



This term we are going to be looking at THE RAINFOREST! There are going to be some great quick builds from orangutans to insects!

During the second half of the club, the children like to join worlds on the router provided to work in teams on a long build project. This build may span several weeks so it is important that the children get the same tablet each week. Although we have suggested some long build ideas for each week, feel free to jiggle things around or even come up with your own.

The main thing is that the quick builds are done as described on the correct week as this forms the basis of the inter school competition where your school can earn points for the national leaderboard.

The Quick Builds

The first half of the club is usually taken up with the quick build. The Fabretta video can be used directly from **Youtube** each week or downloaded from **Dropbox** if that is easier. Fabretta will cover the basic learning objectives each week along with the rules for the club and a timed quick build for the children to work along with.

Usually the teacher will choose the best from each table and get the children to show their creations at the front. The rest of the children can then vote on who they want to win. You should then take a photo (screenshot) of this with your phone and send it in to us each week (send to competition@milittlepad.com)

Parents and children can then vote for their favourites online.



Team Build Competition

Don't forget to let the children know that you will be sending in some screenshots of their team builds (long build projects) at the end of the half term and that there will be prizes for the best schools!

WEEK 1- ORANGUTANS

Orangutans are great apes which live in the lush rainforests of Indonesia and Malaysia. With their shaggy reddish orange fur they are easily identifiable and are known to be the largest tree climbing mammal in the world!

Orangutans mainly live in lowland areas and usually travel through the trees without touching the ground. They use leaves and other vegetation to make nests to sleep in and tend to remain solitary throughout their lives! 60% of their diet is made up of fruit and the rest is made up with insects, leaves and even soil. Male orangutans can weigh up to 90kg!

The lifespan of a wild orangutan is 50 years however deforestation is making it very hard for them to survive. This loss of habitat means that they often can't find enough food and they are sometimes even hunted. Combined with a low birth rate, their future is at risk.



DID YOU KNOW

Orangutans are one of our closest relatives! We share 97% of the same DNA!



QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is.....AN ORANGUTAN!

LONG BUILD

For your long build, why not build a rainforest. Remember the different levels! This week, start with the forest floor and the understory. You could add fallen logs, a river, young trees and perhaps even a base for exploring the forest!

WEEK 2- INVERTEBRATES AND INSECTS



Insects and invertebrates are very important in the rainforest as they break down fallen leaf matter and pollenate plants. They are also a vital food source for many of the animals living in the forest and so play a very important role in the food chain.

Lots of new species of invertebrates are discovered in the rainforest all the time and there is real diversity in the creatures calling the Bornean rainforests home. For example, the pill millipede which rolls into a ball a bit like a hedgehog when threatened and the beautiful Birdwing butterflies.

These rainforests are also renowned for their giant creatures. This includes the world's longest insect- Chan's Megastick (a ginormous stick insect which measures over 35cm in length!), giant cockroaches and gigantic centipedes.

DID YOU KNOW

Caterpillars are masters of disguise. Before they transform into butterflies, they have to survive the dangers of a rainforest filled with animals and so they've developed some pretty interesting methods. Some of these caterpillars disguise themselves as fallen leaves and even bird poo! Others make themselves appear bigger than they are and some produce toxic breath!

QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is....A GIANT INSECT!

LONG BUILD

For the long build, why not carry on working on your rainforest? This time we'll be heading up into the canopy and emergent layers. Lots of tall trees are growing up towards the sun. Make sure you add some cheeky birds and monkeys!



WEEK 3- A BAT

Gomantong cave, found in Borneo, is home to some very weird and wonderful creatures. Nearby lives a species of endangered land snail and the inside is home to the local swift population. The nests of these birds are very popular for their use in birds nest soup, a soup believed to restore youth, and can be worth a lot of money. Twice a year people use giant ladders to collect these nests being careful to wait until the young birds have fledged.



DID YOU KNOW

There are over a million bats living in Gomantong cave. At sunset the bats leave the cave to head off into the jungle to feed on nectar and insects and tourists gather to witness this amazing sight!

Now with a cave full of bats it goes without saying that there is a sizeable amount of bat poo and with that lots and lots of creepy crawly cockroaches! Some people say that they cover the walls and the floors!



Edible Bird's Nests

QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is....A BAT!

LONG BUILD

For the long build, finish working on your rainforest and start building a wonderful wildlife sanctuary to help the forest animals. You could begin by building an orangutan area with a playground for them to practice swinging!

WEEK 4- TARSIER



Tarsiers are a type of primate which live in the trees of the rainforest. They are nocturnal which means they come out at night to feed and, as the only carnivorous primate, they eat lizards, snakes and frogs. They are very quick and are masters of hunting; they are known to grab bats out of the air!

