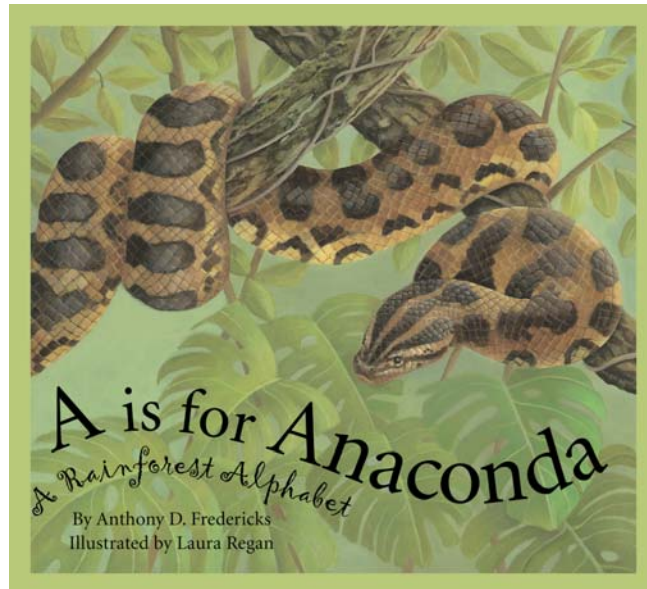


Teacher's Guide



A is for Anaconda: A Rainforest Alphabet

Author: Anthony D. Fredericks
Illustrator: Laura Regan

Guide written by Cheryl Grinn

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WHAT IF?

Enjoy reading about the rainforest in the wonderful book *A is for Anaconda*. Think about the rainforest and how it benefits mankind. Now, put on your thinking cap and decide what the consequences might be in each situation below.

1. What if the rainforest dried up? What effect would that have on the United States?

2. What if yams stopped growing in the rainforest? What effect would that have on the rainforest people?

3. What if all the snakes in the rainforest died? What effect would that have on the insects?

4. What if there was a freak ice storm in the rainforest? What effect would it have on the plants and animals?

AWESOME ADJECTIVES!

An adjective is a word that describes a noun. For example— The bashful gecko was hidden in the tree. The word **bashful** describes the gecko. Adjectives give you a clearer picture of a noun.

Write an adjective before each noun and then use it in a sentence.

1. _____ swinging monkeys

2. _____ swooping birds

3. _____ lazy sloths

4. _____ clinging epiphytes

5. _____ hissing snakes

Illustrate your favorite sentence from above.

A NEW BUTTERFLY SPECIES

New species are constantly being found in the rainforest. Pretend you were lucky enough to discover a new species of butterfly.

Name your butterfly.

Make its color and wing design unique. Be creative and have fun!



Under the Canopy

Have fun and learn about the rainforest in the book *A is for Anaconda*.
Learn about the various levels of vegetation that make up the rainforest in the book.

Draw and label the vegetation in the rainforest. The layers are (not in order) understory, emergent layer, canopy, and forest floor.

Draw your forest, placing the layers in the correct order and labeling each layer.



RAINFOREST CROSSWORD

All of the answers needed to complete this crossword can be found in *A is for Anaconda*.

1. **R** _____
2. **A** _____
3. **I** _____
4. **N** _____
5. **F** _____
6. **O** _____
7. **R** _____
8. **E** _____
9. **S** _____
10. **T** _____

1. The Amazon is a large _____
2. Most of the rainforests are found in _____
3. New Guinea is the world's second largest _____
4. Animals that are active at night are called _____
5. Piranha is a type of _____
6. Fifty percent of all _____ are epiphytes
7. A rainforest has lots of _____
8. A plant that grows on the branches of another plant is an _____
9. Jaguars are excellent _____
10. A walking stick looks like a _____

COMPOUNDING THE RAINFOREST

Enjoy discovering the wonderful rainforests of the world in the book *A is for Anaconda*.

Match a word from box 1 with a word from box 2 to make a compound word.
Example— play + ground = playground

Box 1

rain	land	east
heart	wing	
low	fresh	day
	back	

Box 2

yard	beat	ward
	mass	span
light	water	land
	forest	

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____



FOLLOW THE FOOD CHAIN

A food chain shows a feeding relationship. Each piece of the chain needs the other pieces to survive.

