

# Great Explorations

**Ages 2-6**

Here are some fun projects to do At Home all about Rainforests...

At the Museum, you can walk through the jungle, explore a cave and raft across the Amazon River. For now, we're staying at home – but you can use this guide and your imagination to take a trip to the Rainforest!

## Look

Do you know there are many materials from the rainforest that are used to make common household objects? Also, there are lots of different of foods we eat that come from the rainforest too!

Go on a scavenger hunt around your home to see if you have any of these:

- Rubber: gloves, shoes, erasers, balls, rubber bands
- Spices: cinnamon, turmeric, chili pepper, nutmeg, paprika, vanilla beans
- Fruits and vegetables: avocado, banana, plantain, pineapple, mango
- Foods and drinks: coffee beans, chicle (gum), sugar, cashews nuts
- Houseplants: orchids, snake plant, rubber plant, fiddle leaf fig, Philodendron

## Do

**Paper chain snake** – Cut 1-inch strips of different colored paper. Attach one end to the other on your first strip to make a loop; secure it with tape or a staple. Continue adding more loops to lengthen the chain. You can use different colors of paper to play with patterns. Add eyes and a tongue on the first link to give your snake a face. How long can you make your chain?

Count the links!



## Act

The rainforest is full of animals, so pretend to be one!

What sound would a toucan make and how would it move?

What about a snake, a frog, a bat, or a jaguar?

## Create

There are more than 300 different species of parrots in the rainforest. These talkative birds have bright, bold feathers that make them stand out. Use your handprint to make a colorful parrot of your own!

**Materials:** Paper, pencil or crayon, scissors, glue, paint.

Draw the body of your parrot. Press one hand in a shallow tray of paint (use enough to cover your palm and fingers, but don't dip your hand completely). Now, press your handprint on the parrot's silhouette to make the feathers! Wash your hand off, and try it again with another paint color.

Don't have any paint? That's OK! Try tracing your handprint a few times on another sheet of paper, then cut out the handprints, color them with crayons or markers, and glue them on to the parrot's body as feathers.

## Explore More

YouTube – The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1Teb-jTyl>

Listen to a story about the rainforest. The Great Kapok Tree by Lynne Cherry sets the scene with its vibrant illustrations, and will introduce you to even more plants and animals from the rainforest!

For more At Home! activities and information about our exhibits visit us at

[sichildrensmuseum.org](http://sichildrensmuseum.org)



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