



Create A Creature

Students in teams invent an animal that is specially adapted to the rain forest environment. They create a tear-art picture of the creature and present it to the class.

Steps . . .

Cooperative Structures

- RoundTable
- Team Project

Content Areas

- Science
- Language Arts
- Art

Materials

- Create a Creature worksheet (1 per team)
- 12" x 18" sheets of white construction paper (1 per team)
- Colored construction paper
- Glue
- Paper and pencil

Multiple Intelligences

- Verbal/Linguistic
- Visual/Spatial
- Naturalist
- Interpersonal
- Intrapersonal

1. List Adaptations

"What adaptations, or special features, do animals have that help them to survive? For example, a porcupine's sharp quills protect it from its enemies. Student #1, write one animal and its adaptation on a sheet of paper. Then pass the paper to Student #2. Keep passing the paper and listing animals and adaptations until I call time."

2. Discuss Creatures

"Think about the special environment of the rain forest. It's a warm, wet jungle, filled with trees, vines, and living creatures. The understory is damp and dark. The canopy is warm and sunny. I want your team to invent an animal that could survive in the rain forest. Your animal must have at least four special features that help it survive in a tropical environment. Talk over your ideas, discussing colors and adaptations. Be sure to think of a name for your creature."

3. Create Creatures

When each team has thought of an animal, say, "Send one person to the materials table to get one sheet of white construction paper for the background and any other colors you need. For this activity, you may not use scissors, pencils, or markers. You may only tear the sheets of construction paper and glue them to create your animal. You may tear many small pieces and layer them, or tear out a smaller number of large pieces. Everyone must be actively working until the creature is finished."

4. Describe Adaptations

Give each team one Create a Creature worksheet and ask one person to write the creature's name at the top. "I want you to pass the worksheet around the team. Each person completes one part by describing one of your creature's adaptations."