

Rainforest Character Card Introduce Me Activity



Poison Dart Frog

You can find bright coloured frogs like me in the Central and South American rainforests. We are small and very good parents. We carry our tadpoles on our backs right up to the canopy and put them in pools of water in epiphytes. Nobody wants to eat us because we are poisonous. Our bright colour is frightening.

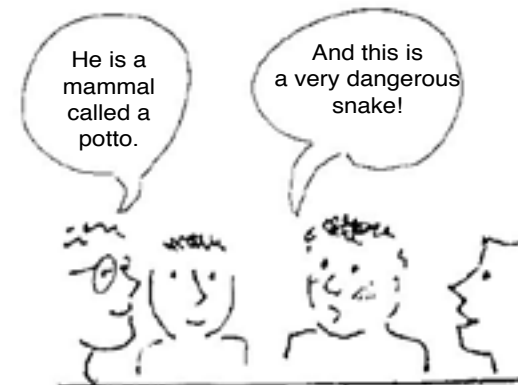


Three Toed Sloth

I save my energy by being very slow. I am so slow that plants grow on me. I sleep up to 20 hours a day. I live most of my



life in trees and have long claws that help me to hang from branches. I eat leaves, shoots and fruit at night. I have extra bones in my neck and can turn it 270 degrees.



Rainforest Character Card Introduce Me Activity

Originally developed for Year Four at Fleecefield School in Edmonton.

The webaddress for this activity is:

<http://www.collaborativelearning.org/rainforestintroduceme.pdf>

Last updated February 2015

COLLABORATIVE LEARNING PROJECT

Project Director: Stuart Scott

Supporting a cooperative network of teaching professionals throughout the European Union to develop and disseminate accessible teaching materials in all subject areas and for all ages.

17, Barford Street, Islington, London N1 0QB UK Phone: 0044 (0)20 7226 8885 Fax: 0044 (0)20 7704 1350

Website: <http://www.collaborativelearning.org>

BRIEF SUMMARY OF BASIC PRINCIPLES BEHIND OUR TEACHING ACTIVITIES:

The project is a teacher network, and a non-profit making educational trust. Our main aim is to develop and disseminate classroom tested examples of effective group strategies across all phases and subjects. We hope they will inspire you to use similar strategies in other topics and curriculum areas. We run teacher workshops, swapshops and conferences throughout the European Union. The project publishes a catalogue of activities plus lists in selected subject areas, and a newsletter available by post or internet: "PAPERCLIP".

*These activities were influenced by current thinking about the role of language in learning. They are designed to help children learn through talk and active learning in small groups. They work best in mixed classes where children in need of language or learning support are integrated. They are well suited for the development of speaking and listening. They provide teachers opportunities for assessment of speaking and listening and other formative assessment.

*They support differentiation by placing a high value on what children can offer to each other on a particular topic, and also give children the chance to respect each other's views and formulate shared opinions which they can disseminate to peers. By helping them to take ideas and abstract concepts, discuss, paraphrase and move them about physically, they help to develop thinking skills.

*They give children the opportunity to participate in their own words and language in their own time without pressure. Many activities can be tried out in mother tongue and afterwards in English. A growing number of activities are available in more than one language, not translated, but mixed, so that you may need more than one language to complete the activity.

*They encourage study skills in context, and should therefore be used with a range of appropriate information books which are preferably within reach in the classroom.

*They are generally adaptable over a wide age range because children can bring their own knowledge to an activity and refer to books at an appropriate level. The activities work like catalysts.

*All project activities were planned and developed by teachers working together, and the main reason they are disseminated is to encourage teachers to work effectively with each other inside and outside the classroom. They have made it possible for mainstream and language and learning support teachers to share an equal role in curriculum delivery. They should be adapted to local conditions. In order to help us keep pace with curriculum changes, please send any new or revised activities back to the project, so that we can add them to our lists of materials.