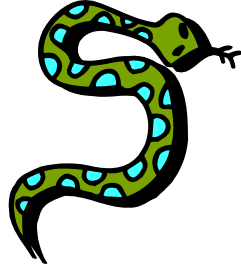
An example of a food chain in *A is for Anaconda* is:

Sun-----bananas-----monkey-----harpy eagle

Make a diagram of a food chain that has the following pieces:
Plant, snake, owl, mouse. Make sure each piece is dependent on the piece before it.

Explain why food chains are important. _____

Draw a food chain that shows a food chain which includes you.



Um, Um, Good!

The tropical rainforest is full of birds, snakes, and other animals. Animals that eat only meat are called **carnivores**. Those that eat only plants are called **herbivores**. Those that eat both plants and animals are called **omnivores**. Which are you?

Place each creature below under the correct category.

Tarantula

Piranha

Kinkajou

Jaguar

Gorilla

Anaconda

Carnivore

Herbivore

Omnivore

Name 3 carnivores not listed above.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____



RAINFOREST DIORAMA

The rainforests of our world are beautiful, and amazing. Discover their importance in our world in the book *A is for Anaconda*.

Have fun making a diorama of the rainforest.

Materials

Box (shoebox size or larger)

Magazines

Colored paper

Scissors

Plant and animal models

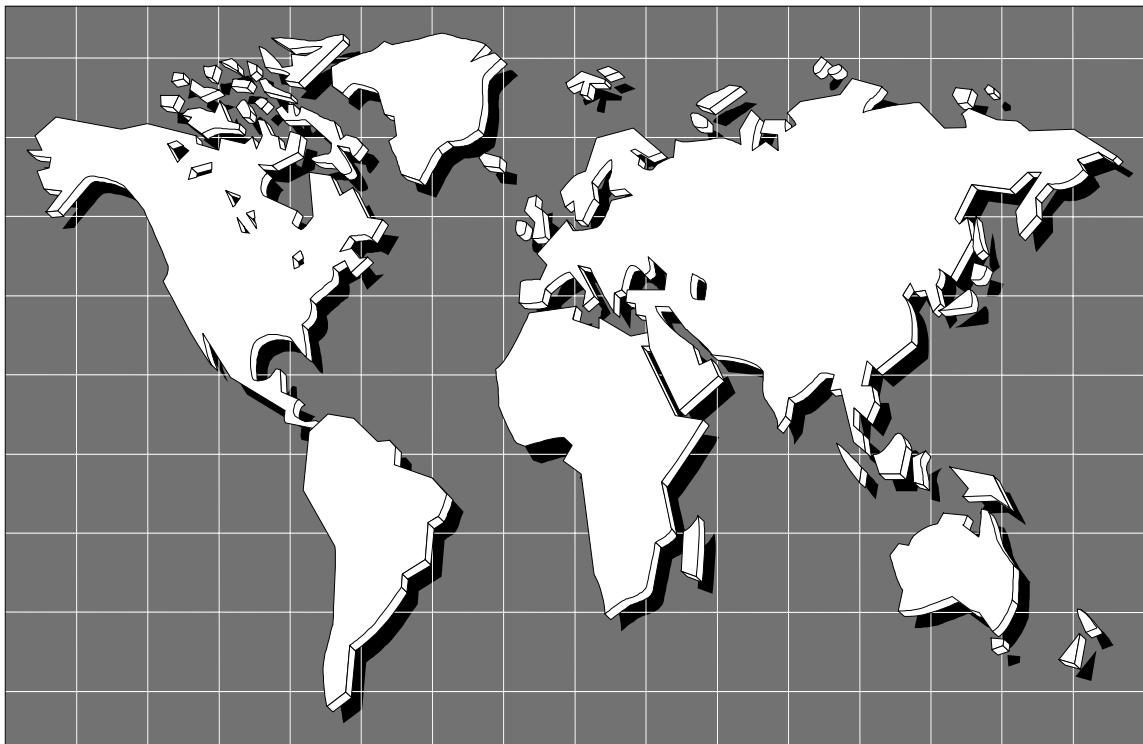
Directions

1. Use this page to plan your rainforest diorama.
2. Make sure your diorama includes plants, birds, and animals.
3. Think about where you would find each plant or animal in your diorama.
4. Create your final diorama in your box and write a paragraph explaining your diorama.