The name “tarsier” comes from the tarsus bones in their feet. These bones are so long so that they can leap high into the air, 40 times their height! Despite this ability, tarsiers tend to prefer hanging in trees close to the ground and use leaves to shelter.

DID YOU KNOW

Tarsiers are renowned for their huge eyes. Relative to their body size they have the largest eyes of any mammal and these gigantic eyes are the size of their brains. Having large eyes is vital for the tarsier as they are a nocturnal species so need to absorb as much light as possible.

However, as they are so big, they cannot be moved and so these little creatures rely on their necks instead. They can move their necks 180 degrees in either direction and so can easily keep an eye on what is going on behind them!

QUICK BUILD

This week’s quick build is....A TARSIER!

LONG BUILD

For the long build, carry on working on your wildlife sanctuary. You could add a veterinary area to assess the rescued animals before they are released into the forest.

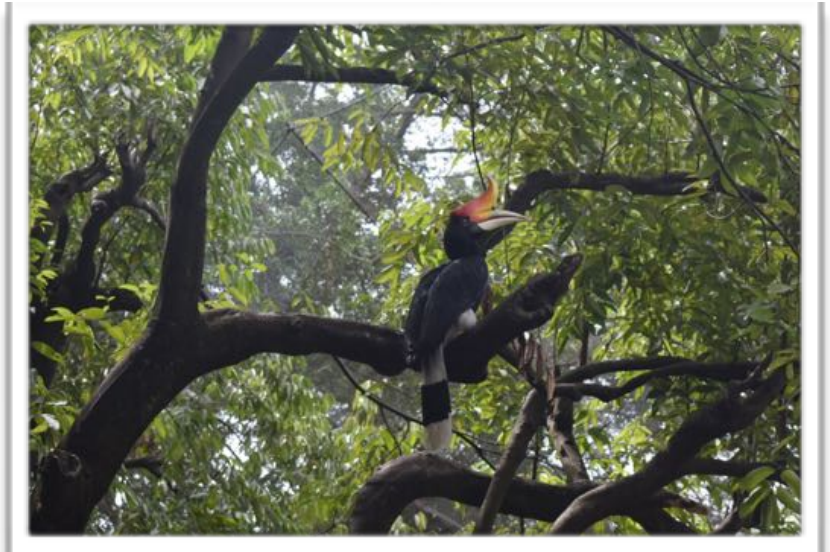


WEEK 5- HORNBILLS

The rainforest is home to many brightly coloured tropical birds and Borneo is home to two species which can't be found anywhere else in the world; the black browed babbler and the white crowned shama.

One of the most significant birds inhabiting the Bornean rainforest is the hornbill. There are 8 different hornbill species and they can easily be identified by their strange looking large beaks. They are vital for seed dispersal of fig trees and subsequently the health of the rainforest.

Sadly 5 out of the 8 hornbill species are now listed as being near threatened. A slow breeding rate combined with being hunted for their fabulous feathers and meat means that they are struggling to maintain their populations.



DID YOU KNOW

Hornbills are very famous for their nest building and young rearing. The female builds a nest in a tree hole before using her beak to seal up most of the entrance with mud and fruit, sealing herself in. She then relies on the male hornbill to bring her up to 1kg of food a day as she lays her egg and brings up her young. It may seem extreme but by imprisoning herself and her baby, she makes sure that they are safe from monkeys and snakes.



QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is....A HORNBILL!

LONG BUILD

For the long build, carry on building your wildlife sanctuary. You could build a huge aviary or bird cage for the birds to recover in before they are released or even a river and observatory for you to watch for wildlife.

WEEK 6- PYGMY ELEPHANT

By Bernard DUPONT from FRANCE - Pygmy Elephants (*Elephas maximus borneensis*) mother and baby, CC BY-SA 2.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=40783575>



The Bornean pygmy elephant is a subspecies of the Asian elephant although they are quite different in their physical appearance and their behaviour. They are considered to be more gentle and their tusks are straighter, their tails longer and they have bigger ears. Pygmy elephants are the largest of all the mammals in Borneo but are the smallest elephant in Asia.

Pygmy elephants inhabit lowland forest areas and are fantastic swimmers. Their groups, led by a strong female, can often be seen socialising and feeding along river banks and moving through the forest.

They have one calf at a time but carry their babies for almost 2 years in the womb! Generally, these elephants give birth every 6 years or so but should the environment be a risk to survival, this can be even longer.

DID YOU KNOW

Pygmy elephants are herbivores which means they feed on vegetation, things like bananas and palms. In fact, an adult elephant can eat 150kg of food every day! That's equivalent to around 750 bananas a day!

QUICK BUILD

This week's quick build is....A PYGMY ELEPHANT!

LONG BUILD

For the long build, finish working on your wildlife sanctuary. Why not add a feeding area for the elephants? Just make sure that there's enough bananas!

