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Children's Bilingual Picture Books

Activity Guide #2

On the Banks of the Amazon / En las orillas del Amazonas

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Subjects
Art

Brief Description
In this art activity children make a rain stick to musically reproduce the sound of rain. Postcards and greeting cards feature animals and plants of the rainforest.

Objectives
- Identification of rainforest animals and plants
- Improve creative expression and music appreciation

Key Words
Rain stick art project, postcards, greeting cards, rainforest animals

Grade Level(s)
K-4

Materials Needed for Rainstick
A paper towel tube or wrapping paper tube
Aluminum foil
Small dried beans, unpopped popcorn, or dry rice
Crayons or markers
Construction paper

Activities
- Create a rainforest postcard. Design one side of the postcard with an illustration/picture of the place. Write a message about the rainforest on the opposite side. Place all the postcards in a box so children can look at the cards as time permits.
- Create a greeting card in the shape of a rainforest animal. Write a message on the card. First, cut out a shape of a rainforest animal or plant. Children can write a poem or riddle on the shape, color it and attach to a green string to make a rainforest vine. Hang multiple vines to create a rainforest feel.
- Make a rain stick. Rain sticks are ceremonial sticks, made of bamboo or dried cactus and filled with small pebbles, used to get the rain spirits to make rain. Shake the sticks to make rhythmic sounds.

Decorate a paper tube using crayons or markers. Cut two aluminum foil sheets that are twice as long at the tube. Crush one sheet of foil into a long rope and twist the rope around your finger to make a coil. Keep twisting until the entire foil rope is a coil. Repeat with the second sheet. Place the two coils into the tube. Spread the foil so that it reaches from end-to-end in the tube. Cut a circle larger than the end of the tube to use as a cover for one end of the rain stick. Glue the circle over the end of the tube so the material will not come out when the rain stick is shaken. Pour one cup of dried beans, unpopped corn or dried rice into the open end of the tube. More or less beans may be used, depending on the sound you want. Cover the open end of the tube with a circle of construction paper and glue into place. Shake! Shake! Shake!

Activity Guide Source
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Raven Tree Press, LLC, publisher

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