



What and where is Puerto Rico? Activity 4: Tropical Regions/ Mapping Biodiversity

Summary:

Through web site resources, class readings, and hands-on activities students will learn where Puerto Rico is, the geography and vegetation of the island, and understand the history of the commonwealth.

Materials:

- Global 200 Map (WWF Biodiversity Basics)
- Ecoregion Species Cards (*See Biodiversity Basics*)
- Ecoregion at-a-Glance pages (*See Biodiversity Basics*)
- Secret Message Cards (*See Biodiversity Basics*)
- Scissors
- clear tape or glue
- string
- world maps or atlases

Set-Up:

- **hang up** Global 200 Map
- **make copies** Ecoregion Species Cards
- **make copies** Ecoregion at-a-Glance pages
- **make copies** Secret Message Cards
- **gather** Scissors, clear tape or glue, string, world maps for atlases for student use

Procedure:

Mapping Biodiversity– Three 45 min. periods

This lesson is from the WWF's Biodiversity Basics curriculum. This lesson doesn't focus directly on Puerto Rico, but more on the tropical regions in general and it focuses on where biodiversity is most dense around the world. It stresses the importance of the tropical region. This lesson consists of students taking part in a mapping activity to explore the world's ecoregions and learn how experts make decisions about which natural areas to protect. This will give students a good foundation of diversity for the next activity. For complete instructions, please see *Biodiversity Basics*, Lesson 23.

Grade Level: 7-8

Goal: Students learn about the history of Puerto Rico, and will be able to compare the tropical vegetation and geography to Wisconsin.

Key Concepts:

- Greater Antilles
- West Indies
- Tropical Vegetation
- Island Origin
- Commonwealth
- Biodiversity

Objectives: Upon completion of this lesson, students will:

- 1) be able to identify Puerto Rico on a world map
- 2) describe the vegetation
- 3) explain the governmental relationship between the US and Puerto Rico

Teaching Location:

Classroom
School Forest or other outdoor area (preferably with trees)

Activity Time:

3, 45 minute periods

Subject Areas for Infusion:

science, social studies, English, Environmental Ed.

Assessment: See lesson for list of assessments.

References:

Braus, Judy. "Mapping Biodiversity." Biodiversity basics : an educator's guide to exploring the web of life. Acorn Naturalists, Tustin, CA : 1999.

Standards:

Science:

B.8.4

C.8.3,.4

E.8.1, .2, .3

English:

A.8.4, C.8.2, C.8.3,

E.8.3

Social Studies:

A.8.1, A.8.5, A.8.8,

B.8.3, B.8.8

EE:

A.8.4, A.8.5, B.8.2,

B.8.3, B.8.5, B.8.10,

B.8.12, B.8.15,

B.8.23