



Who Lives in the Rainforest?

Objective:

Students will be able to identify reptiles and amphibians that live in a rainforest.

Performance Objectives:

SS K: Strand 4. Concept 3 – PO 1-2

NGSS: K – LS 1. C. K –ESS 2

SS: K. W. 1

Background Information:

A forest is a place filled with trees and plants. Forests can be found all around the world, but one special type of forest can only be found where there is rain every day and the weather is always very warm. That type of forest is called a tropical rainforest.



Grades: Pre-K - K

Key Vocabulary:

- Rainforest
- Adapted
- Habitat

Related Literature:

The Snake who said SHHH

Jodie Parachini

Singin' in the Rainforest

Jill Gallina

The Living Rainforest

Paul Kratter

A tropical rainforest is warm, wet, and filled with plants. Trees can grow very tall and their branches and leaves shade the ground from some of the sunlight. The tropical rainforest is a perfect home for many kinds of insects, lizards, snakes, frogs, turtles, birds, and butterflies.

Lizards, snakes and turtles all belong to a group of animals called reptiles. Some of these reptiles live in the tropical rainforest. They enjoy their home filled with tree branches and lots of leaves. For example, the green python loves to wrap himself around a tree branch and watch what is going on around him.



The python can grow to be six feet long, which is as tall as some grownups! It has shiny scales on its body for protection. These snakes lay eggs in the holes in a tree. The baby snakes hatch and begin their life in the rainforest.

The crested gecko is another reptile that lives in the trees of the rainforest.



Tan in color, the crested gecko has big eyes that appear to have eyelashes and a large mouth for catching food. This gecko likes to eat bugs like ants and termites. Their toes are also covered with hairs that help them hold on as they climb along the branches and leaves.

Turtles are another kind of reptile. Most turtles live in the water but like to climb onto logs or rocks to warm their body in the sunlight.



This turtle eats mainly small fish and a few water bugs. Turtles have a hard shell on their back to protect them from being injured or eaten.

Reptiles are not the only animals in the tropical rainforest. There are many different types of frogs living in the rainforest river and in the leaves of rainforest trees. Frogs are called amphibians, which mean they live in water and on land.



The tiny dart frog is as small as a penny. They eat insects and spend most of their time looking for the next tasty bug to pass by. Dart frogs are brightly colored and have very good eyesight. Dart frogs live in the leaves of the tropical rainforest because the wet leaves keep the frog's body wet. Frogs need to stay wet to keep their body from drying out. Dart frogs lay their eggs in the water drops on leaves and wait for them to hatch.

Beautiful to look at but dangerous to touch, dart frogs have a poison on their skin that is a warning to any other animal that might want to eat them. The poison can cause another animal to become sick if they eat a dart frog, so other animals quickly learn to leave the dart frog alone!

One of the bigger frogs in the tropical rainforest is called the White's tree frog.



This amphibian has a heavy body with thick legs. His feet help to make the White's tree frog a great climber, but he does not like to jump. This frog is usually bright green and has white spots along his back and sides. Using his large, eyes and a quick tongue, the frog can catch a bug that is flying past. Insects are a favorite meal for many frogs.

The trees and plants growing in a tropical rainforest are very important to all life on Earth. They help clean the air and make it better to breathe for animals and people. Reptiles, amphibians, insects and humans need the natural resources provided by the tropical rainforest. Everyone wants to protect the plants and animals in the rainforests on the planet.



Sources: Smithsonian National Zoo; Animaldiversity.com; The Nature Conservancy; The Rainforest Alliance; San Diego Zoo.
Photos in public domain.

Procedures and Pre-Activities:

1. State the learning objective.
2. Read related literature.
3. Discuss what a rainforest is and how it differs from other types of forests. Refer to classroom text materials for clarification.
4. Discuss how rainfall and humidity impact the rainforest. Discuss the difference between living in a desert and living in a rainforest. Ask students to give examples of local animals and their habitats.
5. Explain what reptiles and amphibians are and give examples. Ask students to think of examples. If classroom materials are available, ask students to locate pictures of reptiles and amphibians.
6. Present background information and related pictures. Continue discussion of reptiles and amphibians and how they are similar and different. Ask open-ended questions about reptiles and amphibians to check for understanding.

