

Rainforest clothes

I wonder what you would wear in a rainforest?

First, find out about the weather using the book *Exploring the endangered rainforest*. On page 6 of the book you can see the weather month by month.

Start with the temperature.

1. How hot is it compared with a summer's day in Britain (which might be 20°C in mid-afternoon)?
2. What would you wear in summer?

.....

3. Would the same kind of clothes be suitable?

.....

Now look at the rainfall.

4. What would you wear for the rain?

.....

The weather is always humid, even when it is not raining.

5. What does humid mean and what happens to your body on a hot, humid day?

.....

6. What happens to your clothes as a result?

.....

How much cooling breeze is there in a rainforest?

7. So, now what is it like, and what might you wear? Write this down in your own words.

.....

Now, on to a final point. Look at the book called *Rainforest bugs*.

8. Does that affect what you might wear? Write down why it might have an effect.

.....



Rainforest clothes

In this activity, children use knowledge of the temperature, rainfall and humidity of a rainforest to work out what they might wear.

They have three factors to consider immediately and they each bring conflicts:

It rains a lot, so waterproofing might seem the right thing.

But it is very hot, and waterproofs in hot weather make you as wet inside as you would be if you did not have waterproofs on.

In a high humidity environment, your body regulates its temperature by trying to make you sweat and the evaporating sweat cools you down. So you want to have as much skin exposed to the air as possible.

So it turns out that a minimum of clothing is a good idea.

But then introduce the idea of rainforest bugs.

There is more on malaria in the next activity.