

A Day in the Life

(Reading, Letter Writing)

Introduce your students to the unique creatures living in the rain forest by reading *The Great Kapok Tree* by Lynne Cherry (Harcourt Brace, 1998). After reading the story, make a class chart listing the animals and each animal's reason for saving the kapok tree. Then assign each student an animal from the book and instruct him to write about a typical day in the rain forest from his animal's point of view. Provide library books or other reference materials, and crayons or markers to help each student illustrate his animal tale. Together with students, write a brief letter to your state senator or congressman, sharing the information students have learned from the book and encouraging the official(s) to pass laws to protect endangered forests around the world. Finally, send the letter along with your students' animal tales to the following addresses:

Congressman/woman _____
 U.S. House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

Senator _____
 U.S. Senate
 Washington, DC 20510

Note: Check out www.friend.ly.net/scoop/biographies/cherrylynn/index.html for more information about Lynne Cherry and her involvement in rain forest preservation. (Current as of 1/00.)

The Great Kapok Tree	
Animal:	Animal's reason for saving the tree:
Boa constrictor	The tree is his home.
Bee	He comes to the tree to collect pollen.
Monkey	The tree holds the dirt in place.
Toucan, Macaw, and Cock-of-the-rock	The forest will disappear if the trees are cut down.
Tree frog	Without the tree he will be homeless.
Jaguar	Animals living in trees provide his food.
Porcupine	Trees produce oxygen.
Arcteanter	He doesn't want to live in a world without trees.
Three-toed sloth	The rain forest is too beautiful to chop down.



Rain Forest Mix

Mix together in a large container:

- 2 c. peanuts
- 2 c. chocolate chips
- 2 c. cashew nuts
- 2 c. dried banana chips
- 2 c. dried papaya
- 2 c. Brazil and/or macadamia nuts
- 2 c. coconut flakes

(Makes 56 1/4-cup servings)



Rain Forest Fund Raiser

(Class Fund-Raiser Project, Recipe)

Enjoy a taste of the tropics while earning money for a good cause! Ahead of time, obtain permission to set up a "Save the Rain Forest" fund-raising stand in the cafeteria. Then, as a class, prepare the Rain Forest Mix recipe (see left). Have students use permanent markers to decorate small plastic zippered bags with rain forest scenes. Fill each bag with one-fourth cup of the Rain Forest Mix. Have students sell the Rain Forest Mix at the designated fund-raiser stand during lunch. Then use your earnings to protect a part of the rain forest in your class's name by sending a \$25 donation to Rainforest Action Network Protect-an-Acre, 221 Pine St. #500, San Francisco, CA 94104. The Rainforest Action Network will send your students a Protect-an-Acre certificate thanking them for helping preserve rain forest land.