WHERE ARE THE RAINFORESTS?

Learn about the tropical rainforests of the world in the book *A is for Anaconda*. Pay special attention to where the rainforests in the world are located.

Label and color each continent below that contains tropical rainforests.





RAINFOREST MATH

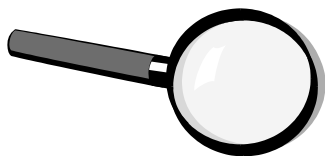
Solve these rainforest story problems.

1. A full-grown anaconda is 28 feet long. How many inches is that? _____
Show your work.

2. Rainforests cover 6% of the earth's surface. What percent is not covered by rainforests? Show your work.

3. Hummingbirds flap their wings about 150 times in a second. How many times would they flap in 30 seconds? _____ 1 minute? _____
Show your work.

4. Four iguanas were captured in the wild. The iguanas weighed 10 lbs, 14 lbs, 15 lbs, and 9 lbs. What was the average weight of the iguanas?
_____ Show your work.



SEEK AND FIND

Search high and low throughout *A is for Anaconda* to find the answer to each of the questions below.

1. The large spreading roots of the kapok tree are called _____
2. What do we call animals that are active at night? _____
3. True or false— Frogs can be red, orange, yellow, or blue _____
4. How many inches of rain does the average rainforest receive in a year? _____
5. Name the rainforest animal that spends most of its life upside down _____
6. Who drew the pictures for *A is for Anaconda*? _____
7. What type of snake is an anaconda? _____
8. Brazil is a country on which continent? _____
9. What do we call a species that has died and will never exist again? _____
10. Can a hummingbird walk? _____
11. What do you call animals that eat other animals? _____
12. What is a uakari? _____

RAINFOREST FAVORITES

SURVEY AND GRAPH

Learn about the rainforest and everything that makes it special in *A is for Anaconda*.

Survey 25 students to find which group of the following animals is their favorite.

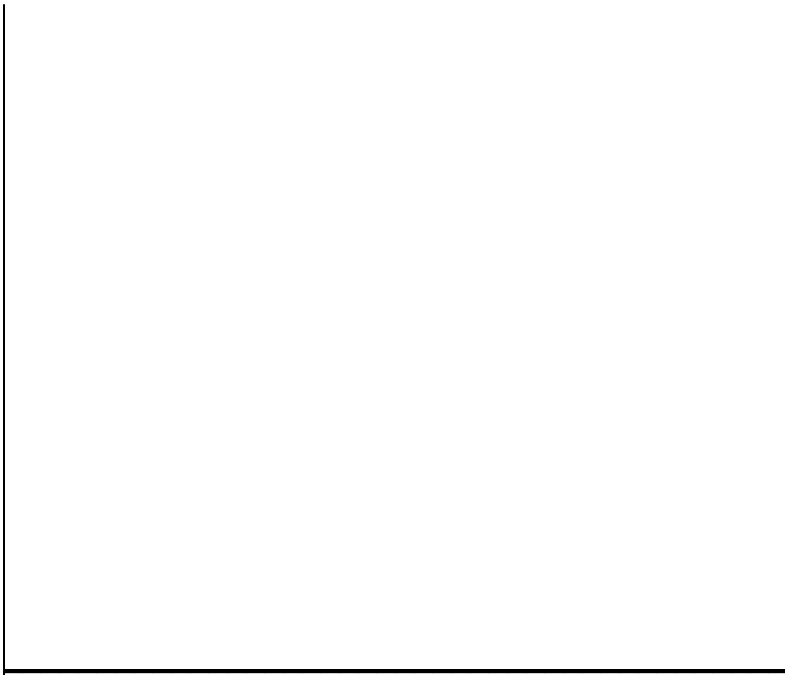
Snakes

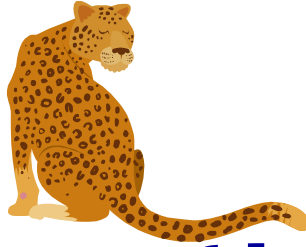
Birds

Frogs

Lizards

Use the data you collect to make a bar graph showing the results.
Make your graph colorful and easy to read.





