Rain Forest Tiers Lesson Plan

Objectives: By the end of this lesson the students will be able to describe the terms understory, forest floor, canopy, and emergent layer. Students will be able to demonstrate how animals are built to live specific tiers of the rain forest. Students will be able to write down the ecological aspects that make a rainforest including annual precipitation, biodiversity and temperature change.

Grades: K-8 (With Adaptions for High School Students)

Materials:

1. Rainforest Tiers Descriptive Sheet
2. Animals from the Rainforest Tiers unit list.
3. Access to a white board or projector.
4. Rainforest Video Clip

Introduction:

The educator will ask the students to tell them what they already know about rainforests and write those things on the board. After this the educator will show the rainforest video clip it about 3 minutes long.

Lesson:

Now the educator will describe to the students what makes a rainforest ecosystem ecologically what it is including yearly precipitation, location to equator, temperature fluctuation and biodiversity. Then the educator will describe the specific tiers that make up a rainforest ecosystem. They will explain what the forest floor, understory, canopy and emergent layers are and give the students the visual understanding of these layers with the Rainforest Tiers Sheet. After describing the individual tiers the educator will bring out the animals that go along with this unit and talk about how they are built live in specific tiers of the rainforest and what adaptations allow them to do so.

Wrap Up:

Ask the students to think about how many things in their daily lives come from the rainforest and come with a list for the start of the next weeks unit.