



## THE GREAT KAPOK TREE

by  
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This great tree (an emergent) stands taller than all the rest and provides a home for so many forest creatures. What will happen if the man chops it down?

We have heard so much about rain forest destruction, but after reading this book, we can't help but be impressed with its diversity and its beauty. Three activities come to mind that might give your students a way to "touch" the forest.

**MATERIALS:** tea bags, brown fall leaves (oak trees) if possible, leaf fish pattern, bromeliad maze sheet, brown construction paper, large bowl

### ACTIVITIES:

1. Create a rain forest pool by making strong tea (sun or steeped). Cut out leaf fish using pattern and brown paper; add brown paper fish to your pool. Are they camouflaged or are they easy to see? If you have brown fall leaves, add these, too.
2. If possible purchase a bromeliad plant for your classroom; make sure to buy one that is flowering. This plant is a relative of the pineapple and it can trap a pool of rainwater in the center of its leaves. Its leaves make perfect hiding places for small creatures such as the tiny arrow poison frog. Its bright colors are very tantalizing, but its skin secretions are poisonous! People of the rainforest put this poison on arrow tips and spear points to paralyze their prey. Close your eyes and try to imagine being this small. Try to complete the Bromeliad Maze Game. Can you help this tiny creature find her way to a hidden bromeliad pool to lay her eggs?
3. Have your class make a list of all the living things dependent on the great kapok tree, Let each student become one creature and then create a food web.

**SOURCE:** Rain Forest Exhibit at the New England Aquarium, Boston, MA.

**STANDARDS:**

**BSL:** 1.3, 1.5, 1.13, 4.3, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 12.1

**NCTM:** 4d, 13a

**SCS:** A1, C1, F4, G1, H4

Cherry, Lynne. The Great Kapok Tree. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers, c1990. ISBN#015200520X.

**LEAF FISH PATTERN**



