

# WELCOME TO THE AFRICAN RAINFOREST



## LESSON 5

## Who Are Chimpanzees' Neighbors?

Grade Level: 2-3 | Subject Areas: Science, Language Arts, Art | Time Frame: 1 hour  
Background Information: Welcome to the African Rainforest: Home of the Chimpanzee (pages 9-10)

### VOCABULARY:

*Ecosystem, environment, habitat, organism, rainforest*

### STUDENTS WILL BE ABLE TO...

- Define the terms rainforest, habitat, ecosystem and niche
- Explain how a habitat is different from an ecosystem
- Compare a habitat near their school to the African rainforest
- Describe the importance of every organism in its environment

### WHAT YOU NEED

- Notebook paper or journals for each student
- Blank drawing paper
- Crayons, markers, non-toxic paint or colored pencils
- Activity sheet 5A: *An Incredible Journey*
- Activity sheet 5B: *Field Guide To African Rainforest Wildlife*

### LEARNING ACTIVITIES

1. Take the class outdoors to explore an environment near their school. Distribute notebook paper or a journal to each student. Using all senses except taste, students should make and draw or record observations about the area around them.
2. Discuss students' initial findings. Have students circle any observations in their journal that describe sources of food, water, shelter and a place for animals to raise young. Explain that these four elements make up an organism's habitat and many habitats make up an ecosystem. Based on their findings have students predict what animals might live there. Have students draw a picture of the habitat found near their school.
3. Explain that unique habitats exist all over the world. Read activity sheet 5B: *An Incredible Journey* to the class. Encourage students to act out portions of the story using the provided teacher prompts. Students should conclude that this is a rainforest habitat in Africa.
4. Distribute activity sheet 5B: *Field Guide To African Rainforest Wildlife*. Re-read *An Incredible Journey* and as each organism is described, have students mark the corresponding picture on activity sheet 5B (some organisms pictured on the field guide are not in the story). Students should infer that African rainforests are complex and home to many types of wildlife.

- Students should check the following boxes on activity sheet 5B: African elephant, mahogany tree, mushrooms, ferns, giant millipede, dung beetle, agama lizard, duiker, zipper-web spider, fig fruit, hornbill, blue monkey and chimpanzee.

5. After reading, have students draw a picture of the rainforest habitat described in *An Incredible Journey*.
6. Use a T-chart to compare the habitat elements and species found near the school to the African rainforest habitat. As a class, discuss similarities and differences between organisms and how living things depend upon each other in an ecosystem.

### WRAP UP

7. Lead a wrap up discussion using the questions below:
  - Name the four elements of a habitat. *A habitat must include sources of food, water, shelter and a place for animals to raise their young.*
  - Explain how a habitat is different from an ecosystem. *A habitat is the area where an animal finds food, water, shelter and a place to raise young. An ecosystem is the arrangement and interactions of all living and non-living things in an area.*
  - Describe the African rainforest in your own words. Be sure to include all four habitat elements. *Answers will vary but students should include descriptions of*

# LESSON 5

## WELCOME TO THE AFRICAN RAINFOREST

### Who Are Chimpanzees' Neighbors? (2 of 2)



*the physical environment (hot, wet, large trees, etc.) and be able to give examples of food, water, shelter and a place to raise young.*

- Explain why every living thing is important in a habitat. Predict what would happen if just one living thing was removed. *Students' answers will vary but should include the role each living thing has in the habitat and how they are connected to other organisms. Students should understand that removing even one plant or animal species will greatly impact all other species in the ecosystem.*

#### EXTENDING THE LESSON: SCIENCE AND ART

**Option 1:** Have students turn the classroom into a chimpanzee's rainforest home. Each student should draw, paint or color a picture of one of the organisms in the story. Place the students' illustrations on a bulletin board or hang on the classroom walls to create a life-sized forest habitat.

**Option 2:** Have students write a short story about a day in the life of an animal that lives near their school. Students should include at least one example of each of the four habitat components and describe how the animal depends on these during a day.

#### CONNECT YOUR CLASS WITH NATURE

Enrich habitats in your area or on school grounds! With permission, organize a tree planting, create a butterfly garden, place a bird bath or hang a birdhouse to provide wildlife with food, water, shelter and a place to raise young.

#### LESSON RESOURCES

##### For Students:

- Fredericks, Anthony D. and Jennifer DiRubbio (Illustrator). *Around One Cactus: Owls, Bats, and Leaping Rats*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2003. ISBN: 1584690526.
- Fredericks, Anthony D. and Jennifer DiRubbio (Illustrator). *Near One Cattail: Turtles, Logs, and Leaping Frogs*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2005. ISBN: 1584690712.
- Fredericks, Anthony D. and Jennifer DiRubbio (Illustrator). *On One Flower: Butterflies, Ticks, and few more Icks*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2006. ISBN: 1584690879.

