

## Music of the Amazon

**Goal :** Students will experience the Amazon through several senses. Students will use experience a simulation of being in the Amazon Rain Forest and hear and playing the music. Students will hear and play the music of Brazil. Students will hear and repeat rhythms and melodies. Students will perform polyrhythms. Students will improvise new pentatonic melodies. Students will play as an ensemble. Students will experience emotional reactions to the stimulus.

**Rationale:** We remember with all of our senses. Just seeing or just hearing about something is one way to learn. Experiencing the climate and putting the music into context will help the student to understand the full experience.

### **Materials:**

Recordings of sounds from the Amazon

Drums, whistles, ocarina, panpipes, reco-reco, shakers, coconut agogo

Stuffed and plastic animals of the rain forest.

Plastic bugs and snakes.

Squirt bottles for water.

Squirts of smells, coconut, coffee, mud, rubber, etc.

Hot work lights and photography lights.

Plastic tarp

Wet brown blankets

Plastic trees

Green strips of felt, wet.

### **Procedure:**

#### **Before the learners enter....**

Place the plastic tarp on the floor and cover it with the damp blankets.

Surround the wet blankets with the hot worklights to simulate the light and heat of the forest. In between the lights and the blanket, drape lots of strips of wet green felt over music stands, keyboard stand, hat racks, whatever you can find, to simulate being in the middle of the long green fingers of the forest.

1. As the learners enter, instruct them to remove their shoes and sit on the dry spaces in between the blankets, or sit on small plastic stools to keep their pants dry, but make sure their feet are on the wet.
2. Play soundtrack of amazon noises in the background. Several students should sit outside the circle in between the lights and the green strips and occasionally squirt misting water from spray bottles onto the class.
3. Slowly add the plastic bugs and snakes and stuffed and plastic animals of the rainforest to the center of the kids.
4. Tell the story of the Amazon rain forest, its flora and fauna and it's indigenous peoples. Play the drums and the panpipes to create sound effects. Helper students should slowly distribute small drums and the other instruments to the learners who fall into a rhythm and melody of Brazil.
5. The song can end slowly fading and the ocarina should play a few last improvised notes. Students slowly walk out of the rainforest and lights come up.