ELL CONNECT® – Content Area Lesson Plans for English Language Learners

**Subject:** Science  
**Grade:** 7th  
**Author:** Grand Prairie, Texas  
**Approximate Time:** 55 Minutes per day / 4 days  
**Date:** Fall 2008

**Topic/Theme:** Exploring Earth’s Rain Forest Biome

**Objectives:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Language</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visually represent their knowledge of the rain forest biome by creating an electronic scrapbook.</td>
<td>Describe what they have visualized about the rain forest through the use of key terms during their class presentations</td>
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**Vocabulary:**

<table>
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<th>Content Specific</th>
<th>Related</th>
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<tr>
<td>Biome, Tropical Rain Forest, Canopy, Understory,</td>
<td>Producers, consumers, adaptations (from previous lesson), photosynthesis (previous lesson)</td>
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Note: Activate background knowledge with class discussion of using rain forest biome map, pictures of rain forest plants and animals, and revisit energy pyramid (use student examples posted in the classroom).

Websites to use for pictures:  
http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals  
http://environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/habitats/rainforest-profile.html

**Materials:**

textbook, map of world, computer, jump drive (to store student work), in-focus, elmo, projection screen, copies of *The Great Kapok Tree*, poster board

**Activities:**

- Class Discussion “How do you think a rain forest got its name?”
- Biome map “What do you notice about the locations of the world’s tropical rain forests?”
- Energy Pyramid to reintroduce consumers, producers, and photosynthesis
- Listen to CD-Rom and Read-A-Long in textbook pages 573-574
- Using internet, students will research rain forest biomes
- Students will create a 4-6 page electronic photo album inserting (copy and paste) pictures and description of biome

**ELL Connection:**

L1 – Student selected pictures and title
L2 – Student selected pictures, title, a few word description of biome
L3 – Student selected pictures, title, 1-2 sentence description of biome, including key terms producers, consumers, canopy, and understory
L4 – Student selected pictures, title, 3-4 sentence description of biome, including key terms producers, consumes, canopy, and understory

Review & Assessment:

Vocabulary and Content:
While working in the computer lab, discuss with student (or a group of students working near one computer) the plants and animals and transfer plants and animals to testable key terms producers and consumers, and the layers of rain forest.

Using Computer and Elmo, students will share their two of their favorite pages in their photo album and encouraged use of key terms consumers, producers canopy, and understory.

Closing Discussion:

Thinking out-of-the-box
What do you think would happen if all the rain forests on earth were cut or burned down? (Write suggestions on elmo)

Extension / Take-home Activity:
Students will skim The Great Kapok Tree prior to me reading it aloud to them in class (preferably outside, if weather permits). Students will create design and generate a poster, rap, poem, or cartoon expressing their feelings after reading the book on a poster.