

NUTS ABOUT NATURE CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES



Curriculum links to RE, Geography, Citizenship.

These classroom activities accompany the *Nuts about nature* assembly, which is available to download from christianaid.org.uk/learn

These resources have been developed to help your school celebrate Harvest and to reflect on the work that Christian Aid partners are doing to protect the Amazon rainforest and support the people who live there.

ACTIVITY 1: FOREST AND CITY WARM-UP

Ask pupils to stand in the middle of the classroom. Tell them that one side of the classroom represents a city, and the other side represents a rainforest. They should move to the side of the classroom that they feel best matches the words you shout out:

- trees
- animals
- people
- shops
- food
- pollution
- a place where important things happen.

Afterwards, you could talk through their responses:

Trees: Although there are trees in cities, you certainly don't get as many as you find in the rainforest. The Amazon rainforest in Brazil is home to many billions of trees!

Animals: Ask the pupils what kind of animals you might find in cities, and what kind you might find in the rainforest. Cities are home to some animals that we are quite familiar with: dogs, cats, pigeons, squirrels. The Amazon rainforest is also home to some amazing, and slightly more unusual animals. These include river dolphins, toucans, monkeys and jaguars – as well as millions of different insects. In fact, a quarter of all (land-based) animals on Earth live in the rainforest!

People: You might associate cities with people, because that is where most people live. But actually, people do live in the rainforest too – we'll be finding out a bit more about their lives later.

Shops: Shops are definitely a city thing. You don't really get any shops at all in the Amazon rainforest, although people living there do still need food.

Food: Everyone, everywhere, needs food. People living in cities mostly buy their food from shops, while most people living in the rainforest harvest nearly all their food from the forest.

Pollution: This is something that we associate with cities, which are often dirty and full of cars and factories. But pollution relates to the rainforest too, because the rainforest has a very important part to play in soaking up some of the polluting gases that harm our planet.

A place where important things happen: Many of us think of cities as the places where important things happen (ask pupils to give examples of important things that happen in cities). But as we've heard, important things happen in the rainforest too, and we're going to find out more about those today.

ACTIVITY 2: DIELEM'S STORY

Hand out the worksheet about Dielem's story and ask pupils to consider the ways in which their own lives are similar and different from hers. Children often focus first on differences, so encourage pupils to explore in more depth the things they have in common with Dielem.

Note: younger pupils might benefit from looking at this as shared or guided reading.

ACTIVITY 3: FOREST FRIENDS

If pupils have already heard the *Nuts about nature* assembly, then they will know all about the extraordinary life cycle of a Brazil nut tree, which depends on a rare bee for pollination and a small animal called an agouti to plant its seeds. If they haven't yet heard this assembly, you could read it out in class and show them the slideshow (the assembly and slideshow are available to download from christianaid.org.uk/learn).

Hand out the *Forest friends* worksheet and ask pupils to colour in and cut out the agouti, the bee and the Brazil nut tree. They can use these to make pictures (drawings or collages) of the rainforest.

ACTIVITY 4: RAINFOREST LIFE CYCLES

Hand out the *Rainforest life cycles* worksheet and ask the pupils to explain in their own words how the Brazil nut tree depends on the bee and the agouti. The questions encourage the pupils to broaden their thinking, so that they can consider how Dielem and her quilombola community depend on the rainforest, how the rainforest depends on them and, ultimately, why we all depend on the rainforest.

ACTIVITY 5: LOOKING AFTER OUR WORLD

Explain to pupils that Dielem and her community are being supported by Christian Aid's partner CPI. Christian Aid gives money to CPI, which is an organisation that works in the rainforest with Dielem's community to make sure that big companies don't chop down all the trees in the rainforest.

Hand out the *Looking after our world* worksheet, which asks pupils to give three reasons why it is important to protect the rainforest. Encourage them to think about everything they have learnt about the rainforest – about the animals, plants and people who live there, and about the role the rainforest plays in stopping pollution.



PRIMARY WORKSHEET

DIELEM'S STORY

Dielem's favourite things

Favourite colours: pink and red

Favourite hobbies: drawing and swimming

Favourite food: rice and turtle

Favourite way to travel: boat

Favourite place to sleep: hammock

Dielem is eight years old and she lives in the Amazon rainforest.

She loves going to school to play with her friends and to learn lots of interesting things. Her favourite subject is Maths. She catches a boat bus along the river to her school. She also loves it when school is finished for the day and she can change out of her uniform and play with her brothers.

Her favourite hobby is swimming, although she has to keep an eye out for crocodiles in the river. Once a year, she joins the rest of her family, and all the other people from her village, as they set out on a trip together. They go deep into the forest to find Brazil nut trees. They collect the nuts that have fallen from the trees and bring them back home. Those nuts are delicious and they are a very important food for Dielem because they contain lots of



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important vitamins and minerals that people need to stay healthy.

When it's her birthday, Dielem and her family often celebrate with a delicious barbecue of all her favourite foods.

Can you spot three similarities between Dielem's life and yours?

Can you spot three differences?

What do you think sounds nice about life in the forest where Dielem lives?



