

Rain, Rain Everywhere

El Yunque National Forest Quarter

Grades Four through Six



OBJECTIVES

Students will compare characteristics of tropical and temperate rain forests.



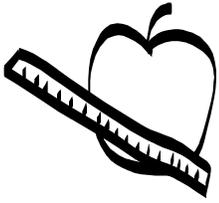
SUBJECT AREA CONNECTIONS

- Science
- Language Arts



SUMMARY

1. Display and examine the El Yunque National Forest quarter design. Locate this site on a class map. As background information, explain to the students that the United States Mint began to issue the quarters in the America the Beautiful Quarters® Program in 2010. By the time the program ends in 2021, there will be a total of 56 designs on the back of the coin. Each design will focus on a different national site—one from each state, territory, and the District of Columbia.
2. Display and compare the “El Yunque National Forest Quarter” and the “Olympic National Park Quarter” overhead transparencies. Explain to the students that the parks on these coins contain two different types of rainforests found in the world: tropical and temperate.
 - Tropical rainforests are found near the equator and receive over 400 inches of rain per year. The seasons do not change and the temperature averages 80 degrees Fahrenheit. El Yunque National Forest is a **tropical** rainforest.
 - Temperate rainforests are found near coastlines and receive over 100 inches of rain per year. The climate is wet and cool. Olympic National Park is a **temperate** rainforest.
 - All rainforests have a large amount of rainfall, very dense vegetation, and many plant and animal species.
3. Have the students research the El Yunque National Forest, the only tropical forest in the U.S. national forest system, and the Olympic National Park, home to a temperate rainforest. Using the “Proof of a Rainforest” worksheet, have them identify the characteristics that make these forests rainforests.
4. Using the “Tropical or Temperate Venn Diagram” worksheet, have the students chart the similarities and differences between the tropical rainforest in El Yunque National Park and the temperate rainforest in Olympic National Park. Have them write and illustrate a summary comparing the two forests.



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ASSESSMENT

- Use the students' class participation, worksheets, and final products to evaluate whether they have met the lesson objectives.
- Create a rubric for the final illustrated summary.



RESOURCES

- “El Yunque National Forest Quarter” page
- “Olympic National Forest Quarter” page
- “Proof of a Rainforest” worksheet
- “Tropical or Temperate” Venn diagram
- America the Beautiful Quarters® Program: www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/
- United States Park Service: www.nps.gov/
- United States Forest Service: www.fs.fed.us/
- El Yunque National Forest: www.fs.usda.gov/el
- Olympic National Park/Forest: www.nps.gov/olymp/ or www.fs.usda.gov/olympic/
- Redwood National Park: www.nps.gov/redw/



Name _____

Proof of a Rainforest



Directions: After learning about the characteristics of temperate and tropical rainforests, prove through examples that both El Yunque National Forest and Olympic National Park are actually rainforests. Write a final statement summarizing your findings.

CHARACTERISTICS	EL YUNQUE NATIONAL FOREST	OLYMPIC NATIONAL PARK
Significant rainfall		
Dense vegetation		
Many plant and animal species		

SUMMARY: _____



Name _____

Tropical or Temperate Venn Diagram

Directions: Compare the characteristics of tropical and temperate rainforests in the Venn diagram below.

TROPICAL



BOTH

TEMPERATE





El Yunque National Forest Quarter





Olympic National Park Quarter



The United States of America

