



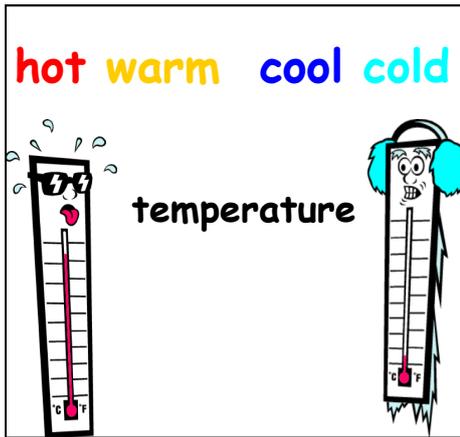
**THE BIRMINGHAM
BOTANICAL
GARDENS**
TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

Tropical Rainforest Primary Worksheets

Focus on: Key Plant Adaptations

The resource has been written to support the National Curriculum and is available freely for educational purposes, but may not be used for profit or any other purpose without written permission from The Gardens.

What does it feel like ?



There is a thermometer and a humidity dial within the Tropical House so the children can be encouraged to take the readings and talk about their findings. Expect the temperature to be up to 26 degrees C (up to 40 in a real rainforest) and the humidity to be up to 85% (100 in a real rainforest).

Plants in rainforests grow all year and grow in different ways: in soil, on other plants, in water and even in the air! To help them get all of the food, water and light they need to live, their stems, leaves and roots grow in different ways too.

Find these plants

How do they grow?



1 What do you think its leaves look like? Why are they brightly coloured?

Croton Plant. Shaped like a dinosaur or bird's foot. Brightly coloured to absorb light in the shadier lower layers of the rainforest.

2 What shape are its leaves and why? Find the information board in the Subtropical House to help you with your answer.

Pitcher Plant. Shaped like pitchers or jugs. The long tube-like leaves have liquid at the bottom which traps flies and drowns them. These plants don't get enough nutrients from the soil so they have adapted to getting them elsewhere.

3 Where do these plants grow and why?

Epiphytes or Air Plants grow on trees to get closer to the sun. Some contain pools of water to trap the rain as they don't have proper roots and so absorb nothing from the tree they grow on.

4 Describe the leaves. Why are they this size? Look for any fruit growing!

Banana Plant. It grows huge leaves to absorb as much sunlight as possible. Bunches or 'hands' of bananas can be found periodically.

Find these long Weeping Fig roots. How are they growing?

These aerial roots grow down from side branches and hang right down to the soil to get more food and water for the plant.



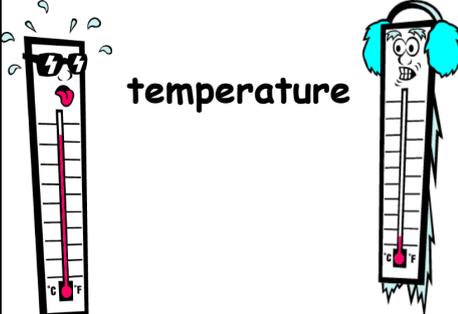
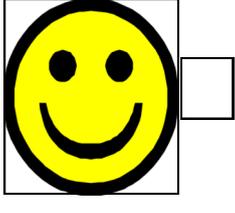
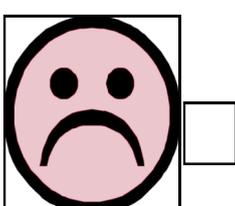
Can you find this Bo leaf? Do you know why it is this shape? (hint: think of the rain!)

This leaf has a very pointed end known as a 'drip tip' which channels rain water down to the plant's roots.



The Tropical House - How Plants Grow

What does it feel like ?

<p>hot warm cool cold</p> 	 	 	 
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<p>Find these plants</p> <p>How do they grow?</p>	 <p>1</p>	 <p>2</p>	 <p>3</p>	 <p>4</p>
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<p>1 What do you think its leaves look like? Why are they brightly coloured?</p>	
<p>2 What shape are its leaves and why? Find the information board in the Subtropical House to help you with your answer.</p>	
<p>3 Where do these plants grow and why?</p>	
<p>4 Describe the leaves. Why are they this size? Look for any fruit growing!</p>	

Find these long Weeping Fig roots. How are they growing?



Can you find this Bo leaf? Do you know why it is this shape? (hint: think of the rain!)

