

ORANGUTANS

EYFS/RECEPTION LESSON

TEACHING RESOURCE

This lesson plan assumes that pupils will have seen the Orangutan Assembly presentation. Please refer to the Teacher's Guide for curriculum links and extension ideas.

OVERVIEW

Pupils collect images to find out what an orangutan needs to be safe and happy, matching them to a template. They learn that an orangutan's needs are very similar to our own, but orangutans like to live alone and so need lots of space in their forest home. As their forest home shrinks, there is less space for them to live.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- I know that orangutans are a wild animal that lives in the rainforest.
- I know that orangutans need fruit, water and a place to nest.
- I can say how an orangutan might feel when it can't find food, water or a place to nest.

BEFORE THE LESSON

- Optionally, prepare face mask templates for pupils to colour and wear.
- Print one template per pupil, pair or group of three.
- Print one set of image cards per pupil. Cut them up and place them around your room.

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STARTER ACTIVITY

Slide 1. Pupils identify an orangutan.

Slide 2. Ask pupils to imagine what it might be like to live high in the trees in a warm, wet rainforest. Share ideas and explore what they think an orangutan might do during the day.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

Ask pupils what they (as children) need in order to be safe, well and happy. Establish that humans need food to eat, water to drink, somewhere dry and warm to live, and other people like family and friends, that look after one another and enjoy their time together.

Optionally, ask pupils if they would like to become orangutans for the lesson. Pupils can colour their masks (or this can be a home learning activity after the lesson) and act out how they think an orangutan might move through the trees.

Slide 3. Explain that orangutans find everything they need in the forest. **Slide 4.** Give pupils their templates and ask them to use the pictures to guess what each word says: food, water and bed.

Ask pupils to imagine that your classroom is the forest in which pupils (as orangutans) live. Alone or in pairs or threes, pupils need to roam their forest home and find three items of food, two drops of water and one place to use as a bed. Ask pupils how many of each they need. Pupils look for matching images. Optionally, they can glue them to their templates.

Ask pupils to sit down and hold up their images or templates when they have all the food, water and beds they need. Explore some differences between pupils' needs when living as a human in the UK and pretending to live as an orangutan in a warm, wet rainforest. Explain that when they build their nests, orangutans sometimes bend branches to form roofs, when it is raining. But they don't need clothing or houses in which to stay warm, for example.

Explain that unlike us, orangutans like to live on their own almost all of the time. This means that your classroom would be big enough for just one orangutan pupil!



Help pupils to understand that in order to provide a place for them all to live, your school would need to be enormous. This helps them to understand that in real life, orangutans need large areas of rainforest in which to live.

Ask pupils if they can remember what they saw happening to the rainforest in the assembly: lots of it is being cut down for logs or burned to make space for farmland. This means there is less and less space for orangutans, especially as they spend most of their time in the trees.

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Optionally, illustrate this with a brief game of musical chairs for 6 – 8 pupils wearing face masks. Each time you remove a chair, this represents the forest space one orangutan needs in which to live.

Ask pupils how they think each orangutan will feel when it loses its forest space to live. Highlight that the orangutans can't explain this to us. Remind pupils that IAR rescues orangutans that have lost their forest space in which to live. And on their behalf, IAR tells local people about the importance of rainforest for orangutans and works to protect the rainforest and help it to grow again. If you played musical chairs, you could illustrate IAR's work by this time, adding back one chair each time the music stops, to show the rainforest getting bigger again.

PLENARY ACTIVITY

Slide 5. Pupils imagine what an orangutan might feel when they are released back into a safe area of rainforest and can act out how they might leave their transport cage, climb a tree and begin to explore their new home.





DIFFERENTIATION IDEAS

Support: Pupils collect one of each image.

Challenge: Pupils can write the words 'food', 'water' and 'bed' or 'nest'.

EXTENSION IDEAS

- Colour the orangutan masks.
- ✓ Use the food, water and nest images for counting activities.
- Pupils copy the mask or template and try drawing their own orangutan.

WHAT NEXT?

Check out our extra extension activities in the Teacher's Guide, ideas for fundraising and find out about adopting an orangutan too!

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FACTSHEET



- I am clever and strong.
- I live in Borneo.
- It is warm and wet.
- I live high up in trees.
- I like to be alone.
- I eat lots of fruit and plants.
- I sleep in a tree.

