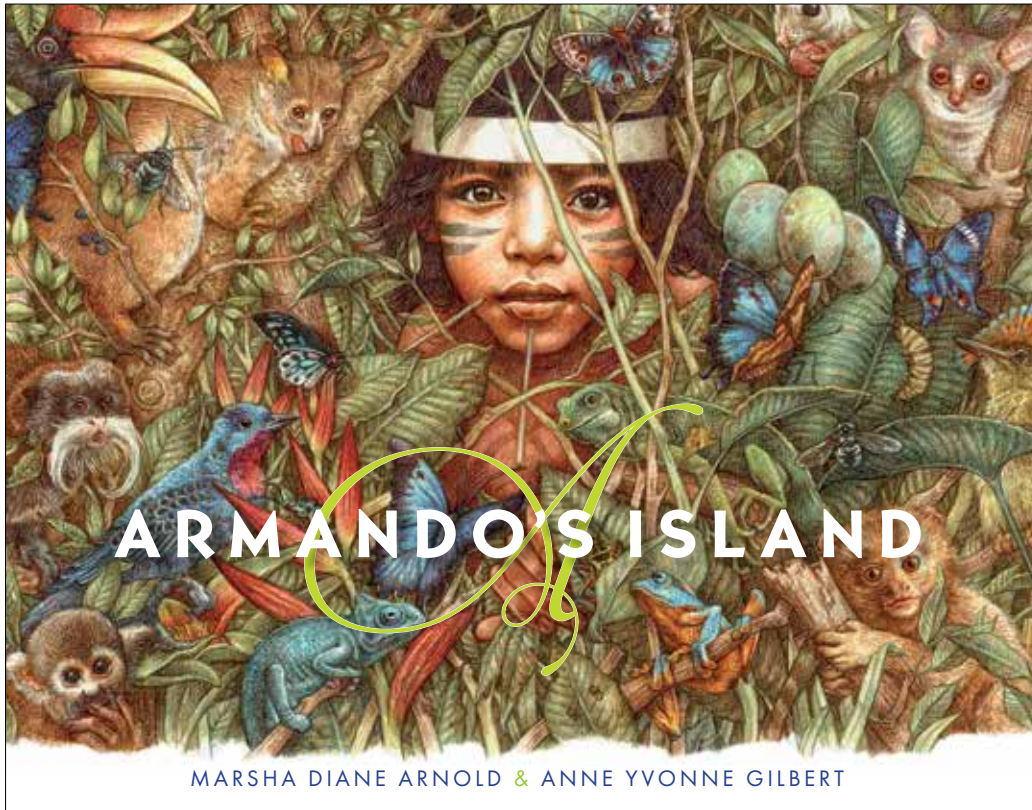


ARMANDO'S ISLAND

Teacher and Parent guide

written by Marsha Diane Arnold illustrated by Anne Yvonne Gilbert

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About **Armando's Island**

Armando's Island is a picture book about a man who steadfastly protects his rainforest "island" as a solitary refuge for the animals and plants he loves. It's an ode to conservation heroes who stand against masses and a song to the rainforests.

About the Author **Marsha Diane Arnold**

Called a "born storyteller" by the media, Marsha Diane Arnold's picture books have sold over one million copies and been called "whimsical" and "uplifting." Honors include the Ridgway Best First Book by a New Author, Smithsonian Notable, Children's Choice Awards, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, and Golden Kite finalist for picture book text. Marsha loves wildlife and nature and has worked to protect them all her life. She and her husband once had a home in Costa Rica, nestled in the rainforest. They now live in Florida, surrounded on two sides by tropical forest preserves.

About the Illustrator **Anne Yvonne Gilbert**

Anne Yvonne Gilbert has designed and illustrated children's books, postage stamps, record sleeves, and posters, infusing her work with a fairy-tale sensibility especially befitting the subject matter of *Armando's Island*. After many years spent in Canada, she and her husband make their home in northern England.



Activities

for *Armando's Island*

There is a difference in knowledge by acquaintance and knowledge by knowing information. We may never travel to the Amazon rainforest, so we will not know it by acquaintance. But we can immerse ourselves as much as possible with videos, audios, books, and activities and we may know and appreciate it a little in this way.

English Language Arts:

Reading Comprehension

Before reading *Armando's Island* - Explore the Book and Predict

Share the front cover with your students. Ask them to look at the illustrations.

