



Tree of Wonder: The Many Marvelous Lives of a Rainforest Tree

Written by Kate Messner Illustrated by Simona Mulazzani

Tree of Wonder is colorfully illustrated and loaded with lots of facts about the almendro tree. This book covers animals and creatures that call it their home and eat the fruit it produces in the rainforest, with informative facts about each. Math facts throughout help illustrate how interdependent our ecosystem needs to be to survive.

READ

Before: Introduce the book and tell the children a little bit about it. Follow with a comment or question that is related to the story such as, *what do you think this story is about?* Encourage a discussion so the children can comment, ask questions, and express their feelings.

During: Encourage the children to comment on the illustrations, ask questions, and predict what will happen next in the story. Children gain confidence and a sense of achievement through being able to correctly predict how a story will end. Point out "rare words" (e.g., those words that are not commonly used in everyday conversation) and help the children relate the meaning in a way that makes sense to them.

Key Words

Almendro tree - a large tree native to tropical forests of Central America. Almendro wood is extremely heavy and dense, making it useful for construction projects such as railroad building and high-impact sporting goods.

territory - an area that an animal or group of animals uses and defends

sprout - to produce new leaves, buds, etc.

venom - a poison that is produced by an animal (such as a snake) and used to kill or injure another animal, usually through biting or stinging

predator - an animal that lives by killing and eating other animals; an animal that preys on other animals

air plants - plants that grow on other plants - clinging to tree trunks, rather than by rooting in the ground

- After:**
- How many flowers can a single almendro tree produce?
 - What types of birds like to feast on the fruit of the almendro tree?
 - How many keel-billed toucans travel in a flock?
 - What are some unique characteristics of a howler monkey?
 - Where do fruit bats roost during the day? What do they do at night?
 - Agoutis are scatter hoarders, how do they help the almendro tree grow throughout the rainforest?
 - What animal has wings that resemble the face of an owl or hawk?
 - Why are tadpoles safer in an almendro tree than on the ground of the rainforest?
 - How do leafcutter ants help the rainforest?
 - What can you do to help protect the almendro tree and the rainforest?



DO

Research! Check out this free and informative 50-minute video to learn more about the almendron tree and life in the rainforest:

<https://www.amazon.com/Almendro-Tree-Life-Barbara-Puskas/dp/B00H8UYM54>



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