



Home/Garden Connection

A Post-Visit Lesson to *Rainforest Rendezvous*

Dear Parents,

Your child visited the Missouri Botanical Garden today and participated in a garden class called, “Rainforest Rendezvous.” During their field trip, your child:

- Observed plants that live in a temperate environment.
- Made predictions about how a tropical rainforest environment will differ from a temperate environment.
- Investigated various unique rainforests features within our Climatron® including: vines, epiphytes/ bromeliads, drip tips, large leaves or dark green leaves, fruits/ flowers, and stilt roots/ buttressing.
- Explored the smells of different spices found in the tropical rainforest including: tapioca, cardamom, white pepper, black pepper, ginger, allspice, turmeric, nutmeg, brazil nuts, and cloves.
- Planted a tropical house plant cutting to take care of at home.

Family Game: Is There a Jungle in Your Kitchen?

You might be surprised to learn how many food items we use today originally come from rainforests. Take a moment go through your kitchen at home to see how many of the following items you have. Check them off as you go.

Fruits and Vegetables	Spices and Flavors	Other Foods
Avocado	Allspice	Brazil nuts
Banana	Black pepper	Cashew nuts
Grapefruit	Cardamom	Chicle (gum)
Guava	Cayenne	Coconut
Heart of palm	Chili pepper	Coconut oil
Lemon	Chocolate	Coffee
Lime	Cinnamon	Cola
Mango	Cloves	Lime oil
Orange	Ginger	Macadamia
Papaya	Mace	Palm oil
Passion fruit	Nutmeg	Tapioca
Peppers	Paprika	Tea
Pineapple	Turmeric	Brazil nuts
Plantain	Vanilla	Cashew nuts
Tangerine	Allspice	Chicle (gum)

Family Discussion

- How many of the items listed above did you find in your kitchen at home?
- Were you surprised at how many items in your kitchen come from rainforests?
- What are your three favorite items on the list?
- Why do you think it is important for us to save the rainforests?
- What can you do to help save the rainforests?



Language Arts: Rainforest Poetry

Using your experience inside the tropical rainforest at the Missouri Botanical Garden Climatron, you and your family should try creating some rainforest poetry of your own. You can try making a haiku, a diamond poem, or you can do some free verse writing, too.

HAIKU

Haiku (HI-koo) is a Japanese poem using the following pattern:

Line 1: five syllables
Line 2: seven syllables
Line 3: five syllables

Examples:

Let's save rainforests
Reduce, reuse, recycle
All of us can help!

Beautiful old growth
Precious to all living things
Protect what is left

DIAMOND POEM

When writing a diamond poem, words should form a diamond shape.

Line 1: Noun
Line 2: Adjective, Adjective
Line 3: A sentence with an action
Line 4: Adjective, Adjective
Line 5: Noun—synonym of first noun on line 1

Example:

Tropical
Humid, Lush
It needs our protection
Green, Immense
Rainforest