

Of Frogs and Parrots

El Yunque National Forest Quarter

Grades Nine through Twelve



OBJECTIVE

Students will analyze how geography and ecology influence a region's wildlife.



SUBJECT AREA CONNECTIONS

- Social Studies (Geography)
- Science



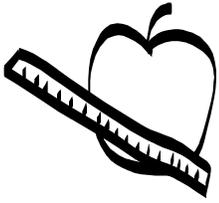
SUMMARY

1. Review the basic geographic concepts that apply to this lesson.
2. 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.
3. Display and examine the El Yunque National Forest quarter design, focusing on the coqui tree frog and *Amazona Vittata*, the Puerto Rican parrot. Locate El Yunque National Forest on a map of Puerto Rico.
4. Generate observations about the geography and climate of the area. Have the students predict the types of animals, insects, and birds that would be part of the ecosystem of this rainforest.
5. Introduce the students to a virtual field trip to Puerto Rico by projecting pictures of El Yunque National Forest. Divide the class into three groups and assign each a separate research area: “The Rainforest El Yunque,” “Disappearing Parrots,” and “Raining Frogs.” Have each group submit a summary and colored illustrations. Create a classroom scrap book or multimedia presentation. Compile the presentations and give each student a copy of the final product.



ASSESSMENTS

- Take anecdotal notes about the students' participation in class discussions.
- Evaluate the students' worksheets and project for their understanding of the lesson objectives.



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RESOURCES

- “El Yunque National Park Quarter” page
- “Presenting El Yunque” worksheet
- El Yunque National Forest web sites:
 - www.fs.usda.gov/
 - www.fs.fed.us/r8/el_yunque/...9-22-2005_americas_rain_forest_shtml,
 - www.usmint.gov/mint_programs/atb/
- America the Beautiful Quarters® Program: www.usmint.gov/kids/teachers/lesson-Plans/atb/

Name _____

Date _____ Class Period _____



Presenting El Yunque



Directions: Write a summary and provide printed or hand-drawn illustrations using the instructions below for your assigned research area.

GROUP 1: THE RAINFOREST EL YUNQUE

Members of the group: _____

El Yunque is the only tropical rain forest in the U.S. National Forest System. Define "rainforest." How is this type of forest different from any others? What are the characteristics of El Yunque, and what specific ecosystems exist within this forest?

GROUP 2: DISAPPEARING PARROTS

Members of the group: _____

Amazona Vittata, the Puerto Rican parrot, is now an endangered species. What conditions have existed in El Yunque that caused this population to go from 100,000 to less than 100? When did this species first begin to decline in numbers? Who has been responsible for trying to increase this parrot's population, and how successful has the effort been?

GROUP 3: RAINING FROGS

Members of the group: _____

The coqui tree frog is primarily found in El Yunque. Research this species of tree frog. How many other species of tree frogs exist in Puerto Rico, and what distinguishes the coqui tree frog from the others? What influence has the sound of the coqui frog had on the music of Puerto Rico? Do the frogs actually fly and "rain"? Explain.



El Yunque National Forest Quarter



The United States of America

