



RAIN FOREST PRODUCTS

Learning about products that come from the rain forest



GRADES 3-6

MATERIALS

- rain forest products brought in by students

KEY WORDS

- tropical rain forest

STANDARDS

- SCI.4.2.4
- SCI.4.2.5
- SCI.4.2.6
- SCI.6.3.2

OBJECTIVES

- Students will identify products made from resources found in a tropical rain forest.
- Students will be able to discuss the impact of rainforest deforestation on their lives.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- More than half (some say up to 90%) of all plant and animal species on Earth are found in rain forests.
- One-fourth of all medicine in use today is derived from plants.
- 70% of the plants containing compounds useful in cancer treatment are found only in rainforests, yet less than 1% of tropical rainforest plants have been thoroughly studied for their chemical compounds.
- Each year, an area the size of New York (over 30,000 square miles) of tropical rain forest is destroyed. At the present rate of destruction (about one acre per second), the remaining rain forest could be depleted in this century.

PROCEDURE

- Give each student a copy of the list entitled "Rain Forest Products."
- Ask students to look for and bring in empty jars/boxes from home that contained these products or to clip pictures of these products from magazines.
- Assemble the pictures on a bulletin board or make a display of the items collected.
- Discuss the importance of the rain forest products. How would our lives be different if the rain forests had been destroyed before these products had been discovered? What could we be losing now that the rain forests are disappearing at the rate of 60 acres per minute?

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Assess students based on participation in discussion and contribution to display.

EXTENSIONS

- Students could also use the sheet as a survey to check off how many of these items are found in their home. The results of the survey could be tallied and posted in the classroom.
- Decorate your classroom to look like a rain forest. Cut out tree trunks and large leaves and post them on the wall. Hang "vines" of twisted brown paper from the ceiling. Create "epiphytes" from construction paper.





RAIN FOREST PRODUCTS

Products originating in or currently found growing in tropical rain forests



Name _____

HOUSEPLANTS

- African violet
- Begonia
- Bromeliads
- Christmas cactus
- Croton
- Dracena
- Fiddle leaf fig
- Orchids
- Philodendron
- Prayer plant
- Rubber plant
- Snake plant (*Sansevieria*)
- Umbrella tree (*Schefflera*)

GUMS AND RESINS

- Chicle (chewing gum)
- Copal (varnish, printing ink)
- Rubber (balloons, erasers, foam rubber, balls, rubber bands, gloves, hoses, shoes, tires)

OILS

- Bay (bay rum lotion)
- Camphor (insect repellent, lotion)
- Coconut (baked goods, lotion, soap)
- Lime (food flavoring, candles, soap, bath oil)
- Palm (snack food, baked goods)
- Patchouli (perfume, soap)
- Rosewood (soap, candles, perfume)

WOODS

(furniture, doors, floors, paneling, cabinets, carvings, toys, models)

- Balsa
- Mahogany
- Rosewood
- Sandalwood
- Teak

CANES AND FIBERS

- Bamboo (furniture, crafts)
- Jute (rope, twine, burlap)
- Kapok (insulation, stuffing)
- Ramie (knit materials)
- Rattan (furniture, wicker, cane chair seats)

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

- Avocado
- Banana
- Grapefruit
- Guava
- Heart of palm
- Lemon
- Lime
- Mango
- Orange
- Papaya
- Passion fruit
- Pepper
- Pineapple
- Plantain
- Potato
- Sweet potato
- Tangerine
- Tomato
- Yam

SPICES AND FLAVORS

- Allspice
- Black pepper
- Cardamom
- Cayenne
- Chili pepper
- Chocolate or cocoa
- Cinnamon
- Cloves
- Ginger
- Mace
- Nutmeg
- Paprika
- Turmeric
- Vanilla

OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS

- Brazil nuts
- Cashew nuts
- Coconut
- Coffee
- Cola
- Corn
- Macadamia nuts
- Peanuts
- Rice
- Sesame seeds
- Sugar
- Tapioca
- Tea