The Importance of the Rainforest

Why do you need to learn about the rainforest? Does it make a difference in your life? Discover the importance of this ecosystem in the book *A is for Anaconda*.

Complete each sentence below.

1. The important thing about a rainforest is _____

2. The important thing about an anaconda is _____

3. The important thing about a quetzal is _____

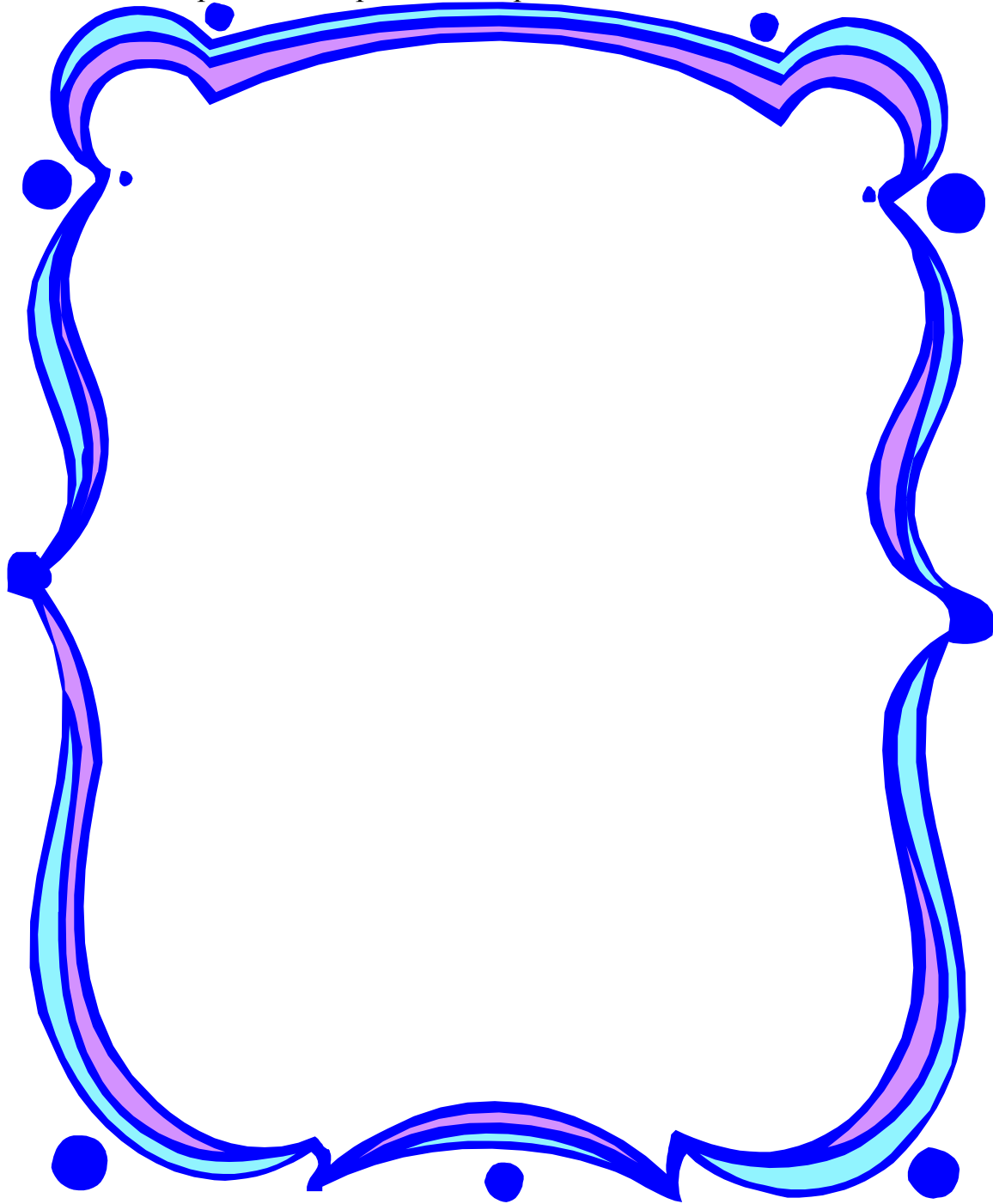
4. The important thing about quinine is _____

5. The important thing about a disperser is _____

6. The important thing about deforestation is _____

WANTED POSTER

You've just learned there are poachers in the rainforest killing all of the jaguars.
Make a wanted poster to help find these poachers.