Rainforest Introduce Me Notes for Teachers

This is an activity that strongly supports our basic principles:

Build on prior knowledge

Move from concrete to abstract

Ensure everyone works with everyone else

Extend social language into curriculum language

Provide motivating ways to go over the same thing more than once



This kind of activity has now been developed for introducing all kinds of characters, ideas and things such as metals, insects, foods, mathematical principles etc. The idea of putting the card away while doing the introductions is designed to encourage students to internalise the information and produce it in their own words rather than just reading out the text on the card. We want them to transform the language and move from formal written to less formal spoken. They can also be encouraged to draw on any previous knowledge to embellish their information. They have to listen carefully to their partners and then convey this information 'in their own words' to two more students. We have in the past produced sets in other first languages (so that the activity can run in more than one language in the same classroom) and in simpler texts although it is important to remember that sometimes by simplifying text you can remove context clues and make it more difficult while you are intending to make it easier!

Here is a recent tweak! This is how we taught a character card activity recently with Year 6. This class were not familiar with the technique, but social relations within the class were generally good and in most cases they did not make a fuss about the moving out of their normal seats to work with others.

We introduced the activity and told the pupils that we wanted them to use two voices. When they worked in twos and fours they needed to use a 10 centimetre voice. When they presented to the class they needed to use their five metre voice.

Seven different coloured sets of four character cards were distributed to the 28 pupils present that day. We shuffled the cards so that nobody got the same colour as the other pupils in their 'normal' group. You may want, depending on the composition and your inside knowledge of the class, to deal from the bottom of the pack to ensure that certain individuals did not get the same colour and that they do. When we have New to English pupils in the class we 'clone' them i.e. attach them to another pupil so that they can participate without pressure by listening and watching.

Notes for Teachers continued

We told them (we have also provided written instructions to put on the smartboard) to read their card and memorise two or three bits of information on it. Then we asked them to go and find ONE other person in the class with the same colour card and **WITHOUT LOOKING AT THEIR CARD** to introduce themselves as the character on the card. When/If they got stuck they could check their card, but they should put it away before they carried on talking. When the two had found out about each other, they then had to find the other pair and introduce each other to each other.

Some stood, some sat on the floor, some sat round the corner of a table. We encouraged them to sit close enough together to use their ten centimetre voice. We were able to stay close enough to listen in but not so close that they would turn to us for help. We intervened if we felt they were not on task. We encouraged them to add any information they knew which was not mentioned on the card.

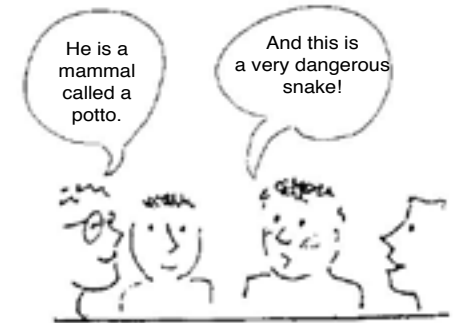
We then asked them to sit in their colour groups and prepare for presenting their partners to the whole class. You might want to collect the cards from them at this point. Alternatively you can emphasise the importance of not reading the card.

We then collected the cards and each group of four presented to the whole class using their five metre voices.

There is a temptation to encourage the pupils to make notes for their presentation or to write a biography of their character in their own words. This rush to writing must be resisted. By all means ask them to do this later in another lesson trusting to their memories and after any group discussion. Then you can judge how well they remembered as a result of having the repeat the process more than once.

These cards are not coloured but organised in sets of four A-H but you may want to mark them with coloured dots.

Please contact us if you have any questions, comments or additions.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards

Everyone in the class has a character card about an animal, insect or plant that lives in the rainforest. Everyone should read the information on their card two or three times. You do not have to remember the card word for word, but have some good ideas about the information on it.

Find someone else in the room with the same coloured dot on their card as you. Put the card in your pocket or out of sight. Pretend to be the animal/plant and introduce yourself to your new partner:

e.g. "Hello! I am a Gaboon viper.....".

