



## Objectives

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- ▶ understand the value of the rainforest
- ▶ appreciate the variety and importance of rainforest products
- ▶ develop consumer awareness

## Vocabulary

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fruit

medicine

vegetable

## Background

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Think of many of the things we take for granted: hot chocolate, a banana for lunch, an apple pie fragrant with cinnamon and nutmeg, a chocolate candy bar, a rubber ball, latex paint to touch up the walls, or anesthesia to ease the pain of surgery. Ingredients in all of these come originally from tropical forests. Indeed, the array of everyday products for which tropical forests are still an important source is astonishing.

## Activity

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1. Distribute copies of the Commercial Uses of the Rainforest Fact Sheet to students. Ask: Which products are you familiar with? Which do you use? What does the variety of products tell you about the value of the rainforests?
2. Have each student choose a partner. Direct the pairs to go on a scavenger hunt in the school or at home to find each product. Suggest that they check the ingredients in perfumes, dyes, soaps, paints, varnishes, and cosmetics to find the listed products. They can also visit a pharmacy, supermarket, or natural food store.
3. For each product, have students note its name, the manufacturer, and the specific ingredients that come from the rainforest.
4. Have students assess each product. Ask: Is it a good product? Is it something that people need or want?
5. Suggest that students set up a display of rainforest products. Have them invite other classes to visit the display.

## Extend the Activity

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Have students research other cultures and find out how they have used plants for medicinal and ceremonial purposes. For example, what kinds of plants did various Native American tribes use in ceremonies and for healing?

# Commercial Uses of the Rainforest Fact Sheet

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Woods	Houseplants	Spices	Fruits	Vegetables	Fibers	Pharmaceuticals	Oils	Gums/Resins
teak	Anthurium	allspice	avocado	Brazil nuts	bamboo	annatto	camphor oil	chicle latex
mahogany	Croton	black pepper	banana	cane sugar	jute/kenaf	curare	coconut oil	copaiba
rosewood	Dracaena	cayenne	coconut	chocolate	kapok	quassia	eucalyptus oil	copal
balsa	Parlor ivy	chili	grapefruit	coffee	raffia	quinine	palm oil	gutta percha
sandalwood	Philodendron	cinnamon	lemon	cucumber	ramie	reserpine	rosewood oil	rubber latex
	Schefflera	cloves	lime	tapioca	rattan	yang-yiang	tolu balsam oil	tung oil
	Zebra plant	ginger	mango	okra				
		nutmeg	orange	peanuts				
		paprika	papaya	peppers				
		turmeric	pineapple	tea				
		vanilla	plantain	hearts of palm				
		cardamom		cashew nuts				