

EXPLORING God's Global Family

LESSON 2 **PART 1**
Brazil
Spiritual Emphasis: Stewards of God's Earth

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Where Are We Going?

Your child will be able to:

- recognize the importance to all civilization of God's rain forests in Brazil and the world.
- discover that rain forests are a place of wonder in God's world.
- determine at least two ways we can give to others and care for God's world.

Ready for the Journey

Supplies

- ✓ Bible
- ✓ Pencil(s)
- ✓ Colored pencils, crayons or washable markers
- ✓ Recycled bag holding a variety of objects which begin or are found in the rain forest. Include pencil with eraser, a small rubber bouncy ball, a picture of a tire, spices mentioned below, small plastic insects or snake, pictures or toys of animals you might find in the rain forest (monkey, jaguar, gorilla, etc.), balloon, empty medicine bottle.
- ✓ Construction paper, variety of colors
- ✓ 1 yard of green yarn or string
- ✓ Hole punch
- ✓ Activity Sheet 2-1

- ✓ Recycled clear plastic 2-liter soda bottle and cap
- ✓ Grass and/or herb seeds
- ✓ Enough potting soil to cover 2 inches on the bottom of the bottle
- ✓ Handful of small pebbles
- ✓ ¼ cup of water
- ✓ Map of world

Preparation

- Assemble the supplies listed.
- Read 2 Corinthians 8: 1-9.
- Background information: Brazil

Brazil is the largest country in South America. It is bigger than the continental U.S. It was founded by explorers from Portugal, and its language is Portuguese. It is home to the world's largest rain forest located along the Amazon River, one of the longest rivers in the world. The Amazon rain forest has more than 40,000 kinds of trees and plants and 2,000 species of fish, including the deadly piranha. Animals found there include sloths, vampire bats, jungle monkeys and jaguars. Birds and plants and many species of insects also live in the rain forest. Rain forests are important worldwide for a variety of reasons, including medicines that originate in plants, its rubber for tires, and its spices and fruits.

Beyond the products produced from the rain forest, the trees of the rain forest are vital to our environment, helping to clean the world's air and water. It is very important that we, as God's stewards, help to advocate saving our rain forests to provide a healthy environment for future generations.

- Other research: See how our lungs need oxygen produced by plants; the many "layers" of the rain forest (canopy, etc.).

The Journey Begins

Go exploring in your own kitchen! You might be amazed at how many products found in your kitchen began in God's rain forests of the world — including Brazil. With an adult's permission, see which of these items you can find. Put a check mark by the list as you discover rain forest items.

Possible items found in the kitchen:

- Spices and flavors — black pepper, chili pepper, cinnamon, chocolate, vanilla, nutmeg, cloves, ginger, cayenne pepper, paprika

- Fruits and other foods — cashew nuts, Brazil nuts, coffee, cola products, tea, banana, avocado, lemon, orange, mango, grapefruit, peppers, tangerine, guava, lime, papaya, coconut

Discuss with your child:

- Why do you think God gave us rain forests?
- What other products come from the rain forests that we use every day? (Hint: various medicines — arthritis medicine can come from yam; the ouabain pod can help treat heart problems; rosy periwinkle can help treat cancer; tires are made of rubber, etc.)
- How do rain forests help clean our air so far away?
- What are some things we can do to protect God's rain forests and our own environment where we live?

Enjoy the Journey

- 1 On the world map, locate Brazil. Have your child trace the Amazon River with her finger. Discuss different features that might be found in that region.
- 2 Discuss the results of your kitchen exploration and invite your child to pull out one or two of the objects you have in your “rain forest bag.” Discuss the origin, the usefulness, and the need for these items in your everyday life.
- 3 Finally, pull a balloon out of the rain forest bag. Invite your child (if old enough) to blow up the balloon. Discuss why you need clean air to blow up the balloon.
- 4 Transition from the need for clean air to the Activity Page to create a rain forest in a bottle, which demonstrates how the rain forest creates a healthier environment for us to live in.
- 5 Follow steps on Activity Sheet 2-1 to create a rain forest in a bottle. Place it in a safe location to observe and draw conclusions about the processes of condensation and precipitation.
- 6 Challenge your child to explain in his or her own words what is happening in the bottle as you check on it over several days. Discuss the rain forest trees' role in producing oxygen from carbon dioxide which provides clean air for much of the world.

Make a Rain Forest in a Bottle



Rain forests are a very important part of God's creation. Plants and trees in rain forests recycle and clean water and even clean the air! Rain forests also soak up water from heavy rains. Then the water is slowly released to people who live many miles away, and this slow release helps prevent flooding and droughts.

Do this experiment so you can see how plants, air, water and soil create a healthy environment — then think of all the ways the rain forest helps keep God's earth a great place to live.

Supplies:

- ✓ Recycled clear plastic 2-liter soda bottle and cap
- ✓ Grass and/or herb seeds
- ✓ Enough potting soil to cover 2 inches on the bottom of the bottle
- ✓ Handful of small pebbles
- ✓ ¼ cup of water

Directions:

- 1 Place the stones in the bottom of your bottle.
- 2 Add the potting soil.
- 3 Add your seeds.
- 4 Add your water.
- 5 Place the cap on the bottle and place the bottle in a warm, sunny place.
- 6 Watch the bottle for several days!

When the plants begin to grow in a few days, you will see drops of water in the bottle and they will “rain” down and keep watering your plant seeds! Scientists call this *transpiration*, *condensation* and *precipitation*. Look for transpiration when the water returns to the air from the growing plants. Condensation happens when water droplets form on the bottle, and precipitation is when the water droplets fall from the bottle to the soil.