

Indoor Activity: Rain sticks

Did you know that the rainforest receives anywhere between 79 and 394 inches of rain every year? The weather conditions around rainforests speed up the water cycle in that area keeping the rainforest wet all the time! The amount of water these forests receive create plants that grow rapidly and wildlife with unique adaptations to survive in extremely moist ecosystems. This month we will create a craft that makes rainforest sounds.

Materials:

- Paper towel roll
- Rice
- Aluminum foil
- 2 Rubber bands
- Tape
- Glue
- Construction paper



What to do:

1. Roll a sheet of construction paper around your paper towel roll and tape the ends so that your paper stays on the tube. This will be where you can decorate your rain stick however you'd like.
2. Cut a different sheet of construction paper to create two evenly sized squares. These squares should be around 3 inches long on each side.
3. Wrap one square around one end of your tube and wrap a rubber band around it so that it stays on the tube. This will be a lid or cover for your tube.
4. Get a sheet of aluminum foil that is about the length of your tube and tightly roll it into an aluminum stick.
5. Twist your aluminum stick into a corkscrew or spring-like shape. Be sure that this spring shape fits inside the full length of your tube.
6. Add a handful of rice into your tube.
7. Attach the second square to the open end of the tube with a rubber band. Make sure that both ends of the tube are closed off and secured.
8. Now turn your rain stick so that the ends of its tube are facing up and down. Slowly turn it 180 degrees to hear rain fall in the rainforest.

Outdoor Activity: Frog Finding

Frogs play the role of both predator and prey in their ecosystem. Frogs, at any life stage, provide food for many animals like birds, fish, and reptiles. Frogs also have a big appetite for pesky insects, like mosquitoes. Along with their role in the food web, frogs absorb nutrients through their skin and can indicate various impacts to their ecosystem. Many frogs mean a healthy ecosystem. Challenge yourself this month by learning frog calls and locating indicator species!

Materials:

- Backpack
- Notebook
- Pen or Pencil
- Water bottle
- Outdoor attire
- Camera (Optional)
- Access to the internet



Prep work:

Research frog species native to your area and listen to their calls.

Try to familiarize yourself with the different types of sounds certain species make.

What to do:

1. Pack your backpack with your water bottle and all of the tools you may need to record data.
2. Find a spot in your area that has a source of water. Be on the lookout for ponds and streams surrounded by many different plant species! Slow moving water sources are great places to start.
3. When you've found an area with the proper resources available, take some time to listen for frog calls.
4. Remember to move slowly so that you don't scare the frogs into being silent.
5. Note down all the sounds you may have identified. Take some time to draw or snap some pictures of the frogs, froglets, or tadpoles you see.



MISSION CONSERVATION ACTIVITY GUIDE

June 2024 – Rainforest Roundup