

6-8 Enrichment Lesson 2

Topic: Virtual Field Trip: Olympic Peninsula's temperate rainforest and Arizona's Sonoran Desert

Objective(s):

- To learn about the Olympic Peninsula's temperate rainforest and Arizona's Sonoran Desert.

Resource Link:

1. <https://www.treehugger.com/facts-about-north-americas-temperate-rain-forests-4869747#:~:text=Thanks%20to%20the%20mild%20temperatures,across%20the%20boughs%20of%20trees.&text=This%20often%20exceeds%20the%20number,species%20in%20the%20same%20forest.%22>
2. <https://www.desertmuseum.org/kids/oz/long-fact-sheets/Title%20Page.php>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Gr3jqY7xxc&feature=youtu.be>
4. <https://www.nps.gov/olym/learn/nature/temperate-rain-forests.htm>
5. <https://www.desertmuseum.org/kids/oz/long-fact-sheets/>
6. <https://www.sonoranresorts.mx/facts-about-the-sonoran-desert-that-might-surprise-you/>

Lesson:

- Explain to students that today they are going to go on a field trip to two different biomes. Explain that a biome is a specific geographic area notable for the species living there.
- Explain that the first biome they are going to visit is the Olympic Peninsula's temperate rainforest. Ask students to share what they know about a temperate rainforest. Encourage students to think about the types of plants and animals, climate, and location.
- Click on (Resource 1) [Get to Know North America's Temperate Rainforests](#). First read the section "Temperate Rainforests". Then encourage students to choose 2-3 other sections they would like to read about. Read each section aloud and discuss.
- Play video starting at 4:46 (resource 3): [Wild Biomes](#) (35:09). Encourage students to write down 2-3 interesting facts while they watch.
 - Pause video at 6:38. Ask students to name some of the plants and animals there.
 - Pause video at 9:42. Ask students why it rains so much in the Pacific North West, and have students explain the rain shadow effect.
- Explain to students that the second biome they are going to learn about is the (Resource 2) [Sonoran Desert in Arizona](#). Choose either Diurnal or Nocturnal, then encourage students to choose 2-3 different things that are in the picture to click on to find out more about.
- Play video starting at 21:32 (resource 3): [Wild Biomes](#) (35:09). Encourage students to write down 2-3 interesting facts while they watch.
 - Pause video at 23:22. Ask students why there are some unique plants and animals in the Sonoran Desert despite it being so dry and hot.
 - Pause video at 25:26. Review the meaning of adaptation. Ask students to explain what adaptations desert plants have to help them survive in dry conditions.
 - Stop video at 27:05. Ask students to compare and contrast the Saguaro Cactus and the Douglas Fir. Then have students explain why they are good examples of how plants have adapted to their climates.

Extension:

- Encourage students to watch the entire (Resource 3) [Wild Biomes](#) video with their families.
- Encourage students to continue to learn about (Resource 4) [Temperate Rain Forests](#).
- Encourage students to learn more about the Sonoran Desert by going to (Resource 5) [Sonoran desert](#) and (Resource 6) [Facts about the Sonoran Desert that might surprise you!](#).

Reflection:

- What did you learn?
- What was surprising?
- What questions do you still have?
- What was the easiest for you to understand and do? What was the most difficult?