



wild dog

**Wild Dog Books
Teachers' Notes**

Going To The Rainforest

Synopsis

Rainforests are forests that are marked by the massive amounts of rain they receive. This results in them being home to an amazing amount of Earth's plant and animal life—over half of the world's animals are native to rainforests. Find out all about how these animals have learnt to survive this incredible landscape.

Writing style

The *Going To* series has been designed with the needs of very early readers and reluctant readers in mind. Text is succinct and simple, with no more than a few sentences on a page. The large format images relate directly to the text, so young readers have multiple entry points to engaging with the information. There is a brief glossary and index in the back of the book, which will aid young readers in developing the tools of research and analysis.

Study notes

Themes:

- Climate and terrain
- Species
- Adaptation
- Habits and breeding
- Food, predators and prey
- Biodiversity
- Migration
- Human impact and deforestation

Curriculum link: Society and Environment

Before reading *Going To The Rainforest*, look at a world map. Discuss with students the surface area of Earth that is water (~70%) versus the surface area that is land (~30%). Then talk about how much of that land is made up of rainforests (~2% of total surface area).

Discuss the function of rainforests, and how they benefit humans. This can include their being home to indigenous people, a source of modern medicines, the prevention of soil erosion and their ability to regulate our climate, as well as being the home of over half the world's animal species.

Ask the students to name any rainforests they can think of. Can they locate them on a map? Students should then research a major rainforest from each continent. If possible, provide a template world map for students to mark these on.

Brainstorm what students think the environments of rainforests might be like. Ask them to make a list of what sort of animals might live in them, and what these animals might do in order to survive there.

Curriculum link: Science and Technology/Creative Arts

Divide the class into groups. Each group should select an animal that lives in the rainforest.

- Students should create a visual project that can be presented to the whole class. The project should include an image or images of the selected animal, as well as answers to the following questions:
 - Where in the rainforest is it found?
 - What type of habitat does it live in?
 - How has it adapted to survive in this environment?
 - Does the animal migrate?
 - What does it eat? What is its main prey?
 - Where does it spend most of its time?
 - How does it reproduce?
 - Does it lay eggs? Where does it lay its eggs?
 - Where does it have its babies?
 - How many (approximately) are there in the wild? Is it endangered?
 - Does the animal have any predators?
 - How does the animal avoid being eaten by predators, if there are any?
- Ask the students to create a poster with a drawing of all of the animals that they have learnt about in this book. Under each image, ask them to list two facts they have learnt about this animal.
- Play a game of 'celebrity head', labeling each student as a particular animal from the book without showing the student which animal he or she is. Each student needs to try and guess which animal they are by asking questions of other students e.g. can I fly, do I have three toes, etc?
- Alternatively, students should choose three facts from *Going To The Rainforest* that they found surprising or interesting. Combine these facts into a game for the whole class, such as trivia bingo.
- Develop a crossword puzzle with the names of the animals featured in the book. Use the facts about them as clues.

Marketing and promotion

Going To The Rainforest is part of the *Going To* series, which includes titles such as *Going To Antarctica*, *Going To The Desert*, *Going To The Ocean*, *Going To The Outback*, *Going To The Poles* and *Going To The Mountains*.