

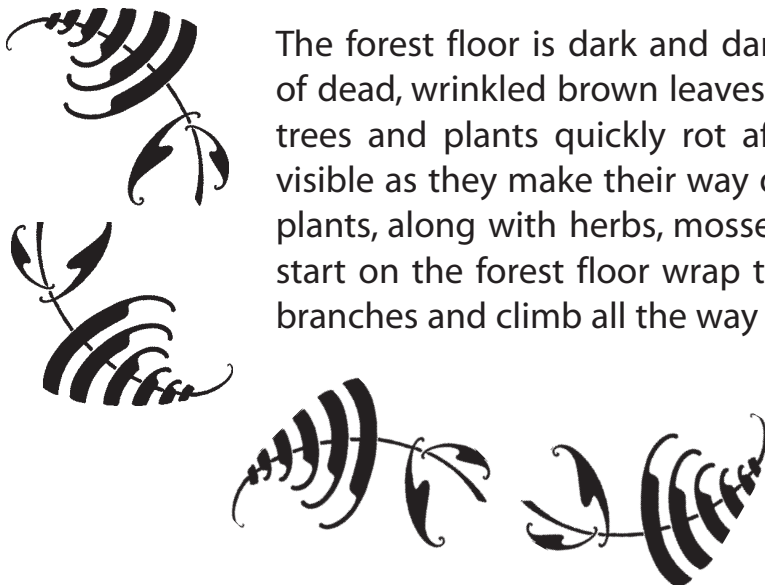
DESCRIPTION OF A RAIN FOREST

The rain forest has three layers: the canopy, the understory, and the forest floor.

The canopy is the top layer of the forest. Here, the upper leaves of the trees bask in the sunlight. The highest tree branches also hold plants called *epiphytes*. These plants grow on tree branches and soak up food and water with their leaves and roots. Thus, they do not need to put their roots into the soil of the forest floor. Other plants in the canopy, such as vines, have roots that drop all the way to the forest floor to pick up nutrients. Each type of plant and flower in the canopy has a specific color, scent, and shape. Most trees that reach the canopy are 60 to 120 feet (18 to 36 meters) tall, but some giant trees grow even higher. The trees that tower above the canopy are called *emergents*.

The understory is the layer of smaller trees and plants that grow below the canopy. It is darker in the understory because the canopy keeps sunlight from shining through. Woody vines creep up the trees toward the sunlight. Ferns and palms live in the understory, and they look as though they have been here forever. The trees provide fruits and nuts for animals to eat.

The forest floor is dark and damp and carpeted with a thin layer of dead, wrinkled brown leaves. Because the floor is dark and wet, trees and plants quickly rot after they die. Some tree roots are visible as they make their way down into the soil. A few flowering plants, along with herbs, mosses, and fungi, grow here. Vines that start on the forest floor wrap themselves around tree trunks and branches and climb all the way up to the canopy.



JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AMAZON BASIN RAIN FOREST

A RAIN FOREST RESERVE IS BEING ESTABLISHED.



The reserve will provide

- a healthy environment for plants and animals;
- a place for scientists to study the plants and animals;
- a place for people to visit to learn more about the rain forest.

BECOME PART OF THE TEAM!

APPLY TODAY!

Date _____

RAIN FOREST RESERVE JOB APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Jobs for which you are applying:

First choice: _____

Second choice: _____

Educational experience: _____

Job experience: _____

People skills: _____

Why do you feel you are qualified for this job? _____

(Applicant's signature)

SCIENCE REPORT MODEL: AN ANIMAL

Use this guide to help you organize your report.

Name of animal: iguana

Where does the animal live in the rain forest? Circle one.

forest floor

understory

canopy

emergent

Describe the animal. Include color(s), size (length/height and weight), and any other special information about the animal.

green with black stripes, grows to between 4 and 6 feet long, the tail
can make up half the body length, the skin is rough with pointy scales
along the back, they can weigh up to 20 pounds