- Invite students to share what they see and to predict what the setting of the story is.
- From looking at the cover, what do they think the story is about? What are the clues they see?

Ask:

- What emotion do you think the boy on the cover is feeling?
- What do the animals on the cover tell you about the story?
- What does the setting tell you about the story?
- What questions would you like to ask the author before reading the book?
- What questions would you like to ask the illustrator before reading the book?

Read or listen to *Armando's Island*

After reading, ask:

Who are the people who created *Armando's Island*?

- Ask students who the author is.
- Ask students who the illustrator is.
- Ask students what kind of work each did to make the book.

Ask and discuss the following:

- Ask students what their favorite part of the story is.
- Ask what happened to Armando and the animals at the end.
- Did anything in the story surprise them?
- What lesson did they learn from the story?
- Which picture did they like the most? Why?
- How did the illustrations contribute to the story?
- Did the illustrations make them feel like they were in the story? How?
- What did they think about the ending?

Writing Activities

Alliteration Activity

Explain to students what alliteration is – the repetition of the same letter or sound, usually at the beginning of two or more neighboring words. Show them some examples of alliteration in *Armando's Island*.

The following examples have lots of the letter “s.” Note that in these examples, the “s” at the ending of some words adds to the alliterative sounds.

Sunlight snaking.

Macaws stopped screeching.

Monkeys stopped swinging.

Tree-frogs stopped splashing.

Green-furred sloths opened sleepy, saucer eyes, as they fled, to the south, to Armando’s.

Ask the students to choose three animals from the book and write a sentence about each of them with as much alliteration as they can.

Story Starter:

Read this Story Starter to the students. Ask them to write a few pages about what happens.

Maya and Marcos stood at the beginning of a path, a path that led into the ancient rainforest of the Amazon. They looked at each other and stepped into the dense forest. They needed to find the home of the injured Amazon jaguar before the tree cutters arrived.



Listening in the Rainforest

Explain that the animals in Armando’s forest were always listening and when you live in a rainforest, you must listen too.

Ask students to close their eyes.

Play a recording of the Amazon rainforest. The clip below has a variety of sounds. (An ad sometimes plays at the beginning.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZKSx-6MSWIs>

Stop the recording every so often and ask the students what they hear.

Animal Sounds of the Rainforest

Explain that rainforest creatures have unique calls.

Play these audio clips to your class.

Ask the students to guess which of the following rainforest animals make the sounds.

Kinkajou, Amazon River Dolphin, Giant River Otter, Macaw, Capybara, Ocelot, Howler Monkey, Jaguar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ENUqQpnMF3s> – Jaguar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s--SjtMypEM> - Capybara

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f0H8GQArS2M> – Ocelot

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/kmzz0xbhOfE> – Howler Monkey

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xYUC8WfwCb8> – Amazon River Dolphin

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNsBAojpTc> - Macaw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5-SNCJFhhU> – Giant River Otter

<https://www.kinkatopia.org/kinka-vocal> – Kinkajou



Let's Create a Macaw!

Explain to the students that everyone will create a beautiful macaw, one of the most spectacular birds in the rainforest.

Materials Needed:

- Colored construction paper — red, blue, yellow, green
- Colored tissue paper — red, blue, yellow, green
- Scissors
- Glue or tape
- Markers or colored pencils

Directions:

- 1) Ask the students to cut a large oval shape out of colored construction paper. This will serve as the macaw's body.
- 2) Ask the students to cut a smaller oval shape out of brightly colored construction paper for the head.
- 3) Ask the students to cut six long, narrow rectangles for the wings, from the colored construction paper. Ask them to cut a larger, elongated shape for the macaw's tail. Have them use various shades of blue and green to represent the macaw's colorful plumage.

- 4) Tell the students to decorate the body and head with markers or colored pencils, adding beak, eyes, and feather patterns.
- 5) Show the students how to glue or tape the wings onto the sides of the macaw's body, overlapping the body. Show them how to attach the tail at the bottom of the body.
- 6) Tell the students they may glue colored tissue paper onto the macaw to create more plumage.
- 7) Allow the crafts to dry if glue has been used. Display the macaws in the classroom.

Science in the Rainforest

Animal Research Project

Have each student or pairs of students choose one of the animals in *Armando's Island* to research on the internet or with library books.

