

## Rainforest plant hunt!

**Type of activity:** Exploring inside

**Who is it for?** Whole family, links particularly with KS2 year 5

**What do I need?** House plants, curiosity, internet, pieces of paper, a pen

### Introduction

Have you got any pot plants at home? Have you wondered about what those leafy beauties' names are and where they originate from? You might be surprised, but some of today's more popular house plants originally came from the rainforests.

And did you know that more than two thirds of the world's plant species are found in the tropical rainforests? These plants provide shelter and food for rainforest animals as well as taking part in the gas exchanges which provide much of the world's oxygen supply.

What better way to get closer to nature and the wider world than by getting to know your own greenery! Let's use this time as an opportunity to explore the rainforest in our own house.

### Here's how to...

Prepare the game. Those of you who already know their plants' names can start by doing a search online to double check their origin. If you struggle, here are some links with photos and names of the most common tropical plants in the UK.

<https://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/plants-for-a-jungle-style-border/>

<https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/7-gorgeous-house-plants-that-hail-from-the-rainforest>

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/plants>

When you are done, take slips of paper and write a short intro message from the plant eg 'Hello my name is *Monstera Deliciosa* and I live in the Amazon rainforest'. Hide the slips in the plants foliage or in the pots. When you are ready, invite the rest of your family and tell them they are about to go on a rainforest plant hunt. Explain how many secret messages they need to find.

You can play in two variations. Version 1: the person with the most of messages wins, Version 2: everyone has to find all messages.

When you have finished, take a walk around the house and read each plant's name when you stand next to it; spend some time looking at and comparing its features.

### What now?

1. Draw a portrait of your plant
2. Watch this short video from BBC Teach and try to spot the plants you just found in your own house <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UIbplCn8-zs>
3. Learn about the ways kids can help rainforests <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/articles/10-ways-kids-can-save-the-rainforest>

4. Do some relaxation activity - listening to rainforest sounds with Visual Soundscapes series from BBC America <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVOW5fsUCfQ>  
This one is really good also at bedtime 😊

