

Geography Alive: Stage 2 (Topic 2: The Earth's Environment)

Lesson 4: Deciduous Forests		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson, students investigate the characteristics of deciduous forests and the animals that live there. In doing so, students investigate the adaptations of animals and plants to the deciduous forest environment. Students learn to identify different types of animals and explore their needs and how the environment meets these needs.</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • YouTube video clip: <i>One year in 50 seconds</i> – [https://youtu.be/lmIFXlXQQ_E] • Resource Sheet 1: Deciduous Forest Fact Sheet • PowerPoint 1: Deciduous Environments • Worksheet 1: World Map of Vegetation Zones
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes deciduous forest environments unique? • What plants animals live in deciduous forests? • How have these plants and animals adapted to the deciduous forest environment? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes the characteristics that make deciduous forest environments unique • describes the climate of the deciduous forest environment • identifies plants and animals that live in deciduous forests • explains, in simple terms, how selected plants and animals have adapted to the deciduous forest environment. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Step 1: Show students YouTube video: <i>One year in 50 seconds</i> [https://youtu.be/lmIFXlXQQ_E] and discuss the differences between deciduous forests and coniferous forests. What can they see in this clip that is different from the coniferous forest studied in Lesson 3? How did the vegetation change throughout the year? - Step 2: Ask students to study Resource Sheet 1 and PowerPoint 1 and then discuss the location of these forests, the climate, and the vegetation and animals found there. Questions you might like to ask include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why do deciduous trees lose their leaves in winter? - What is the forest floor like in summer compared to winter? - How does the climate of the deciduous forest affect the animals that live there? - Step 3: Using the map on Slide 6 of PowerPoint 1 and the map of the world's vegetation zones (Worksheet 1), direct students to colour in the area of the world occupied by deciduous forest. Monitor and support students as they complete this task. Remind students that they need to be as accurate as possible when locating and shading the areas of coniferous forest. - Step 4: Once the students have completed the task in Step 3 gather them together and ask them to identify some of the countries in which coniferous forests are located. Ask students if they know of any deciduous trees to be found in the school grounds or nearby streets. <p>Supporting Students: Allow less confident students to complete their maps in a small group with the support of the teacher or teacher aide.</p>