



Discovery Lab, Grenada Upper Elementary

What's The Buzz?

Unit One: Amazon Voyage

Director's Message

Welcome to GUES and the Discovery Lab school year 2010-2011. We are so excited about the year ahead of us. The Discovery Lab is a wonderful math and science experience for your child. The lab is a place for learning and exploration. This year is full of great units such as Amazon Voyage, The Human Footprint, Powering Up and Heroic Measures. The students will begin on a journey to the Amazon rainforest. They will be introduced to the animals and plants that are part of this magnificent place.

During their journey they will explore deeper the world of frogs and owls, both are common animals here in our area of the world, but the Amazon houses some of the most unusual and rarest of these animals. Students will also learn about rainforest plants and how many of them are used to make medicines that we use every day. Our school and the Discovery lab have websites that you can view to learn more about the lab and receive more information on our units. The websites are listed below.

Visit them often for updates and pictures from the lab throughout the year. New instructor, Renee Moore, and myself, Melody Shaw, look forward to a successful school year with you.



Fun Facts: Amazon Rainforest

- More than half of the world's estimated 10 million species of plants, animals and insects live in the tropical rainforests.
- One-fifth of the world's fresh water is in the Amazon Basin.
- One in five of our planet's birds live in the rainforests of the Amazon.
- At over 1.2 billion acres, the Amazon Rainforest covers two-fifths of South America, spreading across nine countries.
- The Amazon Rainforest has been described as the "Lungs of the Earth. More than 20 percent of the world's oxygen is produced in the Amazon Rainforest.
- At least 3000 fruits are found in the rainforests.
- Rainforests cover only 6% of the Earth's landmass.
- Rainforests contain more than half of the world's estimated 10 million species of plants, animals, and insects.



Discovery Lab

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Animal Spotlight: Poison Dart Frog

Tiny poison dart frogs may only be one inch long, but they pack a powerful punch—of poison. Weighing less than an ounce, these frogs are considered one of Earth's most toxic, or poisonous, species. For example, the golden poison dart frog has enough poison to kill 20,000 mice.

With a range of bright colors – yellows, oranges, reds, greens, blues– they aren't just big show-offs, either.

Those colorful designs tell potential predators, "I'm toxic. Don't eat me."

Scientists think that poison dart frogs get their toxicity from some of the insects they eat.

Poison dart frogs capture their prey using their long, sticky tongue that darts out and zaps the unsuspecting bug! The frogs eat many kinds of small insects, including fruit flies, ants, termites,

young crickets, and tiny beetles, which are the ones scientists think may be responsible for the frogs' toxicity.

A group of frogs is sometimes called an army.

In captivity, a poison dart frog can live for about ten years.



Animal Spotlight: Sloth

Sloths live in the tropical forests of Central and South America. With their long arms and shaggy fur, they resemble monkeys, but they are actually related to armadillos and anteaters.

It's a good thing sloths don't have to go to school. They'd never make it on time. These drowsy tree-dwellers sleep up to 20 hours a day! And even when they are awake, they barely move at all. In

fact, they're so incredibly sluggish, algae actually grows on their fur.

There are two main species of sloth, identified by whether they have two or three claws on their front feet. The two species are quite similar in appearance, with roundish heads, sad-looking eyes, tiny ears, and stubby tails.

Sloths eat mainly leaves and fruit and get most of the wa-

ter they need from plants. They are clumsy and virtually helpless on land and rarely come down from the trees. About once every week, they descend to go to the bathroom, slowly moving about by digging their front claws into the dirt and dragging their bodies.



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Important Information

Body Walk at GUES!!
September 13-17

Discovery Lab will participate in Class of the Week nominations!! We will be looking for the class that is the most enthusiastic and curious about Science.

GO WILD

WITH THE MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

Be on the lookout for a Naturalist from the Science Museum to visit in October!!

WANTED:

STUDENTS WHO LOVE SCIENCE

We will also be looking for students to take with us on field trip opportunities, participate in extra science lessons and a Science Club. Students who come to lab prepared, excited and motivated may be chosen.