SAVE THE QUETZAL!

Have you ever seen a quetzal? Probably not! Learn about this magnificent bird in the book *A is for Anaconda*.

Make a list of ways to save endangered species such as the quetzal.

Name 3 other endangered species.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

Draw a picture of your favorite endangered animal.

RAINFOREST YUMMY MUNCH RECIPE

Make this yummy healthy recipe and munch on some while you read the book *A is for Anaconda*.

Ingredients

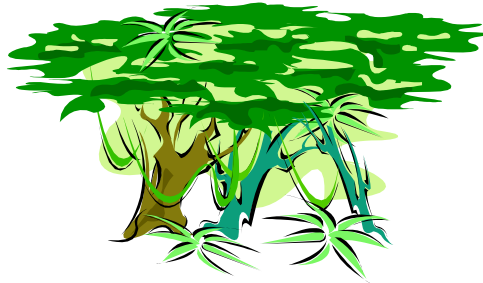
- 1 cup cashew nuts
- ½ cup macadamia nuts
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup dried banana chips
- ½ cup dried pineapple
- 1 cup shredded coconut

Directions

Put all ingredients into a large plastic bowl.
Use a wooden spoon to stir until well mixed.
Share with family and friends.

List some additional rainforest items you might add to your munch.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



What can you do to help protect the rainforests of the world?

If you are thinking 1 year ahead, sow seeds.
If you are thinking 10 years ahead, plant a tree.
If you are thinking 100 years ahead, educate the people.

www.savetherainforest.org

Be a savvy shopper!

Buy products (furniture, bird houses, and garden tools) from corporations that help promote the responsible management of the world's forests. To learn more to go the Forest Stewardship Council's Web site at www.fsc.org

Recycle! Recycle! Recycle!

Purchase reclaimed, recycled or salvaged wood products. There are lots of sites online featuring reclaimed wood products to meet your needs!
Purchase paper products produced from recycled materials reducing the need for new wood pulp.

Adopt a rainforest!

Your family, school or organization can contribute funding to small conservation groups in tropical rainforests that work to stop rainforest destruction.

Ecotourism

When traveling, be sure to contact a tour operator who is certified in sustainable tourism.

Learn more...

About Sustainable Forestry, Harvest-Regeneration Methods, and establishing forest reserves.



For more information on what you can do, visit:

www.rainforest-alliance.org

www.rain-tree.com

www.eco-indextourism.org

<http://www.fs.fed.us/global/lzone/student/tropical.htm>

www.forest.org

www.ran.org (Rainforest Action Network)

www.kidssavingtherainforest.org

<http://www.nature.org/initiatives/climatechange/strategies/art28057.html?src=spl3>

A is for Anaconda

Answer Key

Rainforest Crossword- 1) river 2) [South] America 3) island
4) nocturnal 5) fish 6) orchids 7) rain 8) epiphyte
9) swimmers 10) twig

Compounding the Rainforest- rainforest, landmass, eastward,
wingspan, daylight, heartbeat, freshwater, lowland, backyard

Um,Um,Good- **Carnivores-** Tarantula, Piranha, Jaguar, Anaconda
Herbivores- Gorilla **Omnivore-** Kinkajou

Map of Rainforests- Africa, Asia, Central America, South America

Rainforest Math- 1) 336 inches 2) 94% 3) 4,500 9,000
4) 12 pounds

Seek and Find- 1) buttresses 2) nocturnal 3) true 4) 80
5) sloth 6) Laura Regan 7) constrictor 8) South America
9) extinct 10) no 11) carnivores 12) monkey