



Save the rainforest animals!

Dear teacher or club leader,



Welcome to your information and fundraising pack for the RSPB's **"save the rainforest animals"** appeal. The pack is designed especially for schools and clubs, providing the basis for learning in addition to any fundraising that you do.

We are sending you this because you have a Wildlife Explorers club in your school, are associated with a children's activity or education club, or you have had contact with the RSPB in another way – perhaps you are a Bird Friendly School or have taken part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch.

If you have a Wildlife Explorers club, you will know from our magazines that we are raising funds to look after an area of rainforest in Sumatra, Indonesia. We plan to buy and plant trees to replace those that have been cut down. These will rebuild habitats for the amazing and rare animals that live in the rainforest. We hope that you will use this pack as a basis for discussion and activities in school or with your group, and then raise money to help our appeal. The enclosed leaflet has information about rainforests and wildlife, and is designed for teachers and club leaders to use as the basis for a lesson or group meeting.

If you decide to fundraise for the "save the rainforest animals" appeal, we will send you a certificate to say thank you. Every child who raises money for the appeal will receive a special sticker sheet, showing some of the most threatened and impressive rainforest animals: the rhinoceros hornbill, the agile gibbon, the Sumatran tiger and the sun bear. You can read more about these creatures and the appeal in the leaflet enclosed with this letter.

Once you have raised money, please send a cheque (made payable to "The RSPB") for the amount you have raised. Please tell us how many sticker sheets you require and what school, club or class name you would like printed on the certificate.

We would be interested to hear your comments about this pack – please e-mail education@rspb.org.uk

Thank you for your interest. We hope you enjoy using this pack and inspiring children to learn and care about nature.

Please turn over for more information. There is curriculum information on the back for teachers.

Yours faithfully,

The RSPB Youth and Education Team



RSPB Wildlife Explorers is the junior membership of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds

Find out more about saving
rainforest animals at:
www.rspb.org.uk/youth



Background to fundraising



The RSPB chooses an urgent conservation issue every year for which its junior membership (Wildlife Explorers) raises funds. We choose the subject very carefully because we want there to be a clear link for children between the money raised and how it is used.

During the “**save the rainforest animals**” appeal, any class, club, school or Wildlife Explorer club that raises money will receive a set of stickers, showing some rainforest animals, for each child.

The main reason the RSPB is active in schools, with youth groups and through our junior membership, is to introduce children to and engage them with the fun,

enjoyment and learning value of wildlife – including those creatures seen in gardens and school grounds. The RSPB wants children to grow up understanding something about wildlife, the beauty and pleasure it brings to people and in turn, what people can do to help wildlife and the environment. We see fundraising as an additional way for children and young people to demonstrate their interest and commitment to wildlife and the environment.

There is a financial cost to carrying out important conservation work and it is good for children to know this – and that they can contribute to conservation with their fundraising efforts.



Save the
rainforest
animals!

Curriculum starting points

Here are some suggestions for curriculum-based work, linked to resources in the “save the rainforest animals” appeal pack.

Citizenship

Research and learn about the RSPB and its work for wildlife under pressure. Discuss what people can do to help wildlife and decide how you can support their efforts.

Understand the importance of protecting both the local and wider environment and identify ways that everyone can help to achieve this. Understand that other living things have needs and that people have responsibilities to meet those needs.

Choose to raise money for a charity and decide as a group how this will be achieved.

Learning
is fun!



Literacy

Do a persuasive writing activity, explaining what is happening to the rainforests and the animals that live there to encourage other people to get involved with the appeal. Perhaps these could be published in a school newspaper or on your school website.

Organise speaking, listening and drama activities, such as “hotseating”, i.e. playing the part of a rainforest animal. Children can ask questions about the animal’s life, habitat, prey, other animals it encounters and the dangers it faces.

Write acrostic poems about some of the rainforest animals.

Geography

Research and learn about Sumatra. This includes opportunities to learn about human impact on the environment – how people can improve or damage it, and understanding why people may seek to manage environments sustainably.

Science

Explore ecosystems and habitats. How have the rainforest animals adapted to their habitat? What would happen if their habitat changed or disappeared? How do the animals depend on other animals and the plants around them? Explore simple food chains that might be found in the rainforest.

Fundraising ideas

If you and your pupils or group decide that you would like to raise money for the “save the rainforest animals” appeal, organise a brainstorm to involve the children in gathering ideas and suggestions and deciding ways of fundraising. There can be a “one size fits all” activity, such as a sponsored walk, dance, skip, read or separate activities for different groups or individuals. Please involve and inform parents and other helpers as you normally would.

Children can also do their own fundraising at home. All the information they need is on our website: www.rspb.org.uk/youth Simply click on the “save the rainforest animals appeal” link. Please feel free to photocopy the moneybox in this pack and give one to each child to take home.

Good luck with your fundraising and have fun! We look forward to hearing your feedback and welcome any letters, news, photographs or drawings generated by this rainforest pack.