



# Rain Forest Exploration at the Denver Zoo

## Field Trip Guide

Your most important duty is to keep students with you at all times

Tropical rain forests are hot, humid, and wet. They are characterized by receiving at least 80 inches of rain per year; some receive over 200 inches. Temperatures are warm and consistent, usually 70-80 Degrees F. Tropical rain forests cover less than seven percent of the earth's land surface, yet scientists estimate they are home to over half of the world's living species of plants and animals.

### Chaperone Objectives:

1. To keep students engaged and learning in a safe environment!!!
2. Students should investigate what the climate is like in the rain forests of the world and where they are found.
3. Explore the idea of biodiversity (variety of life) in the rain forest.
4. Students should understand that there are different layers to the rain forest: forest floor, understory, canopy, and emergent.

### Structuring Your Zoo Experience:

- You will visit three specific areas of the Zoo to tour on the topic of tropical rain forests: Tropical Discovery, Bird World, and Primate Panorama.
- **Tropical Discovery** (closest to school gate entrance)  
Explore and find:
  - ❑ What are the temperature, humidity and plant life like inside the building? How is it like a tropical rain forest?
  - ❑ A mammal that lives in tropical caves of Central and South America and drinks the blood of livestock. (*Vampire bat*)
  - ❑ What are the different layers of the rain forest? (hint: check the sign titled, "Rain Forests")
  - ❑ A multi-species exhibit, with one species that lives on the forest floor or in the water, and one species that lives in the canopy (*capybara and howler monkey*)
  - ❑ A snake with "eyelashes" that help it to camouflage while it is hanging in the trees by its prehensile tail (*eyelash viper*)
  - ❑ The longest lizard in the world that lives in the upper canopy in Papua New Guinea (*crocodile monitor*)
- **Bird World**  
Explore and find:
  - ❑ What are the temperature, humidity and plant life like? How is it like a tropical rain forest?
  - ❑ Where are rain forests located in the world? (hint: check the sign titled, "The Rain Forest".
  - ❑ A bird found in tropical Asia that specializes in eating figs.
  - ❑ A South American bird that is green, turquoise, black, and orange/red.

Encourage students to learn by observing

Ask questions to keep students involved



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- The only mammal in bird world (the two-toed sloth), which is found in the tropical rain forests of South America.
- **Primate Panorama** (Emerald Forest and Great Apes buildings)
  - Explore and find in *Emerald Forest*:
    - Three different species found only on the island of Madagascar. Notice in their exhibits that the murals represent how slash and burn agriculture is depleting this African island (*red-bellied lemur, ring-tailed lemur, and red-ruffed lemur*)
    - A monkey that has claws instead of fingernails, except for the big toe, and the father helps raise the young (*white-fronted marmoset, golden lion tamarin*)
    - A nocturnal prosimian found in Asia that moves very slowly (*slender loris*)
  - Explore and find in *Great Apes*:
    - A great ape that lives in troops with a silverback male as their leader. Logging is the main reason for their endangered status (*western lowland gorilla*)
    - A solitary great ape that mainly eats fruit and can use all four limbs as hands – quadramanus (*Sumatran orangutan*)
    - What can humans do to help conserve primate species that are losing their habitat every day? (hint: read the signage in Great Apes)



*Making It Possible.*



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