Your Mission, Should You Choose to Accept it:

AYER UP!

Explorers, today we are going to a tropical rainforest. You will be exploring both outdoor and indoor rainforest areas.

Rainforests are so tall and full of plants and animals, they’re almost like 4 habitats stacked on top of each other. We are going to explore different layers of the rainforest today.

READY EXPLORERS, LET’S GO!

1. Use your map and explorer skills to locate the Rainforest Path #29 on your map. This area is the FOREST FLOOR layer of the rainforest, the lowest layer.

   What do you SEE?
   
   What do you HEAR?
   
   How does it FEEL?
   
   What do you SMELL?

   In a true tropical rainforest, it would be even more humid than it is here in South Florida, so we have to provide extra water through the mist that you can probably see and feel in this area. This helps keeps the plants happy!

   • Imagine you are an animal, like a gorilla, here at the forest floor. Where would you sleep? Draw a picture below.

   2. Find #23 on the map and head to the tropical plant conservatory

      • In here you will find the UNDERSTORY and CANOPY layers which house plants that need more protection

      • In a real rainforest, most plants and animals would live in these layers and some of them would never even touch the ground!

      • Find a plant that is growing, but not touching the ground. Add in an animal that might live nearby (examples: monkeys, toucans, snakes, frogs, sloths). Draw a picture below.

   3. As you keep exploring, how many different colors, shapes, patterns, and textures can you find on rainforest plants. Draw your favorite pattern.
4. Find the last plant conservatory, the Whitman Tropical Fruit Pavilion, #21 on your map.

5. Welcome to a Cloud Forest!
   • You have arrived at the top layer of the rainforest, the EMERGENT level, which is the most directly exposed to wind, rain, and sun so plants have to be tough up here!
   • In a real rainforest, this layer is so high up, most people never get to see it.
   • Why do you think this is called a cloud forest?
     ______________________________________________________
   • Way up here, there’s not much shelter, but lots of room to soar. What kind(s) of animals can you imagine up in this layer?

Draw the top of the rainforest in the clouds and an animal soaring above.

4. All Great explorers record their adventures
   • What was the most interesting thing you saw today?
     ____________________________________________________
   • What is one thing you learned today?
     ____________________________________________________
   • What do you want to explore on your next visit?
     ____________________________________________________