

Rainforest

Animals

Informational article (2 versions)
QR Code Research Page & Fact Sort



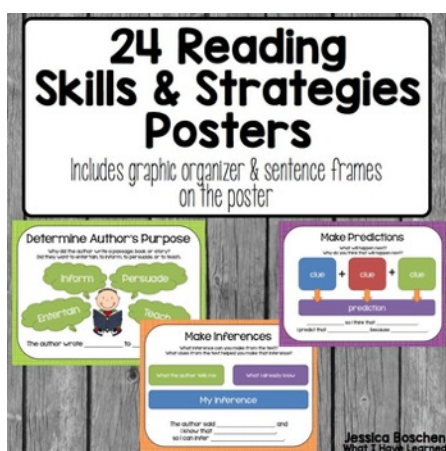
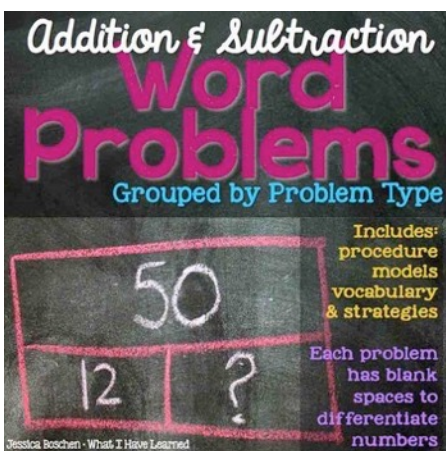
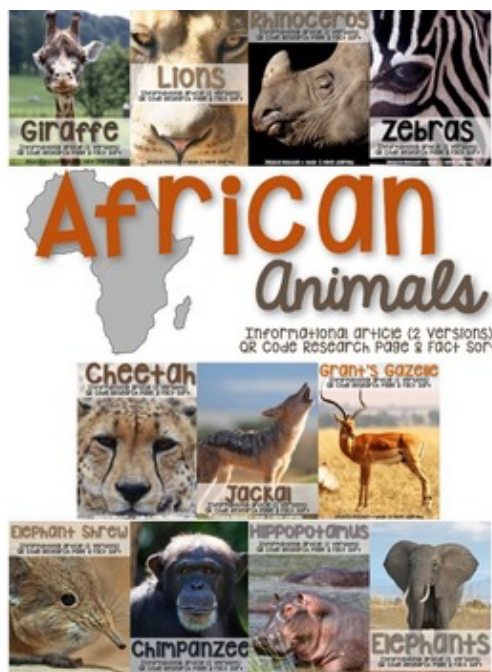
Anaconda
Capybara
Jaguar
Leaf cutter Ant
Lemur
Macaw
Morpho Butterfly
Red Eyed Tree Frog
Sloth
Toucan
Piranha
Poison Dart Frog

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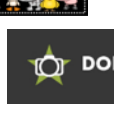
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Holiday

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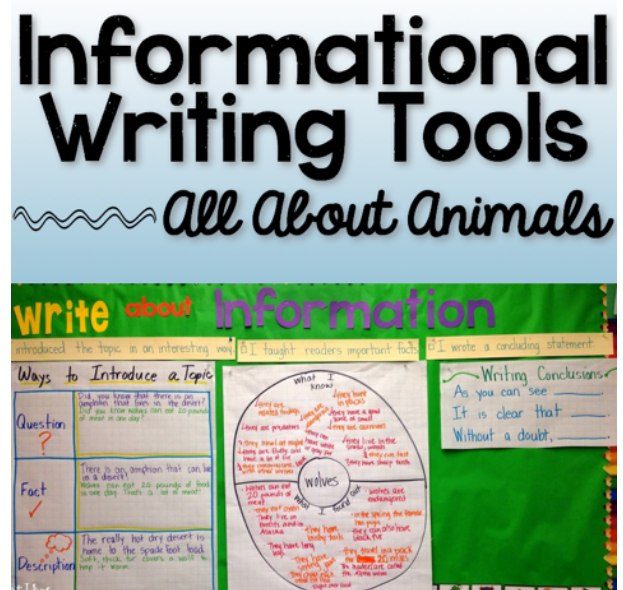
The following articles about Rainforest animals are written at a second and third grade reading level. They all follow a similar format and can be used for animal reports, informational reading, or text analysis. The sentence length, structure, and vocabulary have been controlled to make the text easier for young readers to understand.

The articles come in two formats: One full-page black and white article and one two-page article with colorful pictures. The articles have the same text. The only difference is the pictures.

The QR codes are for web sites and videos that give additional information about each animal. If you find that any QR code does not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of web sites, including Youtube (via SafeShare). Be sure you can access Youtube at your school.

The fact sort sheets are facts taken directly from the text. I use them to help students organize information from the text when writing about the animals. Either use the given categories or have students do an open sort and create their own categories.

I often use these articles during our informational writing unit. You can find more about this unit in this blog post.



Rainforest Animals

Two page with pictures.

Condensed one-page

Two versions of the reading passages

Anaconda



Anacondas are very large snakes. They live in swamps, marshes and slow-moving streams in the tropical rainforests of South America. Their scientific name means good swimmer and they are sometimes known as the Water Boa.

One type or species of anaconda, the Green Anaconda, is the largest, heaviest and second longest snake in the world. Anacondas are usually active at night, meaning they are nocturnal.

