



Sacred Heart Primary School Curriculum Theme Plan



RAINFORESTS

Rationale: In order to address the skills and knowledge as outlined in the national curriculum and the Sacred Heart Progression of Skills: geography document. The topic of The Rainforest is age appropriate for Year 4 and helps the children gain an awareness of environmental issues in this country and around the world. To know, that as the future generation, that our planet is reliant on them to look after it and that the eco-system is dependent on all that is part of it.

Pre-Unit task: Children enter classroom to 'I'm a Celebrity' theme tune and a picture of Ant and Dec on the whiteboard. There will be several boxes set up for a Bush Tucker Trial. Children have to take turns to put their hands into one of the boxes and guess what is inside. (All things that we get from rainforest).

Attention Grabber: Bush Tucker Trial, classroom 'jungle canopy' display and classroom door décor, adopt an animal from WWF.

Class story time book: Running Wild by Michael Morporgo

Learning Objectives:

- To locate the world's countries, using maps to focus on Europe (including the location of Russia), North, and South America, concentrating on their environmental regions, key physical and human characteristics, countries, and major cities in the context of rainforests. •
- To use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied in the context of rainforests.
- To identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn, Arctic and Antarctic Circle, the Prime/Greenwich Meridian and time zones (including day and night) in the context of rainforests. •
- To describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle in the context of a tropical climate
- To describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: types of settlement and land use, economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals and water in the context of rainforest conservation.

Overview:

Lesson 1: To discover the equator and tropics of Cancer & Capricorn and that tropical rainforests are situated between the tropics.

Lesson 2: To name countries which contain tropical rainforests and find out some facts about them.

Lesson 3: To identify different global climatic zones; describe the climate in the tropics.

Lesson 4: **To understand and appreciate what it would be like to live in a rainforest climate.**

Lesson 5: **To understand what life would be like in a Rainforest.**

Lesson 6: **To explore the term monsoon and understand what it means, with its effects.**

Lesson 7: **To investigate the four layers of the rainforest.**

Lesson 8: **To investigate the animals that live in the Rainforest, and explain how they are suited to their environment.**

Lesson 9: **To review what we have learnt about Rainforests so far.**

Lesson 10: **To create a proposal to suggest how deforestation could be minimised.**

Lesson 11: **To identify different endangered animals and propose how they could be helped.**

Lesson 12: **To identify the items in the world which can contribute to global warming.**

Lesson 13: **To suggest ways in which we can protect our environment.**

SMSVC Links Develop a sense of awe, wonder and mystery – dinosaurs and evolution .By asking questions about the ways in which scientific discoveries from around the world have affected our lives. **Attentive** to their experience and to their vocation; and **discerning** about the choices they make and the effects of those choices. Work collaboratively and share ideas. Value each other's contributions **Compassionate** towards others, near and far, especially the less fortunate; and **loving** by their just actions and forgiving words. Discuss environmental and moral choice. Relate to the work on Creation. **Eloquent** and **truthful** in what they say of themselves, the relations between people, and the world. Explore the moral dilemmas when using computer programming. Develop responsibility when using the internet and staying safe online. Share ideas and take turns to lead. **Curious** about everything; and **active** in their engagement with the world, changing what they can for the better.

Cross Curricular Links

English – *studying stories by the same author and using these to write own version of a story, writing a non-chronological report and making a persuasive poster to save the environment*

ICT *Use internet to research rainforest facts. Present ideas /findings combining text and graphics.*

PSHE *Understand how /what they do could have an effect on the world's rainforests. Know how they would do something to support the issue.*

Art *study works by Henri Rosseau and produce their own work in his style.*

DT *Make a monsoon collage*

Science *Understand food chains Show the characteristics of living things in a table. • Create a classification key. • Identify dangers to wildlife in the local and wider environment.*

Resources (found in Topic Box) both fiction and non-fiction books, cargo net, internet, photographs, rainforest creatures, foliage and real Venus fly trap plant.

Opportunities for enrichment: Meet the animals – Jonathan's Jungle Roadshow

Impact/Assessment

All Children will: • name some countries where rainforests are found. • Label a map to show countries where rainforests are found. • find the Equator on a map. • tell you that rainforests are found near the Equator. • describe what the weather is usually like in a tropical climate. • name the four layers of a rainforest. • tell you about the climate in each layer. • tell you more about one animal living in a rainforest. • tell you what deforestation means.

Most Children will: tell you more about one country where rainforests are found. • use an atlas to find countries of the world where rainforests are found. • can find the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn on a map. • tell you that rainforests are found between the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn. • tell you about the plants found in each layer. • name some animals that live in each layer of the rainforest

Some Children will: tell you the difference between weather and climate. • tell you some animals that live in each layer. • explain why different animals live in different layers