

Roving Rainforest Reporters

High
Winds have
wreaked
Havoc in
the Kapok
Tree

Emergent Layer News
Canopy
Observer
MID LAYER TIMES
FOREST FLOOR WEEKLY
NEWSLETTER

Chameleon's Colour Change
Crisis

Toucans Macaws in Conflict

Frog Jam

Sorting out the parts of
newspaper reports



Roving Rainforest Reporters

Originally developed for Year Four at Fleecefield School in Edmonton.

The webaddress for this activity is:

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

Last updated 11th May 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.

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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.

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Newspaper Report/News Story Sorting

Having just written twelve reports, I am beginning to think that writing a newspaper report is hard. At least hard until you have really understood how the different parts work and what they look like. This activity is designed to familiarise children with the organisation of a news story and help eventually to scaffold writing one. We chose rainforest because we are studying it at the moment.

There are four rainforest newspapers for each of the layers. Each newspaper has three reports. The sorting board, which needs to be enlarged to A3 or bigger, provides explanations of the component parts of a report. The idea is for children to sort the parts for one newspaper on to their sorting board and subsequently reassemble the story.

Roving Rainforest Reporters

A high wind has caused problems at the Kapok tree's newspaper offices. All the articles for this week's paper have been scattered. All the animals worked hard to find the pieces, but they need help to put the articles back together again.

1. Use the sorting board to identify the different parts of the newspaper reports.
2. Then try to assemble the correct stories.
3. Report back to the other groups.

Emergent Layer News

Men with Axes Approaching

The harpy eagle has spotted men carrying axes who have already chopped down some Brazil Nut trees

Yesterday afternoon our reporter spoke to the harpy eagle. He had been flying about five kilometres south of here after a strong wind had blown him there.

"I saw a group of men and a big clearing in the forest," he explained. These men had built a camp and were sawing up three Brazil nut trees. A big lorry was taking the wood away.



These trees can reach 80 metres
Our sharp eyed friend is going back there next week and will report to us if there is any danger.

Butterfly Photo Call

A helicopter pilot has produced some stunning photos of emergent layer butterflies.



Our butterflies love the emergent layer!

"I did not realise that we looked so blue from above," the Morpho butterfly exclaimed. The pilot gave us some impressive examples to publish and has submitted the photos for a competition in Manaus.

We wish her every success and will publish the results when they are ready.

Flying Squirrel Big Surprise!

He went for a short glide and ended up on the forest floor!



He is only the size of a human hand.

"I went out for a short glide and got a big shock," he remarked.

When he went out to look for food last week he thought he was making a short glide to the next tree. However, some men had chopped it down so the squirrel just kept gliding down and down until he landed with a bump! It took a day for him to climb back to the canopy.

He is now recovering on his favourite branch and his fellow squirrels are finding food for him.

**Warning Weather Alert! Very high wind expected tomorrow.
Hold onto your branches.**

Canopy Observer



From our special reporter
the Howler Monkey

Hummingbird Back On Time

Our smallest bird has returned to our tree!

The first Ruby Hummingbird arrived late last night. She flew over a thousand kilometres without a stop.



Lovely nectar here!

At one point a strong wind nearly blew her into the sea. "I will have a good rest and then raise a family," she explained. She is now waiting for more birds to come back to the tree.

Marathon Climb

The Poison Dart Frog has completed its climb up to the canopy with fifty babies!



A very happy mother.

We interviewed her as she sat comfortably in a pool provided by a bromeliad. All her babies were happily splashing about enjoying the sunshine.

"It's lovely to be back up here after the darkness of the forest floor," she said.

Many more frogs are climbing up and we look forward to meeting them.

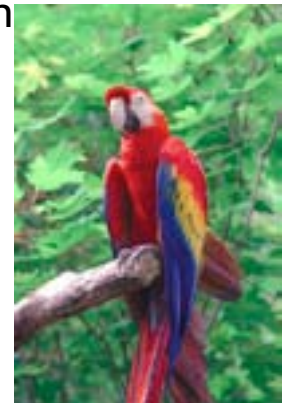
Toucans Macaws in Conflict

A family of toucans and a family of macaws are not happy with each other.

The two families are both claiming a branch of the tree which is covered in fruit. They say there is not enough for everyone, so some will have to move to another branch.