Appearance
Anacondas are usually a dark olive-brown or green. They have two rows of large black patches down their backs and smaller and spots with yellow centers along their sides.

They can grow up to 30 feet long (almost as long as a school bus). They usually weigh about 60 to 150 pounds, but can weigh up to 500 pounds (which is equal to 11 school-age children). Females are usually bigger than males.

Diet and Feeding
Because anacondas are mostly aquatic, they eat a wide variety of fish and other animals attracted to the water. This includes birds, mammals and other reptiles. Particularly large anacondas may sometimes eat large prey such as wild pigs, deer, capybaras, caimans and jaguars.



Baby Anacondas



Female anacondas have eggs which hatch inside their bodies. They give birth to live babies. Female anacondas are pregnant for about 6 to 7 months. They usually have about 20 to 40 babies, but they may have as many as 100. After giving birth, females may lose up to half their weight.

Baby anacondas are about 25 to 30 inches long when born. Neither parent cares for the babies after they are born so the babies have to look after themselves.

Anacondas can live over 10 years in the wild, but up to 30 years in captivity.



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Anacondas' eyes and nostrils are very high on their head. This allows them to be hidden under the water surface, either waiting for prey, or to swim without exposing their body.

Diet and Feeding
Because anacondas are mostly aquatic, they eat a wide variety of fish and other animals attracted to the water. This includes birds, mammals and other reptiles.

Anacondas spend most of their time in the water waiting for prey, but sometimes they wait in the trees and drip down to surprise prey. Anacondas have a very slow digestive system and after a large meal, they don't have to eat again for weeks or even months.

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QR Codes for Additional Research

Anaconda



Web Sites





Videos





Capybara



Web Sites





Videos





Jaguar



Web Sites





Videos





Fact Sort

Directions: Cut apart the labels and stick facts. Sort the facts into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
Macaws have long tails.	The area around their eyes is often featherless and white.	Mother macaws lay between one and four eggs.
Only the female macaw keeps the egg warm.	Macaws live in Central and South America.	Young macaws look different from their parents.
After hatching, the chicks leave the nest after 60 days, but stay with their parents for six months.	Macaws eat seeds, nuts, fruits, leaves, flowers, and stems.	Most macaws live in rainforests, but some prefer woodland or grassland areas.
Some macaws travel 80 miles to look for food they really like.	There are 19 species of macaws.	The male macaw will bring the female food while she is keeping the egg warm.
Macaws can imitate human speech.	Some macaws eat clay from the river.	Macaws live for 40-50 years in the wild.
Their wings, chests, throats, or cheeks are often a different color than the rest of their bodies.	Macaws are brightly colored.	Macaws have very strong beaks to break nuts.
Macaws build their nests in holes in trees, cliffs, or river banks.	They also have a strong cry, usually longer than they can push into the middle of their throats.	Their body can be blue, green, red, or yellow.

Directions: Cut apart the labels and stick facts. Sort the facts into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
Morpho butterflies are a group of about 80 species of large colorful butterflies.	When a Morpho flies, it suddenly appears and disappears because of the color of its wings.	The caterpillar has long, stiff hairs which are poisonous.
The adult Morpho lives for about a month.	They live in rainforests in South America, Mexico, and Central America.	The female Morpho is less bright than the male.
A morpho's diet changes throughout its life.	Morphos go through four phases in their life cycle.	Adult Morphos spend most of their time on the forest floor.
They start as an egg then hatch into a caterpillar.	They often collect together in sunny places to warm themselves.	As a caterpillar, it eats leaves.
When searching for mates, they will fly through all layers of the rainforest.	As an adult butterfly, it drinks the juice of rotting fruit, tree sap, fungi and wet mud.	The butterfly uses a proboscis, which is a long, thin tongue. It is like a drinking straw.
Morphos taste their food with taste-buds on their feet.	Males are very territorial and will chase away other males.	Some Morphos are threatened with extinction because their habitat is being cut down.
Morphos are brightly colored on the upper surface of the wings with blues and greens.	The bottom of the wings is often a dull color.	Morphos confuse animals that might want to catch them because of the coloring on their wings.

Directions: Cut apart the labels and stick facts. Sort the facts into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes looks, has, is	Actions does, can	Environment where it lives
Toucans are brightly colored birds.	Toucans live in groups of 5 to 6 birds.	The bill can be half the length of the body.
The toucans bill weighs very little.	They live in the rainforests in Central and South America.	Toucans sleep in holes in trees.
The bill is made of keratin, which is the same substance that makes up your hair and nails.	Toucans have short rounded wings.	There are about 40 different types or species of toucans.
Their legs are short, strong, and colored bright red, orange or blue.	Toucans are known for their extremely large and colorful bills.	Toucans use their bill for long time when it gets too hot.
Toucans rarely go to the forest floor.	They have two toes pointing forward and two toes pointing backward.	Toucans sleep with their bill tucked under their feathers to keep warm.
Toucans eat fruit, insects, other birds' eggs, tree frogs, lizards and fish.	Toucans are not good at flying.	The major body color of the toucan is black.
They also use their bill to sit in one spot and reach all the food around them.	They all have markings with white or yellow throats and bright blue patches around their eyes.	Toucans spend a lot of time in trees.
Toucans are known for their large colorful bills.	Toucans mainly travel in the trees by hopping.	Toucans live for about 20 years.