



Der Große Kapok (The Great Kapok) (Beginning /Intermediate)

Adapted from
The Great Kapok
By Lynne Cherry

Using children's books meets the following conditions that make it possible for children to learn a language.

1. The learner is immersed in the language.
2. The learner has ongoing demonstrations of language.
3. There is the expectation that language will be learned.
4. The learner is given responsibility to learn.
5. Approximations are acceptable.
6. The opportunity to use language is present often.
7. There is ongoing response to language use.

(Cambourne - 1984)

Standards Met

- 1.1: Communication – Interaction
- 1.2: Communication – Interpretation
- 1.3: Communication – Production
- 3.1: Connections – Reinforce other content areas
- 4.1: Comparisons – German language patterns
- 5.1: Use the target language beyond school

Objectives:

The students will...

- demonstrate comprehension of “**Der Große Kapok**” by acting out the story as it is told in the target language.



Anticipatory Set

Give each student a Snickers bar and tell them how it relates to the rainforest. Many of the ingredients in a Snickers bar come from the rainforest. Students can then learn the names of the ingredients in the target language.

Activity Sequence

Input

- Read the story using the Power point presentation
- With visuals retell the story
- Tell the story as the students act it out.

Guided Practice

- Living Order
Students do a living order of the visuals.
- Matching Cards
In small groups, students match the picture with the correct corresponding word in the target language.
- Group Story Sequence
Put all visuals on the floor. As a group, students put the cards in the correct order.
- Story Sequence Cards
In small groups, students sequence the cards in the order they appear in the story.
- Question Activity
Put an animal on the back of each individual. Students try to determine the animal by asking only yes/no questions.
- Retell Story
Using visual prompts, students retell the story as a group.
- In a bag, place pictures of the various animals found in the rainforest. Using the natural method, have the students guess which animal you have. You can give clues in the target language. Ask them simple questions such as does this animal move slowly or quickly.

Extension

- Students create a new version of the story by reordering the events in the story.

Closure

- Alphabet Activity
A-Z - say and repeat the alphabet in German
On the alphabet worksheet, students fill in the words in the target language that they remember.
- The teacher retells the story, and the students fill in the words when the teacher pauses.



Das Alphabet

A _____
Ä _____
B _____
C _____
D _____
E _____
F _____
G _____
H _____
I _____
J _____
K _____
L _____
M _____
N _____
O _____
Ö _____
P _____
Q _____
R _____
S _____
SCH _____
ß _____
T _____
U _____
Ü _____
V _____
W _____
X _____
Y _____
Z _____

TOPIC: Rain Forest

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Show videos or assign class to read articles on the rain forest.
- 2) Discuss locations and importance of the rain forests. Create a map showing locations of the world's rain forests / tropical jungles.
- 3) Divide students into groups and assign each group separate responsibilities in the creation/ construction of the classroom rain forest.
- 4) Upon completion of construction of the rain forest, students will invite other students, faculty and family members to tour the rain forest. During the tours, students will explain what they have learned about the rain forest and why they must be preserved.

VERBAL-LINGUISTIC

Write and present a skit showing what can be done to preserve the rain forest.

BODILY-KINESTHETIC

Construct the rain forest in your classroom.

MUSICAL-RHYTHMIC

Identify sounds while listening to the CD of the rainforest.

the importance of
gy vs. progress.

Play charades with the
names of the animals living
in the rainforest.

Create a rain forest rap.

Deba
ecol

Make a rain forest "buffet."

INTRAPERSONAL

se your own ecology

INTERPERSONAL

Create a rain forest as a
class project.

PREPARATIONS

— VISUALS
— LIBRARY BOOKS
— ART MATERIAL
— TV/VCR

INT
Dev
plan

tify the importance of the
forest in an editorial.

Conduct a tour of the rain
forest in your classroom

— MUSIC TAPE/CD
— VIDEOTAPE
— TAPE/CD PLAYER
— OVERHEAD
— PROPS/COSTUMES

Ju
rai

AL-MATHEMATICAL

e a Snicker candy bar
w it relates to the rain

VISUAL-SPATIAL

Write and illustrate a rain
forest alphabet book.

Create a diorama.

OTHER:

—
—
—
—

LOGIC

Analyz
and ho
forest.

Classi
insect:


/ plants, animals and
found in the rainforest.



Snickers From The Rainforests?

How a Snicker Candy Bar relates to the rainforest!!

It contains products from the rainforest:

- **Chocolate** is from cocoa beans from the tropical rainforests in Mexico. Chocolate originated with the 



Resources

<http://www.schule-dauborn.de/home/regenwald.html>

Students' FAQ and answers on the rainforest, both in English and German

<http://www.amazon.com/Great-Kapok-Tree-Amazon-Forest/dp/015200520X> - purchase the book

<http://teacherlink.ed.usu.edu/tlresources/units/Byrnes-celebrations/Earth%20Day-%20Home%20Page> – lesson plan for using The Great Kapok for Earth Day

<http://www.lynncherry.com/work12.htm> - lesson plan for comparative curricula your forest/rainforest

http://earthtrends.wri.org/pdf_library/country_profiles/for_cou_276.pdf
compare ecosystem data for Germany, Europe, and the world

<http://www.sdcoe.k12.ca.us/score/kapok/kapoktg.htm> - wonderful extension ideas in all subject areas and at all grade levels

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000410.shtml> - interactive student activities plus other links to great sites

http://www.education-world.com/a_tsl/archives/03-1/lesson015.shtml - conflict/resolution lesson plan comparing Three Little Pigs and The Great Kapok

<http://www.harcourtbooks.com/bookcatalogs/bookpage.asp?isbn=0152026142&option=teacher> –activities for across the curriculum

<http://library.uncc.edu/files/5/cimc/pdfs/units/greatkapoktree.pdf> - other ideas for curriculum connections

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/rainforest/> - excellent information about the rainforest that children can easily understand /map of the rainforests of the world

<http://www.rainforestweb.org/> - more information about the rainforest

http://www.nationalgeographic.com/earthpulse/rainforest/index_flash-feature.html - virtual tour of rainforest at night

<http://www.rain-tree.com/facts.htm> - rainforest facts - well organized

<http://www.rainforesteducation.com/> - wonderful pictures and sounds of the rainforest

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/books/german/forest/>
Forest animals: a printable book in German for early readers