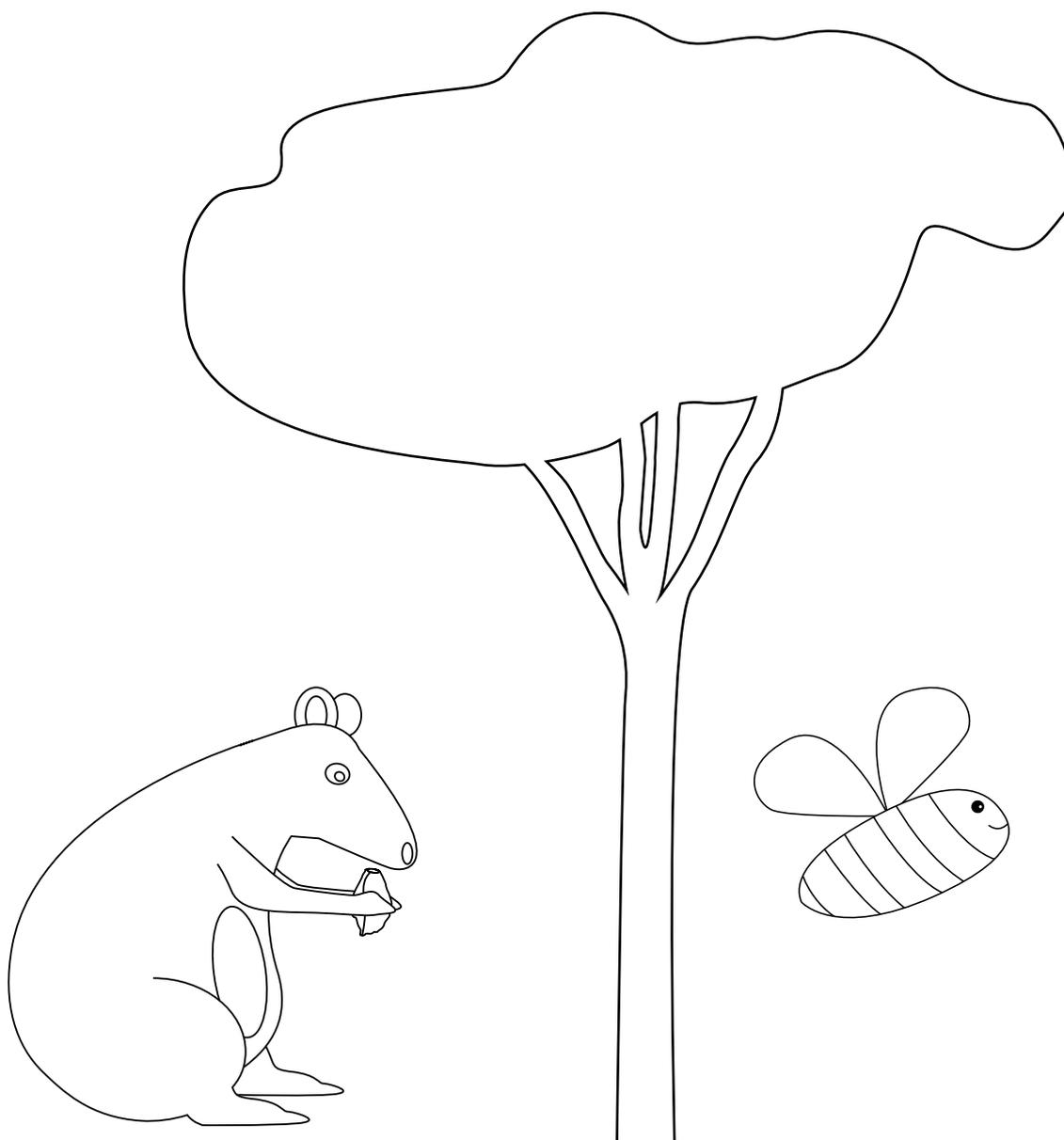
PRIMARY WORKSHEET

FOREST FRIENDS

Colour in and cut out the pictures of the agouti, bee and Brazil nut tree. Can you use them to make a picture of the rainforest? You can draw pictures or make a collage to show some of the other trees, plants and animals in the rainforest.

See if you can include the following things in your picture:

- Dielem looking after a tree.
- An agouti burying a Brazil nut.
- A bee pollinating a Brazil nut tree.
- Some other types of rainforest animal (you can look these up in a book or on the internet if you want some more ideas).



PRIMARY WORKSHEET

RAINFOREST LIFE CYCLES



Why does the Brazil nut tree need the bee and the agouti?



Why do Dielem and her family need Brazil nuts?



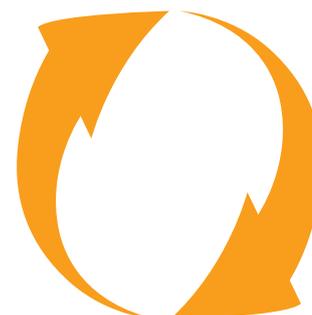
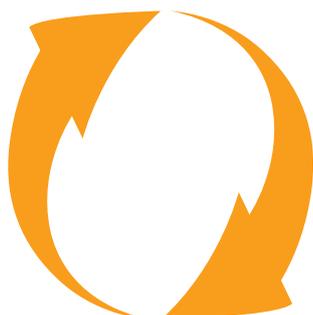
Why does the rainforest need people like Dielem?



Why do we all need the rainforest?



Can you show some of these life cycles by drawing pictures of things that depend on each other, using the arrows below?





PRIMARY WORKSHEET

LOOKING AFTER OUR WORLD

Can you think of three reasons why it is important to protect the rainforest? Write your answers on the leaves.



How is Christian Aid helping to look after our world?

What things can you do to help look after our world?
