



ATLANTA BOTANICAL GARDEN

Atlanta Botanical Garden Rainforest Ramble (K-2nd)

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: S1L1.a, S1L1.b, S2L1.a, S2L1c

Pre-Visit: Guiding Questions: What is a tropical rainforest?

What to Read/Watch: [Rainforest 101](#), [Layers of the Rainforest](#), [Rainforest Yoga Adventure](#)

Post-Visit: Questions: How do rainforest plants use their roots and leaves to help them survive?

Activities: Leaf Rubbing: The leaves in the rainforest have special adaptations that help them survive in this environment by ensuring they receive enough sunlight and water. Leaves are important because they turn sunlight into food for a plant. Examine the unique shapes of leaves in your neighborhood or schoolyard. Find a fallen leaf on the ground to use to create a leaf rubbing. Place your leaf under a piece of paper, and carefully use a crayon, colored pencil, or regular pencil to lightly color the paper over your leaf. You'll be left with a leaf print!



A Suitable Habitat: What do living things need to survive? All living things need food, water, shelter, and air. The rainforest is home to about 50% of the world's plants and animals. What areas in your neighborhood or schoolyard are suitable habitats for animals and plants? Can you see where organisms could find food, water, and shelter? Draw the outdoor habitat you observed, including any animals you think would live there. Add any missing elements your habitat needed to make it a suitable place to live.

Senses Scavenger Hunt: The rainforest is full of wonderful sounds, colors, smells, and textures. With an adult, take a senses scavenger hunt around your neighborhood or schoolyard. As you walk around, take notice of what you experience. Can you hear birds or other animals? What about man-made noises like lawnmowers or hedge trimmers? Do you smell any flowers? How many different shades of green do you see? How does the bark on a tree feel when you touch it? Nature is brimming with beauty that reveals itself when we take the time to slow down and enjoy it!

Make Rainforest Cookies: Follow this recipe to make cookies using ingredients found in the rainforest.

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cups white wheat flour
- 1 cup all purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 stick butter (1/2 cup), softened
- 1 ripe banana, mashed
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1 cup unsweetened coconut flakes
- 3 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 cup chopped cashews (optional)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees Fahrenheit.
2. Whisk flours, baking soda, salt, and cinnamon in a medium bowl.
3. Use an electric mixer to beat butter, banana, and sugars until creamy.
4. Mix in eggs and coconut.
5. Add 1/3 of the flour mixture at a time, mixing after each addition.
6. Stir in chocolate chips and cashews (if using).
7. Drop by spoonful onto parchment paper-covered baking sheet.
8. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes until golden brown.
9. Enjoy!