



ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

Atlanta Botanical Garden Rainforest Ramble (3rd-5th)

Description: Immerse your students in the Garden's Tropical Rotunda, surrounded by tall trees, hanging vines, and trilling frogs. Test your knowledge of the rainforest biome and discover what features plants have developed to help them adapt to this warm and wet environment as you follow our safari guides from the comfort of your classroom

GSE supported: S3L1.a, S4L1.b, S5L1.b,

Pre-Visit: Guiding Questions: Why is the rainforest home to so many different types of plants and animals?

What to Read/Watch: [Rainforest 101](#), [Enter the Virtual Treehouse](#), [Trees and Plant Life in the Rainforest](#)

Post-Visit: Questions: How are tropical rainforests different from Georgia ecosystems? How are they the same?

Activities: [Make Rainforest Cookies](#) using ingredients that are found in the rainforest.

Rainforest Food Web: The rainforest is home to a variety of unique plants and animals. Choose animals you would find in a rainforest and create a food web. Remember, when drawing a food web the arrow points to the organism that is receiving the energy from the organism it's eating. Ex: banana→ monkey. It's okay if one organism has multiple arrows. Make sure you include at least one producer (plant), one primary consumer (herbivore/plant eater), one secondary consumer (carnivore/meat eater), and one decomposer (eats dead organisms). Draw and label your rainforest food web. Compare the organisms in a rainforest to those you would find in Georgia.

Rainforest Products: The rainforest grows many of the products that we use on a daily basis from food to medicines to building materials. It's important to take care of the rainforest because the rainforest helps take care of us too! Look through your living space or classroom and check off the products you own that are grown in the rainforest.

Chocolate ___	Allspice ___	Cashews ___	Rubber ___
Vanilla ___	Coffee ___	Banana ___	Nutmeg ___
Coconut ___	Avocado ___	Tea ___	Cinnamon ___

Healthy Habitats: The rainforest is home to nearly 50% of the world's plants and animal species and is the most biodiverse ecosystem in the world. The rainforest gets the nickname "the lungs of the planet" because the volume of trees helps clean carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. Unfortunately, our rainforests are under threat due to deforestation and the rapidly changing global climate. There are lots of ways we can help protect rainforests, even from thousands of miles away in Georgia. Brainstorm three ways you could practice taking care of the environment in your daily life (ex: recycling). One way that we can really help the environment is by composting! Composting is recycling food and turning it into soil! The soil from compost is extra rich in nutrients that helps new plants grow and keeps extra trash out of the landfill. Create your own mini compost bin!

Watch How [Here](#)

What You'll Need

- Large empty plastic bottle (ex: 2L soda bottle, milk jug, empty water gallon)
- Water
- Food Scraps (things like banana peels, apple cores, orange peels, egg shells, bread crust, coffee grounds, tea leaves. NOTE: no dairy, meat, or oils)
- Empty toilet paper rolls
- Dirt (optional)
- Scissors or knife
- Safety pin, thumbnail, or ballpoint pen
- Tray or newspaper
- Small dish towel

How to Start Making a Mini Compost Bin

1. Collect your items.
2. Wash and rinse your container so it's clear of any leftover beverage and remove the labels
3. Have an adult cut off the top section of the bottle.
4. Use a safety pin to poke holes in the bottom of the bottle for drainage. Compost is a special mixture of green and brown organic matter. Green organic matter is fresh things like grass, and food scraps and contains a lot of nitrogen. Brown organic matter are things that aren't living but used to be a plant like toilet paper rolls, and dead leaves and contains a lot of carbon.
5. Fill the bottom of the bottle with your **BROWN** organic matter. We used newspaper scraps, dead leaves, and a scoop of dirt. Dampen with water (careful not to add too much)
6. Add your **GREEN** organic matter on top of the brown
7. Place the top of the lid upside down in the container and water one more time.
8. Place your container in a sunny spot (indoors or outdoors) and cover with a dish towel.
9. Once a day, stir and water your compost to help the decomposition! Compost and soil have tiny microorganisms that break down the organic matter and turn it into soil! Similar to worms, they are very beneficial in turning food waste into new soil. Stirring your compost helps feed the bacteria. Over time, you will have created your very own delicious plant soil that will be great to feed to garden plants.