Your partner should do the same to you. Remember! if either of you get stuck, you can take out your card and look at it. But only if you are stuck. Listen carefully to each other.

Now go to find another two people with the same colour card as you. Now you are four, you have to introduce your partner to the others and they have to introduce each other to you.

eg: "Hello! Can I introduce you to my partner He is a bit frightening..."



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set A



A Banded Pitta

I live in Indonesia, Borneo and Thailand. I spend a lot of the time on the rainforest floor. I have very good eyes. I eat snails and insects. I am endangered because the forest is being destroyed

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set A



Gaboon Viper

I am a very poisonous snake and the largest viper in the world. I live in the African rainforest. I eat small animals like rodents, frogs and birds. I have excellent camouflage when I lie still on the forest floor.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set A



Golden Potto

I live in the West African rainforest. I like to slowly creep about in the branches of the tree canopy. I mainly eat fruit and seeds but I also eat smelly insects. I hunt at night and sleep in the daytime.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set A

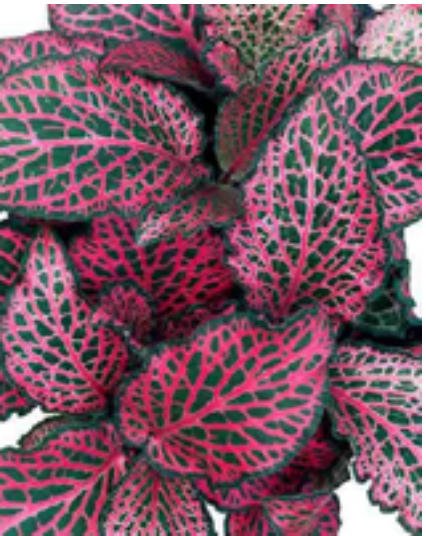


Lancehead Viper

I live in the South American rainforest. I am very good at climbing. I have a heat sensor on my head to seek out my prey. I hunt at night and eat perching birds.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set A

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set B



Fittonia

I live in the South American rainforest. I creep along the ground. My red leaves help me to survive with very little sunlight. I can be crushed and made into medicine for headaches.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set B



Bromeliad

I am a plant that lives in the South American rainforest at the top of tall trees. I hold on to branches. That way I can enjoy sunlight. I am an epiphyte. My leaves are shaped to catch water and my roots suck dampness from the air. I have bright colourful flowers.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set B



Mahogany Tree

I can grow up to 70 metres. I can reach to the top of the rainforest in South America. I am often in danger because my wood is popular for furniture and musical instruments.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set B

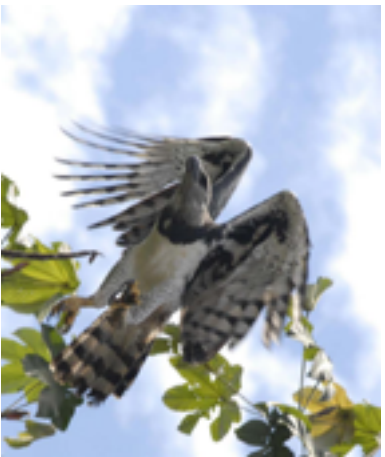


Liana

You can find me in most rainforests. I am a creeper and wind up trees to reach the sun. Animals like me because they can use me to travel from tree to tree. Trees don't like me because I take their food away and stop them growing well.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set B

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set C



Harpy Eagle

I live in the South American rainforest. I hunt in the canopy for monkeys and sloths. I will also catch macaws and reptiles if I can. We are at the top of the food chain but humans are destroying our habitat.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set C



Macaw

I am a member of the parrot family. I live in the South American rainforest canopy with my macaw friends. I eat nuts and seeds. I can crack these with my strong beak. We all share food and make a lot of noise together.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set C