What is the animal's life span? can live for 15-20 years

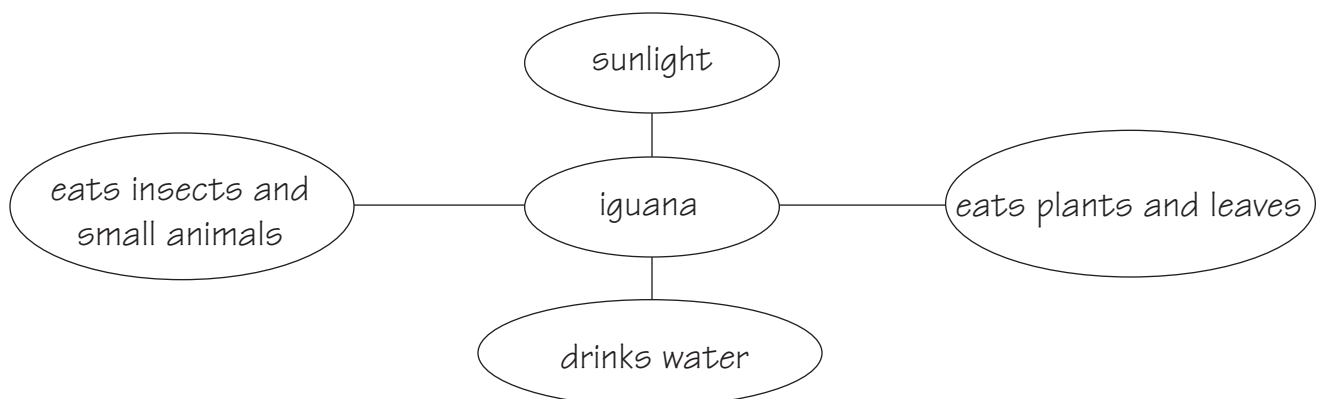
Is the animal an omnivore, carnivore, or herbivore? omnivore

What is the animal's diet? it eats plants and meat, it especially likes leaves
and fruit, sometimes it will eat eggs, insects, and small animals

How does the animal protect itself? its sharp tail can be used for
protection, it can snap in the air and it will break off if caught by a
predator, the skin is water resistant. The green skin is good camouflage
because it blends into the colors of the rain forest.

Who are the animal's predators? humans, large carnivores

Create a diagram showing at least three ways your animal depends on the ecosystem for survival.



NEWSPAPER ARTICLE**Rain Forest Reserve to Be Sold**

By Drew Milam

Worldwide Press

THE AMAZON BASIN — The government of the Amazon Basin region is negotiating with an international lumber company for the sale of land that is now used for a rain forest reserve. A spokesperson for the government of the region said, “We can no longer afford to support scientists and others who want to study the forest. While scientists are studying, our people go hungry.”

The manager of the rain forest reserve stated, “There is important work to be done in the reserve that will benefit all people. The government must not make a hasty decision, or those people will be in even worse circumstances.”

The situation is tense, because people have strong feelings about this issue. The government’s spokesperson noted that one of the scientists at the rain forest reserve has experience in reforestation and would be able to replant the areas cut down for lumber. The spokesperson said, “I don’t understand why this is such a big deal. These scientists can replant, and besides, there is still a lot of forest in the Amazon Basin for maintaining plants and animals, and for harvesting lumber.”

Name _____ Date _____

WRITING A PERSUASIVE LETTER

1. Organize your ideas.

Use Portfolio page 20, "Taking a Position," and Portfolio page 21, "Using Words Effectively," to help you write your persuasive letter.

- ☐ Make an outline or a list to help you organize your thoughts.
- ☐ Put your most important arguments first.
- ☐ Include a response to the opposite point of view.

2. Write the body of the letter.

- ☐ Opening sentence: State your position clearly.
- ☐ One paragraph with at least three reasons to support your position.
- ☐ One paragraph telling why someone might take the opposite point of view. Next write why that position should not be taken. Be specific.
- ☐ Conclusion: Restate your position and why it is the right one.

3. Draft your letter.

Write a draft of your letter on another sheet of paper. Use the letter format below. Look at your list of words on Portfolio page 21, "Using Words Effectively." Have you used words effectively to make your point? Then ask someone to read the letter and suggest how to make it better.

4. Revise your letter.

5. Assess your letter.

- ☐ Does it state your position?
- ☐ Does it have at least three facts that support your position?
- ☐ Does it include the other point of view and explain why that position is not a good one?
- ☐ Were **word choices** and **ideas and content** used effectively?

6. Make changes and finalize your letter.

Today's date

Amazon Basin Rain Forest Reserve
Brazil

Name and address of the
person you are writing to

Dear (name of the person you are writing to):

Body of letter

Sincerely,

Your signature

Your name

Name _____ Date _____

CREATING POSTERS

Use Portfolio page 20, "Taking a Position," and Portfolio page 21, "Using Words Effectively," to help you create your poster.

1. Organize the poster.

Decide what information you need to tell people to help save the reserve. What are the benefits of saving the reserve? Make a list.

2. Attract attention.

Create a statement—a few key words or a phrase—that attracts people's attention. Would a visual help attract attention? You could use a drawing, photo, chart, or graph.

3. Make the poster.

Use pencil to sketch where you are going to place information and visuals first before doing the final work.

4. Assess your poster.

- ☐ Does it attract attention?
- ☐ Is the message clear?
- ☐ Will it persuade people to support the rain forest reserve?
- ☐ Were **word choices** and **ideas and content** used effectively?

Name _____ Date _____

PREPARING TELEVISION AND RADIO ADS

Television and radio advertisements are good ways to influence many people at one time. Ads can include images, sound effects, and important facts. Use Portfolio page 20, "Taking a Position," and Portfolio page 21, "Using Words Effectively," to help you prepare your television and radio ads. Use this sheet to plan an advertisement that will help save the rain forest reserve.

