in full phrases (“the green parrot”), or draw more complex parts of the rainforest (e.g., vines, flowers, canopy).

Closure

- Gather students around the mural and review what was added.
- Ask: “What did we learn about the rainforest today?”
- Preview: “Tomorrow we’ll learn about the birds that fly high in the rainforest!”