Ask them to gather this information:

- Type of animal
- Where the animal lives
- What the animal eats
- Two interesting facts about the animal
- Three words to describe the animal
- Draw a picture of the animal

Students can either make a poster or a book with the animal image and information.

Rainforest Word Search

Find the following words in the puzzle:

Agoutis, Capybara, Frog, Jaguar, Kinkajou, Macaw, Ocelot, Otter, Sloth, Toucan

Words may go across, down, or diagonally. Words can share letters as they cross over each other.

c	a	g	o	u	t	i	s	o
j	a	g	u	a	r	l	l	c
m	v	p	e	y	h	p	o	e
t	a	i	y	c	a	w	t	l
o	w	c	v	b	m	q	h	o
u	b	n	a	s	a	v	u	t
c	h	x	q	w	f	r	o	g
a	o	t	t	e	r	z	a	y
n	k	i	n	k	a	j	o	u

Create a mini rainforest ecosystem

Explain that the class will make a mini rainforest.

For younger children, emphasize the animals and plants and their role in the ecosystem.

For older students, discuss photosynthesis, the water cycle, and the layers of the rainforest.

Materials needed:

- Large glass jar or aquarium
- Potting soil
- Small plants – ferns, moss, tropical plants
- Small rocks or pebbles
- Spray bottle full of water
- Plastic wrap
- Optional – small Amazon rainforest animal figurines

Directions:

- 1) Ask your students to cover the bottom of the glass jar or aquarium with a layer of small rocks or pebbles. This will provide drainage.
- 2) Help your students add a layer of potting soil on top of the rocks. Tell them to make certain the soil is deep enough for the plants.
- 3) Help your students plant the small plants in the soil.
- 4) Tell your students to add animal figurines to represent the Amazon wildlife.
- 5) Tell you students to spray the soil and plants with water from the spray bottle.
- 6) Ask your students to cover the jar or aquarium with plastic wrap. Tell them to leave a small opening for air circulation.
- 7) Help the students place the jar in a well-lit area, but not in direct sunlight.
- 8) Assign students to monitor the moisture levels and spray with water as needed to maintain a humid rainforest-like environment.
- 9) Observe the mini rainforest ecosystem daily. Ask the students what they see happening. Keep a notebook where one note keeper can note things like plant growth and condensation onto the plastic wrap.

