

The Rainforest?

What can I see, touch,
do, and learn in

There are so many things to experience in our tropical rainforest that it's difficult to list them all! For starters, you can watch for jaguars, count leaf cutter ants and butterflies, hear and see a waterfall, talk to a toucan, see a snakeskin, visit giant bugs...and *oh, so much more!*

Children's Museum of Oak Ridge

461 West Outer Dr., Oak Ridge, TN 37830

PHONE 865.482.1074 FAX 865.481.4889

Monday through Friday

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Year 'Round

Saturday and Sunday

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Sept – May

Saturday

11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. June – August



Welcome to The Rainforest and to the Rio dos Meninos Rainforest Reserve!

Before you begin your tour, visit our **Travel Agency**, with displays about rainforests, Brazil, and a giant floor-to-ceiling world map!

Check out of, and back into, the United States at our **U.S. Customs** booth—you'll need a passport to travel to **Brazil**, the **Amazon River Basin**, and the **Rio dos Meninos Rainforest Reserve!**

To help prepare you for your visit, look over the more than **40 paintings of the rainforest**. They were a gift from the **Museo Austral Naif**, a museum of primitive art in Argentina!

Begin your rainforest tour at the **Rio dos Meninos Rainforest Reserve Visitors Center**—sign our guest book, and see a video to get you ready to enter the rainforest!

Tour our **simulated Amazon rainforest**, complete with sound effects, a waterfall, a railed walkway, beautiful murals, an observation deck high in the forest canopy—and **many trees, flowers, and wild animals!**

When you're ready, **return to the Rio dos Meninos Rainforest Reserve Visitors Center** to learn more about rainforests—read a book, use Internet resources—see a snakeskin, or study giant bugs and reptiles!

The Rainforest Exhibit was partially funded by a generous grant from **Molten Metals Corporation**.

Why did we build our tropical rainforest?

The tropical rainforests of the world are beautiful, complex ecosystems which contain more than half of all living animal and plant species. As more research is done, we learn

how very important rainforests are to the welfare of the earth and to all of its living creatures, including all people.

We developed our exhibit to encourage children to learn more about rainforests by experiencing it in a playful setting with many different

opportunity levels to see, understand, and learn. From the mock travel agency entrance through the activity-packed, interactive visitor's center, we tell a story of what rainforests are all about—and why it is important to preserve them.



Enjoy your visit!

The staff of the Rio dos Meninos Rainforest Reserve

The Rainforest

An all new, magnificent tropical tour at the Rio dos Meninos Rainforest Reserve!



Do you want to travel to a hot and rainy place...

You do?

Then come to **Brazil** and visit our **Rio dos Meninos Rainforest Reserve** in the **Amazon rainforest!**

Welcome to the **Visitors Center!** It's part of our research facility, where you can visit as long as you wish. Please sign our **guest book**, and watch a short **video** about our facility and walking tour. Our bulletin board has current news about the world's rainforests from newspapers, journals, and the Internet. Here you can learn more about rainforests and how you can help protect them. Then, when you're **ready for adventure...**it's time to tour the rainforest!

There are a few rules: keep your **hands inside the walkway**, use very **soft voices or whispers** so you can hear the jungle noises, and **walk very slowly** so you don't miss any of the animals hiding everywhere in the dim light!



Have you noticed all the **leaf cutter ants**? They use the leaves to grow a **fungus** that they eat.



Look up! You might see **golden lion tamarin monkeys**, happy to have found some fruit.



There are so many things to see! **Markers** along the walkway will help point you to some of our favorites.

Start at the huge **emergent tree**, peeking above the **forest canopy**. This tree is 200 feet tall, and home to thousands of animals and plants. Can you find any?



Next, find the tree with enormous **buttress roots**. This root system helps keep giant trees from falling over. A **toucan** has found a cozy place for a nest—do you see her?



Do you know what **camouflage** means? Animals with colors like their background **habitat** aren't as likely to be seen—or eaten!—as those with colors that contrast with their backgrounds. Find the camouflage marker, then look up. Which **butterfly** do you see first?



Do you hear a **waterfall**? You're close to the **Rio dos Meninos**, a small tributary of the huge **Amazon River**. Our researchers study river life here. Look! They left their **canoe** near the walkway! Many animals, birds, and insects enjoy the river. How many do you see or hear?



Watch out! There could be **jaguars** in the **tree canopy** over your head! Do you see them? If they're napping, please don't wake them up!

Have you noticed how bright and beautiful **rainforest flowers** are? They need to make a big, showy display so

insects and birds can find them in the dim light.



and see snakes and toucans, jaguars and monkeys, frogs with poisonous skin—trees tall as 20-story buildings?

Climb up into the **observation deck** to get a better view of the forest. From there, you'll see even more animals, birds, and flowers.



Trees that fall in the rainforest are quickly decomposed by **insects, earthworms, fungi, and bacteria**. Have you seen a **decaying log** on the forest floor? When a tree falls, it opens a space in the **canopy** to let in light that helps smaller trees grow.

Did you enjoy your tour?

When you go back to your school or home, **discuss what you have learned**, along with **ways you can help the world's rainforests**.

Maybe someday you'll be the **scientist** who finds a powerful new **rainforest medicine** to cure illnesses in the 21st century.

Thanks for visiting! Come back again soon!

The staff of the Rios dos Meninos Rainforest Reserve