"The macaws can easily fly to another branch but we can only hop a short distance," declared the toucans.

The families are patiently waiting for the arrival of a sloth to mediate this argument. Otherwise they may start fighting.



Some peaceful birds.



The helpful bromeliad.

MID LAYER TIMES

Frog Jam

From our special reporter
the Emerald Tree Boa

Nearly five hundred frogs are travelling up our tree and queues are forming in our layer.

This morning there was a long line of frogs stuck on the trunk and unable to move. They had brought their babies up from the forest floor.

"We are climbing up to the canopy and are all looking for a nice pool in an epiphyte where the babies can grow big" said a tired mother"

A group of fruit bats are helping them to find good routes up the trunk so that the jam can be cleared.

What helpful bats!



Insect Protest

A large group of insects assembled to make a protest. Insects holding placards assembled on a branch yesterday. They were protesting that they still have not been named.



An angry spider

"We are fed up with being anonymous," one commented. "We have been in the forest for a million years and nobody has bothered to find us, photograph us and put us on the internet." The insects now plan to buzz loudly around human beings with cameras until they are noticed.



**Buzz!
Buzz!
Buzz!**

Discovered at last!

The troll haired beetle is overjoyed to now be discovered and have a name.



My new internet photo.

About a year ago a scientist discovered our handsome beetle and took his photo. The beetle has now been named and is now known to beetle experts all over the world. "I even have a long Latin name," he added, "but I can never remember it." The beetle plans to help other beetles become famous by posing beside them whenever there is a photo opportunity.

FOREST FLOOR WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Chameleon's Colour Change Crisis

A chameleon found out that she could not change to green.



Green is my favourite colour!

Last weekend our chameleon journalist failed to change colour. She had been sitting on a purple fittonia and then moved to a bright green plant. However, she stayed purple and could not change colour.

"I got very upset," she said. "If you stay the same colour you have to stay in the same place" Some fellow chameleons are helping her to concentrate and we are certain all will be well very soon.

Tarantula meets Human

The tarantula has just returned to the forest floor after an exciting time.



I am as big as a human hand.

Yesterday a scientist picked her up and took her back to her tent. She was examined by a group of scientists.

"One picked me up and held me in their hand. I was very scared."

She is now safely back in her habitat and understands her photo will appear on the internet very soon.

Ants have disappeared!

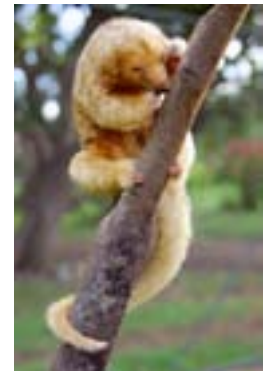
There is a shortage of ants on the forest floor.



No ants here!

Anteaters have been searching everywhere, but have found only a small number of ants. "We have looked everywhere," the Giant Anteater told us, "but without success."

The Silky Anteater now tells us that the ants have moved higher up the tree and all the anteaters are now practising their climbing skills.



My tail helps me hold on.

Newspaper Report/News Story Sorting Board

Headline

This is usually just three to five words. Sometimes but not always you can find alliteration.

Orientation

This is usually just one sentence that sums up the news story. It is usually in a past tense.

Body

This is the main part of the news story which contains the five W's. It is usually in a past tense.

Quote

This is some speech told by a participant in the news story.

Reorientation

This is usually in the present or future tense and tells you what is happening now and what will happen next.

Caption

This is a short description or comment which goes under an illustration.

Emergent Layer News

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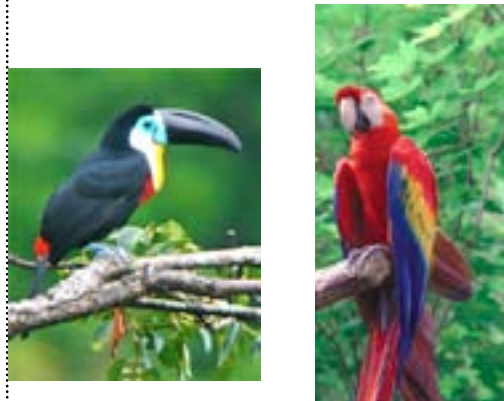
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Some peaceful birds.



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hold on.**

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