Ruby Throated Hummingbird

I am only six centimetres long. I live in the Mexican rainforest in the winter and travel 1000 km to North America in the summer. I eat nectar from flowers and also tiny insects.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set C



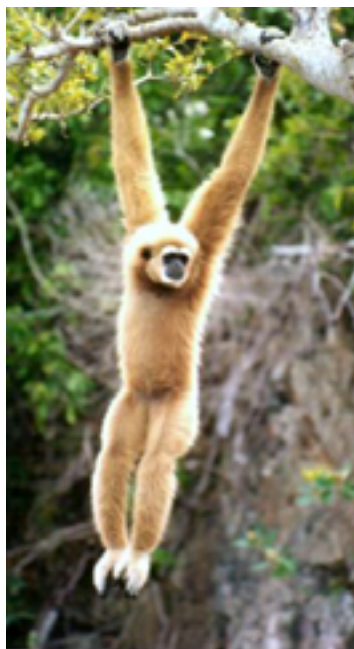
Two Toucans

We live in the South American rainforest. Our bills are big but very light. They are useful for picking and peeling fruit and nuts. Our bright colours are good camouflage in the sunlight of the canopy.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set C

Gibbon

I live in the canopy of the rainforest in India, Indonesia, China and Borneo. I have hook shaped hands and long arms. I can swing from branch to branch at up to 50 kilometres per hour. I can jump 8 metres. I eat fruit.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set D

Squirrel Monkey

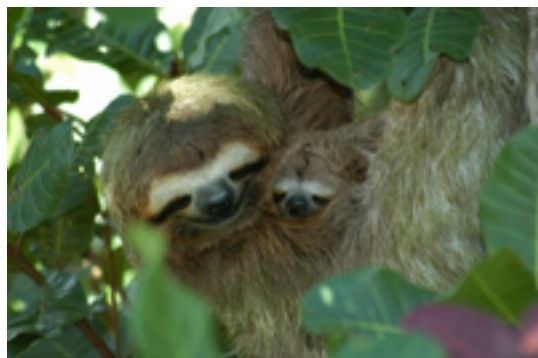
I live among a big group in the Central and South American rainforest. I eat everything I can but like seeds, leaves, nuts, fruit, insects and eggs. I find food in the canopy but have to watch out for predators.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set D

Three Toed Sloth

I save my energy by being very slow. I am so slow that plants grow on me. I sleep up to 20 hours a day. I live most of my life in trees and have long claws that help me to hang from branches. I eat leaves, shoots and fruit at night. I have extra bones in my neck and can turn it 270 degrees.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set D

Sugar Glider

I live in the Australian rainforest. I don't have wings but I have a membrane that stretches from my fingers to my toes. I can glide through the air when I stretch this out. I hunt at night and have large eyes and ears that can turn to listen out for small animals or insects. I also like eating the sugary sap of trees.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set D

Green Iguana

I live in the Cenrral and South American rain forest. I can climb and swim well. I eat leaves and plants. I am popular as a pet and as food. I can grow to over one and a half metres long.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set E

Tarsier

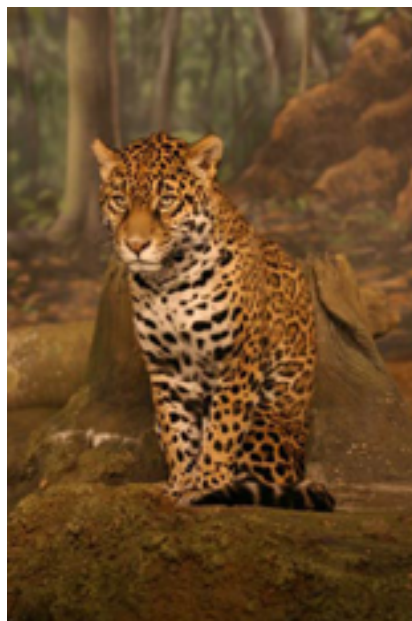
I live in the South East Asia rainforest. I am a primate but a very small one! I have long toes and can climb well. I have big eyes to hunt at night. I eat insects and small lizards and birds.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set E