- Fredericks, Anthony D. and Jennifer DiRubbio (Illustrator). *Under One Rock: Bugs, Slugs, and other Ughs*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2001. ISBN: 1584690276.
- Rainforest Alliance. *Virtual Treehouse*. 19 July 2011. <http://rainforest-alliance.org/multimedia/treehouse>
- Ward, Jennifer and Jamichael Henterly (Illustrator). *Forest Bright, Forest Night*. Nevada City, CA: Dawn Publications, 2005. ISBN: 1584690674.

##### For Teachers:

- Barrett, Katharine and Carolyn Willard. *Schoolyard Ecology: Teachers Guide for Grades 3-6*. Berkeley, CA: Lawrence Hall of Science - University of California, 1998. ISBN: 0924885355
- Council for Environmental Education. *ProjectWild*. 19 July 2011. <http://www.projectwild.org/resources.html>
- International Year of the Forests. *Celebrating Forests for People*. United Nations Department of Public Information. 19 July 2011. <http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/>
- World Wildlife Fund. *The Importance of Forests*. 19 July 2011. [http://www.panda.org/about\\_our\\_earth/about\\_forests/importance/](http://www.panda.org/about_our_earth/about_forests/importance/)



The rainforest provides chimpanzees with food, water, shelter and a safe place to raise their young.

Want to further your  
classroom conservation work?  
Visit [Disney.com/planetchallenge](http://Disney.com/planetchallenge) TODAY!



# LESSON 5

ACTIVITY  
SHEET 5A  
for grades 2-3

## WELCOME TO THE AFRICAN RAINFOREST

### Who Are Chimpanzees' Neighbors?



## An Incredible Journey

You have traveled a long way. You took a big plane and flew over the ocean to a different continent called Africa (have students spread their arms and pretend to fly).

You are in a place with many trees. It is hot and everything is wet. Red, squishy dirt covers the ground. Leaves crunch under your feet (have some students make squishing sounds while others make crunching sounds). You start walking down a muddy trail. There is a large puddle ahead. Then, you realize it is actually a footprint! It looks like a giant pancake. It must be from a very big animal with huge legs and feet.

The large trees around you are like towers. The trees reach so high they almost block the sun (have students reach high towards the sky). The trunks spread across the ground like tentacles (have students crouch low and weave their arms back and forth to imitate tentacles). "What could these big roots be for?" you wonder.

Plants that look like green feathers tickle your ankles. Whoops! You almost trip on a fallen log. You bend down to take a closer look. The log feels cool and damp (have students crouch down and touch the floor). It is covered in white mushrooms. Under the log is a millipede. It is as big as a ruler! Beetles are rolling dung into tidy balls (have students pull their legs in to their chests and curl into tight balls). Soon, a blue lizard appears. It climbs onto a tree stump nearby.

"What was that?" You hear a whish and then a whoosh (have students make these noises). You catch a peek of brown fur. The animal was about the size of a pig. But it has disappeared into the trees.

A spider's web sparkles in the sun (have students hold their hands out and wiggle their fingers to imitate sparkling). It looks like it has a big zipper down the middle! Then, you notice large vines crawling towards the sky (have students reach upwards like they are climbing a vine). Bright green fruit is hanging down from the vines. Above, there is a black and white bird sitting on a tree limb. The bird looks like it has a plate on its head! Monkeys with long tails leap between the tree branches (have students leap around on all fours).

Even higher in the trees, you see a nest. But this is not a bird's nest. It belongs to some other kind of animal. "Who could have made such a large nest?" you think. "It is big enough to hold someone my size!" Then you hear it. The call you have been waiting for. It starts out low: whoo-ooh-who-ooh. Then it gets faster. Whoo-ooooh! Whoo-ooooh! until the sound is so loud you have to plug your ears. It is a chimpanzee! Then there are more calls. There is a whole group of chimpanzees nearby (have students make this call together)! As rain starts to fall, you smile (have students pat their laps at different speeds and volumes to mimic the sound of rain). You have found exactly what you were looking for. You have found the place where chimpanzees live.

*What an incredible journey!*



Go on an incredible journey right in your own backyard! Explore an area near your home or school and draw pictures or take photographs of the plants and animals that you find. Then, use books or the internet to identify the wildlife near you!

Disney  
nature  
chimpanzee



# LESSON 5

ACTIVITY  
SHEET 5A  
for grades 2-3

## WELCOME TO THE AFRICAN RAINFOREST

Who Are Chimpanzees' Neighbors?



### Field Guide to African Rainforest Wildlife

Listen to the story "An Incredible Journey" again.  
Make a check mark next to each organism as it is described in the story.

### Rainforest Field Guide

|                          |   |                          |   |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <input type="checkbox"/> |    | <input type="checkbox"/> |    |
|                          | African elephant  |                          | mahogany tree   |                          | mushrooms   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |   | <input type="checkbox"/> |    |
|                          | ferns   |                          | giant millipede   |                          | dung beetle   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
|                          | agama lizard  |                          | butterfly   |                          | zipper-web spider   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
|                          | duiker  |                          | fig fruit   |                          | blue monkey   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
|                          | hornbill  |                          | leopard   |                          | chimpanzee  |



Look for wildlife in your backyard and make your very own field guide! Then go exploring with family or friends to see how many different species you can find.

Disney nature  
chimpanzee