

ZAMASAMA PRESENTS

Welcome to the Forest



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THEMES

Inclusion & Disability

Environment & Conservation

Empathy and understanding

Accessibility in nature

Wildlife appreciation

Sensory exploration

Story Discussion Guide

- Understand the impact of homelessness on children.
- Recognize global housing insecurity and its effect on education.
- Reflect on social exclusion and bullying due to poverty.
- Cultivate empathy and respect for all peers. Inspire strength and hope in children facing hardship.

LESSON PLAN SUMMARY

This lesson uses *Welcome to the Forest* to introduce sensory exploration, inclusion, and environmental appreciation. It is flexible so that younger children can engage through play and sound, while older children can discuss accessibility and conservation.

Discussion Questions

Lesson Plan – Ages 3–5

Before Reading:

Show a picture of a forest and ask: “What do you hear in the forest?”
Invite children to close their eyes and imagine they are walking in the woods.

During Reading:

Pause when a sound is mentioned and mimic it together.
Let children touch props (tree bark, leaves, feathers) while reading.

After Reading:

What was your favorite sound in the forest?
If you could be any animal in the forest, which would you be?

Activities:

Sound Matching Game: Play animal or forest sounds and let children guess.
Texture Bags: Hide safe natural objects; children feel and guess them.
Make the Forest Come Alive: Act out animal sounds and movements.

Lesson Plan – Ages 5–8

Before Reading:

Have you ever been to a forest or nature park?
In what ways do you think that people with disabilities can enjoy the forest?

During Reading:

Why do you think Uncle Ranjit wanted to show the forest in different ways?
Which sense do you think Tulsa used the most?

After Reading:

What can parks and zoos do to help people with different abilities enjoy them?
What can parks and zoos do to help people with different abilities enjoy them?

Activities:

Sound Safari: Create a soundscape and have students describe what they imagine.
Touch-and-Tell Challenge: Blindfolded students feel natural objects and guess them.
Accessibility Brainstorm: Draw a “Forest for Everyone” poster with ideas to make it inclusive.

OUTCOME

Children will:

- Experience excitement in exploring nature using their senses.
- Build empathy and understanding for different ways of experiencing the world.
- Build empathy and understanding for different ways of experiencing the world. See that children everywhere share the same curiosity and joy in exploring and
- protecting nature — nurturing Zamasama’s vision of one common humanity.

Applicable SDGs & Explanation

- SDG 4 – Quality Education: Promotes inclusive education
- SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities: Highlights accessibility and equal opportunities for people with disabilities.
- SDG 15 – Life on Land: Builds respect for wildlife and natural habitats.

Curriculum Alignment

Rent Party Jazz

Sharing Hope

The Strong Woman is My Mother

ABOUT ZAMASAMA

Zamasama is a nonprofit platform that brings together stories from around the world to help children discover that beneath our differences—of culture, language, or belief—we share the same hopes, joys, and dreams. Today’s children are tomorrow’s citizens, and the responsibility of building a more peaceful, tolerant, and empathetic world lies with them. That’s why it’s vital to instill these values early—through stories that help them rise above the biases they inherit, and see diversity as a strength that unites us all.