Jaguar

I live in the Central and South American rain forest. I am a big cat. I can swim and climb well. I eat big and small animals. I have a very strong bite and can crunch through bone. I live and hunt on my own.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set E

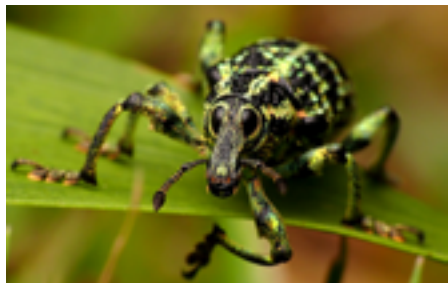
Green Tree Frog

I live in the South American rain forest. I have suckers on my feet and can climb right from the bottom to the top of the tall trees. I sleep in the daytime under a leaf. I frighten animals that hope to eat me with my big bright red eyes and bright colour. I catch insects and moths with my long sticky tongue



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set E

Rainforest Beetles



We beetles live in every rainforest in the world. There are millions of different kinds of us. Nobody has given most of us names yet. We may become extinct before we get a name.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set F

Pangolin



I live in the African and Asian rainforest. I am covered in scales. I feed at night and my favourite food is ants. I can tear open anthills with my powerful claws. I cannot see very well but I have a very strong sense of smell. I hunt alone and I hunt at night. I am endangered because people catch me to eat.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set F

Tree Shrew



I live in the Asian rainforest. There are lots of different kinds of us. Some of us hunt at night and some in the day.

I eat everything I can find: insects, small animals and plants. I have long claws to dig up insects. I am a primate and have a big brain. I live with other tree shrews and defend our territory.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set F

Silky Anteater



I live in the Central and South American rain forest. I have claws that can wrap right round a branch. I look bit like the seed pod of a tree so that is good camouflage. I hunt alone and at night and eat ants and other insects.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set F

Caterpillar

You can find bright coloured caterpillars like me in every rainforest in the world.

My bright colours make other animals think that I am poisonous. I will turn into a butterfly or moth. There are hundreds of caterpillars like me that nobody has ever named or identified. I eat leaves and other plant material.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set 6

Poison Dart Frog

You can find bright coloured frogs like me in the Central and South American rainforests. We are small and very good parents. We carry our tadpoles on our backs right up to the canopy and put them in pools of water in epiphytes. Nobody wants to eat us because we are poisonous. Our bright colour is frightening.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set 6

Rainforest Beetles

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Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set 6

Buttress Roots

We are the roots of rainforest trees. The soil is very poor and thin and the trees are very tall. We spread out over a wide area so we can reach nutrients. This also help our tree to stay upright and grow very tall to reach the sun.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set 6



Chameleon

I live in the African rainforest but there are also chameleons in the desert. I have lots of different relatives. I eat insects. I have a

very long tongue which I can shoot out to catch my prey. I have very good eyesight and each of my eyes can move and swivel independently. I can change my colour so that can be good camouflage.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set H

Green Tree Python

I live in the Indonesian and Australian rainforest. I wrap myself round branches and keep very still. I look out for small mammals. I

dart out, catch them and squeeze them in my coils. I then swallow them. I can grow up to two metres long.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set H

Flying Squirrel

I live in the Asian and Indonesian rainforests.

I don't have wings. I have a thin membrane between my fingers and toes. I can glide



and change direction while gliding. I hunt for fruit, nuts, fungi and birds' eggs at night.

I have to be very careful because a lot of predators are looking out for me.

Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set H

Quetzal

I live in the Central American rainforest. I am the national bird of Guatemala. I am very colourful, but this can be good camouflage. I eat fruit, nuts, insects and small frogs. I have a strong beak to crack nuts.



Rainforest Inhabitants - Character Cards Set H