Professor Rae N. Forrest

Greetings Students,

It is my understanding that you have been studying the rain forest recently. Since this is my area of study and expertise, I am most interested. A good way to study the rain forest would be to visit one. So, why not? Please join me.

To get there, we'll have to fly first by charter jet. Once in rain forest country we will transfer to smaller prop planes that can actually fly into the forest and land there. These prop planes are rather small compared to the jet and can hold only 35 pounds of cargo, meaning your luggage.

You will be limited to one carry-on bag per person. In addition to your carry-on, you will need a survival kit, which I will provide. You must bring a hat, a jacket for rain, sunscreen, 1 complete change of clothes (including footwear), a water bottle (empty), and a personal hygiene kit (toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, etc.).

You will need to bring your carry-on bag to class, packed and ready for weigh-in and checking tomorrow.

You will be assigned to a 3-person or 4-person group prop plane travel. Be sure your total group luggage weight is 35 pounds or less. We have two charter planes available. Our 25-passenger plane can hold 200 pounds of luggage, and our 30-seater can hold 240 pounds of luggage. The total weight of the class's luggage must meet these limits in order to get the go-ahead for take-off. I will need a complete and accurate record of all luggage as part of our flight manifest to obtain flight clearance.

Tonight you need to pack your bag. Tomorrow you will bring your bag to school and begin to prepare for the trip! Jolly Good!

Sincerely,

Rae N. Forrest

Professor Rae N. Forrest

A TRIP TO THE RAIN FOREST

Grade Level: 4

Overview

The class receives an invitation to travel (via imagination, math, and video) to a rain forest. Each work group of students will be flying in a separate small bush plane. As on any flight, there are weight limits on luggage. Students must pack carry-on bags at home, bring these bags to class, make sure their group has the necessities outlined by the guide, weigh them, and still keep their group under the plane's weight limit. Finally, all groups will make the initial flight over the Atlantic Ocean in one plane that has a weight limit as well. The total weight of the total class luggage must be under that limit.

This project can be adapted for students in Grade 5 as well. See Customizing the Problem, page 38.

Objectives

- To use group and individual problem solving to collect, organize and use data in order to meet a set limit
- To select and use weight measurement tools in appropriate ways

The Mathematics

- estimation
- standard American or metric weight measurement
- addition with regrouping
- subtraction
- multiplication
- data gathering, organization, representation, and analysis
- working within the limits of the problem

Time Needed four to five 40-minute periods

Grouping Groups of three to four students are recommended.