

young times

Rainforest Special

Journey into the world's rainforests with National Geographic Kids and The Prince's Rainforest Project

Make a jungle in a bottle

Fancy creating a mini-rainforest? Here's how to build one with its own 'working' microclimate — in an old squash bottle



How does it work?

The water in the soil evaporates in the warmth of the day. It then rises, cools and forms drops of moisture which fall and water the plants. The charcoal helps to purify the water and keep the plants healthy.



3 When all the plants are in your container, water them lightly. Now add your plastic animals and use a few of the leftover pebbles for decoration. Finally, stick the bottle back together with tape. Don't forget to water your jungle whenever the soil gets dry.

- You'll need...**
- A large container such as a plastic bottle, jar or vase
 - Potting soil
 - Potted plants
 - Model animals
 - Activated charcoal, which is available in pet shops or aquariums
 - Pebbles



1 If you are using a bottle, ask an adult to cut it in half. Place some pebbles at the bottom of the container to create a drainage system for your jungle habitat. Add a layer of charcoal, then a layer of soil.



2 Now make holes in the soil where you want your plants to go. You could use ferns, flowers — whatever you like. Remove the plants from their pots, gently get rid of excess soil around the roots and place them in the holes. Press the soil down around them.

Find out more at ngkids.co.uk

rainforest puzzles

Tropical teaser

How many species of butterfly are found in South American rainforests?

- (a) 500
- (b) 1,000
- (c) 2,000

Yesterday's answer (c) 6 per cent
 Yesterday's animal A toucan



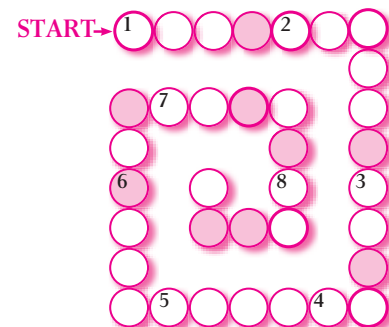
Puzzle of the day:

spiral

Write the answer to each clue in the spiral — but be careful: the last letter of one answer is the first letter of the next! Then write out the letters in the pink circles in order below the grid to find a type of rainforest.

CLUES

- 1 Serves at table (5)
- 2 School bag (7)
- 3 Sour citrus fruit (5)
- 4 Must have, requires (5)
- 5 Rush down like a bird (5)
- 6 Writer of verse (4)
- 7 Kilt pattern (6)
- 8 Jots down (5)



Yesterday's puzzle

- 1. Caterpillar 2. Centipede 3. Praying Mantis 4. Firefly 5. Stick Insect

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