

Monkeys and Lemurs

Before playing this game, pupils will need to find out about rainforest animals and the dangers facing them. For examples, see the bottom of the page.

Purpose:

- to understand some of the dangers faced by animals in the rainforest
- to run around and have fun

Suggested time: 15 - 20 minutes

Resources

15 or more pupils and a large space to run around

To start

Divide the pupils into groups, for example, if you have 30 pupils half (15) will be rainforest trees, 12 will be animals, 3 will be people.

How to play

The trees spread themselves around the space and stand with their arms outstretched

The rainforest animals run from tree to tree, moving and making noises like the animal they have chosen as they go.

The people try to catch the animals.

People can only catch animals when they are between trees. If the animals are touching a tree branch (pupil's arm) they are safe. Animals must run from tree to tree. If they are caught they are out and stand by the side.

Effects of deforestation

Stop the game and ask half the trees to stand at the side with the animals who have been caught. Allow pupils to play the game again. The remaining animals are in more danger with less trees.

Reforestation

Stop the game and allow everybody on the sidelines to become trees. The more trees there are the harder it is for the people to catch the animals.

After a while swap everybody round to allow the trees to become animals or people.

Dangers facing rainforest animals

Monkeys, lemurs and chimpanzees	hunted to be eaten (bushmeat)
Snakes	hunted for their skin
Forest elephant	hunted for ivory
Parrots and macaws	taken from the forest and sold into captivity
Sloth	sold for the pet trade

Of course, the biggest risk to all rainforest animals is habitat destruction.