

CONNECTIONS TO SCIENCE GUIDES

GEORGIA YOUTH SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTERS, INC.

THE GREAT KAPOK TREE

BY: LYNNE CHERRY

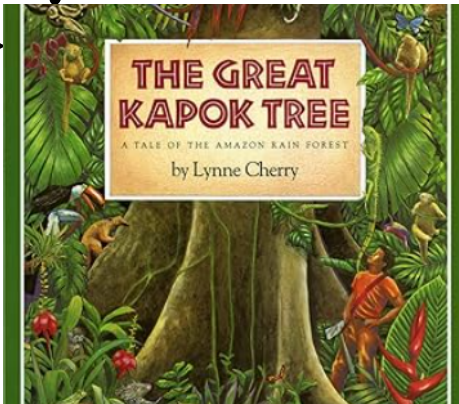
CAN'T FIND THE BOOK?
READ-ALOUDS ARE AVAILABLE
ON YOUTUBE.

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED...

- that lots of plants and animals often live in the same environment?

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED...

- how you could show the biodiversity of life in an ecosystem?



EXPLORE

BIODIVERSITY COLLAGE

Materials:

- Magazines, newspapers, or printed images
- Scissors
- Glue
- A large sheet of paper, poster board, or cardboard
- Colored pencils



Directions:

- Begin by choosing an ecosystem: tropical rainforest, savanna, temperate forest, desert, grassland, taiga, tundra, or ocean.
- Think about the different types of plants and animals that live there (research if you can).
- Look through magazines, newspapers, or printed images to find pictures of the plants, animals, and environment that represent the ecosystem that you chose.
- Cut out those images.
- Arrange, then glue the images onto your large sheet of paper, poster board, or cardboard. Label.
- As you are exploring, think about:
 - Why is biodiversity important?
 - How do different species interact within an ecosystem?

Connection to Art:

- Collages encourage creativity, visual literacy, critical thinking, and fine motor skill development while enhancing your understanding of biodiversity.



EXPLAIN

DIVERSITY OF LIVING THINGS

Biodiversity, or biological diversity, is the variety of life on Earth. Scientists estimate that there may be around 8.7 million species on Earth! Biodiversity is important to the health of the world's ecosystems, as everything is interconnected and dependent on each other. It can change over time as new species evolve and extinctions occur.



EXTEND

A WALK IN THE PARK



Head to a local park and calculate its Biodiversity Index. Tally the total number of species and living things that you see. Then, divide the total number of different species by the total number of living things. The higher the number, the healthier the ecosystem.

STEM CAREER

ECOLOGIST

An ecologist is a scientist who studies the relationship between organisms and their environment. At work, ecologists can study organisms in their natural ecosystems, use scientific and mathematical models to analyze data and predict the effects of human activities on the environment. If you are interested in protecting Earth's biodiversity, being an ecologist might be for you!



BACKGROUND

The Georgia Youth Science and Technology Centers, Inc. provides quality programs for teachers of STEM subjects that improve the teaching and learning process at the kindergarten through eighth grade levels. We present programs that change students' perceptions and inspire an appreciation for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics subjects.

ABOUT US

GYSTC, Inc.

gystc@kennesaw.edu

470-578-7592

www.gystc.org

Follow Us on Socials:

Facebook: @gystc

Instagram: @gystc_inc

Twitter: @gystc

YouTube: @gystc



Scan QR code or Visit:
gystc.org/connection-to-science-guides-2024/
for more guides