1. Get started.

Decide what information you need to tell people to help save the reserve. What are the benefits of saving the reserve? Make a list.

2. Attract attention.

The first part of the ad needs to capture people's attention. Write a few key words or a phrase that will make people want to know more.

3. Write the script.

Write the script for your ad on another sheet of paper. Include stage directions for sound effects and music. For a television ad, what props will you use?

4. Practice the ad.

Have your actors read their parts. Make changes to refine your ad.

5. Prepare the final ad.

Use a video camera or audio recorder to make your advertisement. Use the checklist here to assess your work.

- ☐ The script for the ad includes sound effects, props, and stage directions.
- ☐ The ad is brief and interesting.
- ☐ The ad uses persuasive language and includes important information.
- ☐ **Word choices** and **ideas and content** were used effectively.

Name _____ Date _____

PREPARING FOR A DEBATE

By taking part in a debate, you can show people how important your rain forest reserve is. But before the debate starts, you need to be prepared. Use Portfolio page 20, "Taking a Position," and Portfolio page 21, "Using Words Effectively," to help you prepare for the debate.

1. Get the facts.

Find some interesting facts about the rain forest that will make people understand why it must be preserved. List them below. Transfer the facts to note cards. Be ready to share these facts at the debate.

2. Write questions for the debate.

What questions might be asked by the moderator or the audience? Make sure you know the answers to the questions.

3. Think ahead.

See whether you can figure out the lumber company's position on the sale. The more you know about the lumber company's position, the better prepared you will be. For example, the lumber company representative might say that logging the rain forest reserve will provide jobs. How could you respond to this statement?

4. Prepare for the debate.

Have a classmate ask the questions so that you can practice giving answers. Remember, you need to stay in role.

INVITATION TO A DEBATE

National News Network
São Paulo, Brazil

Dear _____:
(name of manager)

We are inviting experts from the rain forest reserve to appear on our network for a national debate about land use in the rain forest. A representative from the lumber company has also agreed to debate the issues. We believe that this debate will let the public know about the issues that surround the use of the rain forests. Please send three representatives who can speak about different aspects of the rain forest. We will need to work out the format with your representatives. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Marie Cabral

Marie Cabral, Station Manager

THE LUMBER COMPANY POSITION

Background Information

Using a strategy called Storypath, students have been involved in creating a story based on an imaginary rain forest reserve located in the Amazon Basin. They began their study of the rain forest by creating a frieze (a large mural) of a rain forest, which set the scene for the Storypath. Next, students were given a flyer that described job opportunities on a rain forest reserve, and they applied to work in the various jobs. These students, in their job roles, have been involved in doing research to create the reserve. The plot of the story now centers on the threat of a lumber company buying the reserve's land for its timber. As the representative of the lumber company, you will be appearing in a television debate with representatives from the reserve to debate the issues.

Useful Facts for the Debate

- Lumber companies typically hire local people to cut the trees. People are also hired to drive the logging trucks. Many jobs for native people are provided by the lumber companies in the process of cutting and shipping the trees.
- Teak, rosewood, and mahogany trees of the tropical rain forest provide valuable wood for making furniture, paneling, and flooring.
- Once the land is cleared, cattle ranchers can use the land, or miners can more easily search for valuable minerals.
- It will be easier to build roads through the Amazon Basin once the trees are cut down.
- The United States is the largest importer of tropical hardwoods.
- About one-third of the wood from rain forests is used for making paper.
- Industrialized countries such as the United States, Canada, and European nations have cut down many of their forests. Why should countries in the Amazon Basin be prohibited from cutting down their rain forests?
- A strip of forest land leading from cleared to undisturbed areas can be left to increase the number of animals that survive. This is called a "wildlife corridor."

DEBATE AGENDA

I. Welcome and Introductions

- A.** Welcome the television-viewing audience and live studio audience.
- B.** Introduce self.
- C.** Introduce lumber company representative.
- D.** Introduce representatives from the reserve and tell a little about their background and areas of expertise.

II. Overview of Debate

- A.** Explain the procedure: a five-minute statement from each side and then a three-minute rebuttal from each side.
- B.** Have participants field questions from the audience.

Name _____ Date _____

SELF-ASSESSMENT: SOCIAL SKILLS

Social skills are important to working successfully in a rain forest reserve. Use this chart during this unit to keep track of how well you work with others.

EPISODE: _____

Describe the group situation or event: _____

Criteria	I need to work on this.	I did this some of the time.	I did this most or all of the time.
I respectfully listened to others.			
I contributed actively to the group.			
I encouraged others to participate.			
I suggested solutions to problems.			
I did my fair share of work.			

One thing our group did well together:

One thing our group needs to work on:

One thing I did well:

One thing I could do better:
