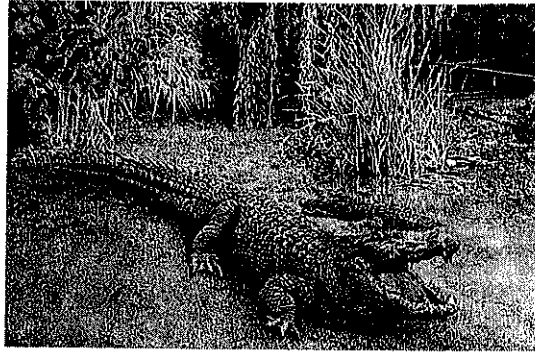


THE AMAZON

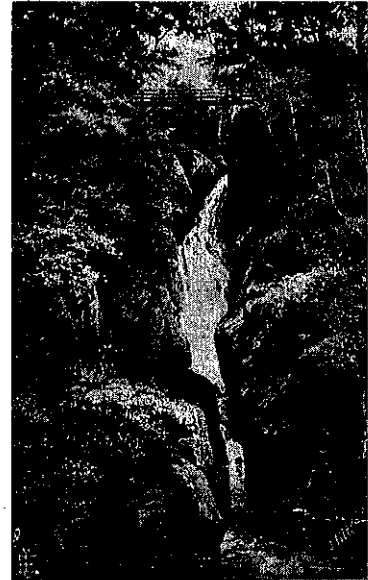


- Go to your public, school, and classroom libraries and check your home for any books about the Amazon. Collect all the different materials you can on this topic and bring them to school. Read and research all you can about the Amazon. Keep a bibliography on all the books you read and record them on your "Amazing Amazon" chart.
- Make a salt clay map tracing the route of the Amazon River across South America. Color your map in realistic colors and carefully label the important points of interest. Add other three dimensional features such as small villages, clearings, animal habitats, and boats.
- Read about the many plants and animals in the Amazon rainforest. Use the book *Animalia* as a model for your own "Junglemania" book. Include real Amazon plants and animals in the illustrations for your book. Your book should be at least five pages in length. Be sure to include an illustration of the plant or animal referred to on each page of your book. At the end of the book, provide a brief, factual description of each of the featured plants and animals.
- Read about the various problems currently challenging the resources of the rainforest and the Amazon River. Remember to include how these challenges affect the indigenous peoples of South America.
- Develop a series of solutions to address the more serious problems facing this region today. How will you decide which problems are the most serious? Which problem or condition affects human life? Which problem or condition affects the environment? How will you determine which problem or condition requires an immediate response?



One of the characteristics of a rainforest is the amount of precipitation received each year. Create a chart that compares precipitation in your area with precipitation in the Amazon. You may want to do a monthly chart tracking the rain over the course of the year.

Create your own precipitation by setting up an experiment to demonstrate how the rain falls in the rainforest. Gather several small, green plants. Place these in a shaded area of your classroom. Add other elements such as small plastic animals and housing structures. Create a structure that will support a large metal baking sheet over the top of the plants (large wooden blocks work well). Place a layer of ice on the tray. Now wait and see what happens! You will need to check your rainforest frequently. (To speed up the process of rainfall, place an electric teakettle near the rainforest, pointing the opening toward the baking sheet. Allow the steam from the kettle to heat the baking sheet.)



Consider building a terrarium that can be used as a mini-rain forest. Visit a botanical garden, garden centers, and nurseries to find plants for your terrarium. You might consider including some small figures of people or animals that would be found in the Amazon in your terrarium.

Create a large diorama using the information you have gathered during your research. Use a wide variety of materials in your diorama and include some three-dimensional objects.

Learn more about the medicines that come from the rainforest. Create a chart identifying the native product and its uses.

