

Title: Make a Rain Stick

Subject: Art/ Social Studies

Grade Level: 3rd – 5th Grade

Time: 35 minutes

Objective: Students will create a rain stick to mimic the sounds of the rainforest.

State Standards and Goals:

16.E.2c Identify individuals and their inventions which influenced world environmental history.

17.D.2a Describe how physical characteristics of places influence people's perceptions and their roles in the world over time.

17.C.3b Explain how patterns of resources are used throughout the world.

17.A.2b Explain how physical and living components interact in a variety of ecosystems including desert, prairie, flood plain, forest, and tundra.

Materials:

Cardboard paper towel rolls (one per student)

1" nails or 1" toothpicks (about 30 per paper towel roll)

Dry rice or beans (about ¼ Cup per student)

Masking Tape

2 sheets of paper per student

Markers for decorating the rain stick

Method:

Throughout the South American rainforest (though not widely used in Costa Rica), rain sticks are used as cultural tools to mimic the sound of the rainforest. They are usually made of dried cactus with the needles pushed through toward the inside.

Paper towel rolls have a seam that coils down the length of the roll. Have students mark dots about ½ inch apart. Poke the nails or toothpicks through the paper towel roll along the seam. You'll need about 30 of them to do this.

Cover one end with half the sheet of paper and masking tape.

Pour the rice or beans into the open end.

Cover the second end and your rain stick is ready to be decorated.