Math in the Rainforest

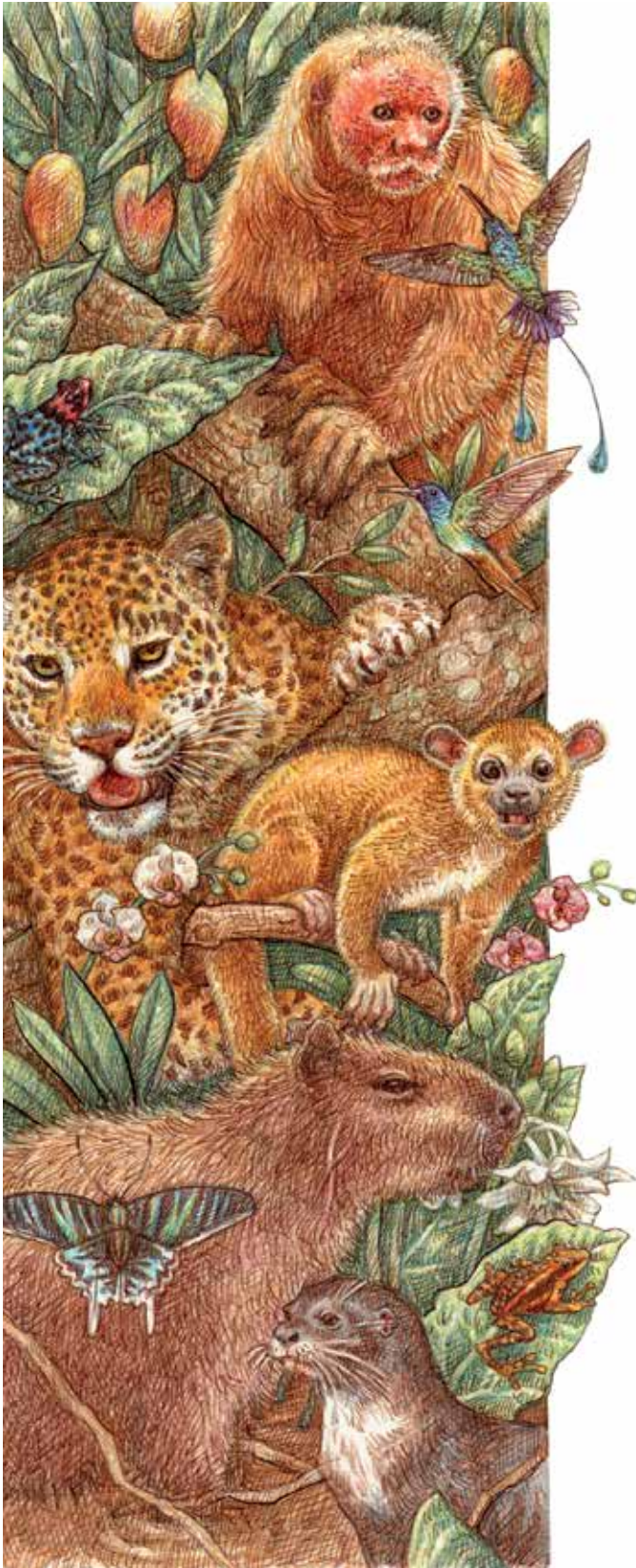
Math Problems

- If 5 toucans are sitting on a tree branch and 6 more fly in, how many toucans are in the tree? (11)
- A group of 12 monkeys is playing on a tree. 5 monkeys swing off to find food. How many monkeys are left playing in the tree. (7)
- If each student in the class planted 5 trees and there are 30 students, how many trees would be planted? (150)
- If each student in OUR class planted 5 trees, how many trees would be planted?



Rainforest Geography

- Explain that the Amazon rainforest is the largest rainforest in the world – the Amazon Basin is roughly the size of the forty-eight contiguous United States, some 2.72 million square miles.
- Provide each student or group of students with a world map or a large map of South America.
- Instruct them to locate the Amazon rainforest and the countries that surround it – Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guyana, Suriname.
- Instruct them to identify major rivers like the Amazon river.



Character Education in the Rainforest

Discussion:

- Explain that many children in the rainforest learn from their parents and grandparents about how to live in the forest and care for it.
- Ask students what they think Armando might have learned from his parents and grandparents.
- Ask students what they have learned about caring for nature from their parents and grandparents.

My Rainforest Hero Story:

- Ask students to describe how Armando acted when asked to sell the rainforest.
Steadfast, stoic, trustworthy, dependable, unwavering. A steward.
Discuss what those words mean, perhaps looking them up in a dictionary.

Focus on the word “steward.” Explain to students that people who take care of things, who treat things with respect, and do no harm are stewards. Discuss how students think they would react in a similar situation.

- Ask students how the animals felt when the rainforest around them was being cut and burned.
Scared, confused, worried, alarmed.
Discuss what those words mean, perhaps looking them up in a dictionary.
- Ask students if they have ever felt like that. How did they respond? Would they have appreciated a safe spot, like Armando’s “island,” when they felt that way?
- Discuss with students how Armando, the main character in *Armando’s Island*, was a hero to the creatures of the rainforest.
- Ask the students to write a story about how they might be a hero to the rainforest or one of the animals of the rainforest. Ask them to illustrate their story too.



Heroes for the Rainforest

Explain that each of us can be a hero for the rainforest. No one is too young. No effort is too small.

Discuss with students the environmental issues facing the Amazon rainforest: deforestation, illegal logging, mining. Explain that these issues not only affect the Amazon, but the whole world.

Divide students into groups and assign one of the issues to each group to research and then give a short presentation to the class.

Actions - How Can You Help?

- One of the best ways to help is to learn about the Amazon rainforest and how important it is to our planet. The more we learn about it and understand it, the better decisions we can make and the more aware we can make others.
- Some organizations working to protect the Amazon rainforest are:
 - [Rainforest Alliance](https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/) — <https://www.rainforest-alliance.org/>
 - [Rainforest Foundation US](https://rainforestfoundation.org/) — <https://rainforestfoundation.org/>
 - [Amazon Watch](https://amazonwatch.org/) — <https://amazonwatch.org/>
 - [World Wildlife Fund](https://www.worldwildlife.org/) — <https://www.worldwildlife.org/> (Then search "Amazon rainforest.")
 - [Rainforest Trust](https://www.rainforesttrust.org/) — <https://www.rainforesttrust.org/>