



LAYERS OF LIFE ANIMAL CHART

Record observations about Indonesian Rainforest animals



GRADES 3-6

MATERIALS

- clipboard

KEY WORDS

- emergent
- canopy
- understory
- floor

STANDARDS

- SCI.3.3.2
- SCI.4.3.3
- SCI.5.3.1
- SCI.6.3.1
- SCI.6.3.5

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about the tropical rainforest ecosystem.
- Students will learn about the plant layers that make up the rainforest.
- Students will learn about the plants and animals that live in the Indonesian rainforests.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- The plants of the rainforest are arranged in layers.
- The tallest of the trees are called emergents. These giants tower above the rest of the forest, sometimes reaching heights of 200 feet, but usually growing to about 115 to 150 feet tall. Many of these emergents have thick buttresses around the base of the trunk for stability.
- The canopy of the rain forest is formed by trees that are 65 to 100 feet high. These trees form a continuous covering over the forest. The canopy is filled with life. The umbrella of branches and leaves provides a home for many rainforest creatures.
- Below the canopy, in the understory, shrubs and vines grow to heights of 15 feet or so. Only 2 to 5 percent of the sunlight reaches the understory.
- The forest floor is sheltered, still, and always humid. Vegetation is sparse due to the lack of sunlight and the rapid decay of dead plants and animals.

PROCEDURE

- When at the zoo, have the students fill out the chart for the animals in the Indonesian Rain Forest dome at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Check the students' work for accuracy.





LAYERS OF LIFE ANIMAL CHART

Use the chart to record the animals you see in the Indonesian Rain Forest dome.



Name _____

Animal	Layer	Classification	Describe how it looks	Food	Enemies	Notes

