



TEACHER PACKET

TROPICAL RAIN FOREST



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Recommended for grades K–12

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Dear Teacher,

Are you and your students aware of the diversity of forests throughout the world? This teacher packet has been prepared to provide you with background information on forests, with a focus on tropical rain forests, as well as ideas for classroom and outdoor activities to help students gain knowledge and appreciation of forest ecosystems.

Woodland Park Zoo's mission is to save animals and their habitats through conservation, leadership and engaging experience, inspiring people to learn, care and act. Forests provide vital ecosystem services and important resources upon which people and other living things depend. However, in many regions of the world, the health and biodiversity of forest ecosystems are declining due to unsustainable use of forest resources. How can we strike a balance between our needs for forest resources and products and the preservation of healthy forest ecosystems that provide vital services and sustainable resources? There are many ways in which individuals and groups, such as students, can contribute to the conservation of forests and forests resources (please see the "Forest Conservation" section in this packet). Through the use of this packet, we hope that you can instill in your students an understanding of the importance of healthy, functioning forest ecosystems in their own lives. With this understanding, your students will be inspired to continue to learn about forests, visit forest habitats and take action to protect forest ecosystems around the world and in their own backyards.

The activities in this packet have been designed for use before, during and after a visit to Woodland Park Zoo for a self-guided visit or to participate in a program set in the zoo's Tropical Rain Forest bioclimatic zone. However, if you are unable to visit the zoo, the majority of the activities can also be covered in the classroom and/or outdoor settings apart from the zoo. The activities in this packet have been developed for use with different grade levels, to reach multiple disciplines and learning styles, and to tie in with Washington State Essential Academic Learning Requirements and Environmental and Sustainability Education standards.

Please see the Education section of the zoo's website (www.zoo.org) for more information or to register for a self-guided visit or a school program at the zoo.

Sincerely,

Woodland Park Zoo
Education Department

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