

Pre-Reading

- * Maps in The Great Kapok Tree

Before reading this story we look at the map provided in the book and use the map key to see where the rainforests are today.

- * A Walk through the Rainforest/Using Mental Images – (4-A)

Students will listen to the oral reading of a Walk through the Rainforest and draw on paper what they hear and imagine.

Reading Activity

- * Sequence Sheet (4-B)

- * Choral Reading of Text

I have students pair up with a partner. One becomes the narrator of the story and reads the text and the other partner reads what the animals say (in quotations) sounding like that animal. This works on fluency and reading with expression.

- * Cooperative Group Discussion Questions on cards (4-C)

I pair sets of two students each. Each pair is given one question. They read the question, think about an answer, share the answer with their partner. I call the "Think, Pair and Share." The students come back to the class group. Each pair of students share their questions and what each partner said.

New Vocabulary

creatures, kapok tree, squawk, generations, ancestors, slither, troupe, plodding Yanomamo, scamper, fragrant.

See Multiple Intelligence Learning Sections (8-10) for additional lessons and activities during Week One.

A Walk Through the Rain Forest

4-A

Read this out loud to the class and have them illustrate as they picture it in their minds. This exercise could also be done at the end of the unit to compare their first drawings.

Tommy clutched the side of the boat as it chugged away from the shore. I am finally going to see the rainforest he thought. It seemed so long since his father had said that he was going to South America to study insects in the tropical rainforest. And now here he was, riding down a muddy looking river with the forest on both sides.

A solid wall of leaves, trunks and vines and branches grew on both sides of the river. He had heard plants grew so thickly in jungles that people had to cut their way through them with big knives. Now he could see why.

The boat finally stopped and he began his tour. He notices several things right away- how green the forest was and how dark and still. He could see shafts of sunlight shining to the forest floor like small spotlights. All around were trees tall and very straight and their lowest branches were high above his head. Higher still Tommy could see flecks of light between the leaves of the trees. It seemed as if the leaves formed a roof over the forest. He also notices that there were plants growing all over the trunks of the trees. Some were almost flat against the tree trunks. Others had leaves like a pineapple top. And others looked like clumps of hair. Huge vines hung between the trees and other vines snaked up the sides of the trees. As Tommy looked up he realized how hot he was. Sweat was running down the back of his neck and there was no wind in the forest to help keep him cool. The jungle was fairly easy to walk through- not at all like the tangle of plants he had seen from the boat the day before. Now he really knew what it was really like to be in a tropical rainforest.

Name _____

4-B

The Great Kapok Tree Puzzle

Cut out the sentences on the solid lines.
Read and sequence the story.
Glue to paper.

Four porcupines said trees produce oxygen.

The jaguar won't be able to find dinner.

The toucan told how people cleared the land.

The boa said the tree was his home.

The three-toed sloth wouldn't be able to find dinner.

The frog told how he would be homeless.

The bee told how he gets pollen.

Some anteaters told of a world without trees.

Monkeys said the soil would wash away.

What do you think is a proper solution to the rainforest problem?

Why do you think a forest becomes quiet when humans arrive?

Who is your favorite animal cartoon character? Would he survive in the rainforest?

How does cutting down trees in the rainforest affect the food chain?

We have U.S. national parks protected from human destruction. Should we have U.N. protected lands? Why or why not?

Give an example of what the following quote means: "...what happens tomorrow depends upon what you do today."

How is man like the bees in the story, depending on each other?

Compare man's view of his environment to that of the animals in the story.

Have you ever visited a rainforest? If not, would you like to? Why or why not?

Name the three most important reasons the animals gave the man not to cut down the Kapok tree. Why did you choose those three?

What new things have you learned or rediscovered about the rainforest?

Why did the man drop the ax and walk out?

Did you like the story? Why or why not?

If you were to become an animal of the rainforest, which one would you be? Why?

Will the man return? Why or why not?

The boy asked the man to "look upon them with new eyes." Did he? Why or why not?

a	Bb		Cc	Dd		Ee	Ff
g	Hh		ii	Jj		Kk	Ll
Am	Nn		Oo	Pp		Qq	Rr
						Ww	Yy
55	Tt		Uu	Vv		Xx	Zz