Activity: “Who is This?” is an identification activity. Students demonstrate knowledge about characteristics of a reptile and an amphibian.

Activity: “Color the Lizard” and “Color the Frog” are basic activities that students can participate in while discussing reptiles and amphibians.

Reflection and Assessments: Students are assessed on various levels depending on the activity. Participation, grade standards and percentages may be applied.

Who Is This?

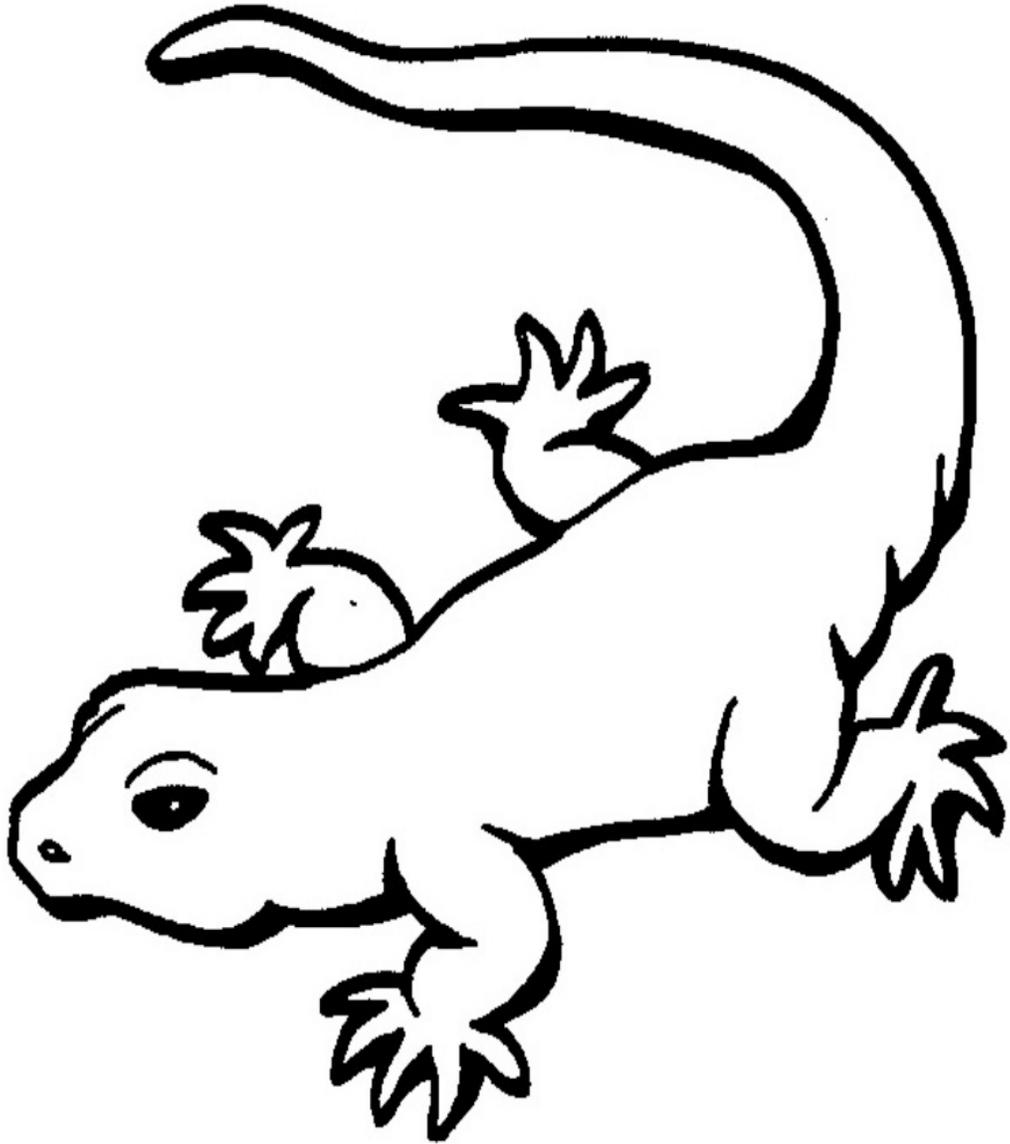
Circle the reptile



Circle the amphibian



Color the Lizard



Color the Frog



Some frogs live in the rainforest.