

Visiting the Amazon Rainforest

Original task developed by Na Liu, Center for Applied Linguistics

Name of task	Visiting the Amazon Rainforest
Performance objective being assessed	I can ask and respond to simple questions about animals.
Communicative mode(s) assessed	Interpersonal Speaking/Interpretive Listening
Language	Portuguese
Proficiency level being assessed	Novice
What grade/age levels is the task written for?	Grades 3-5
Formative or summative?	Formative

Context

As part of a unit on touring Amazon Rainforest, students have been learning about different species and their unique features. This task will check whether they are ready to tour the “real” Amazon Rainforest at the zoo.

Materials and Input

Students have learned about the following species: jaguars, the Black Caimans, cougars, anaconda, piranhas, vampire bats and tarantulas. They have also learned sentences to describe each species. Students will be asked to pretend to be a species of their own choice in the Amazon Rainforest, and wear a mask of their animal. Students will fill out a form with information about different species while they walk around the classroom. They need to talk to at least 4 species.

No.	Species Name	Features
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Instructions to students

Imagine that you are an animal in the Amazon Rainforest. Draw a mask of that creature and wear it on your face. While you walk around the classroom, you need to answer other students’ questions about what you are and how you describe yourself. You also need to ask at least 4 other students what species they are and write down their unique features on the form.

Standards and Expected Response

Students should use vocabulary and sentence/question patterns learned in class.
Students will write down the names of at least 4 species and their unique features.

Sample exchanges could be:

“What are you and how do you describe yourself?”

“I am a tarantula and I am hairy.”