



Family Activities

Title: **The Shaman's Apprentice: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest**

Author: **Lynne Cherry and Mark J. Plotkin**

Illustrator: **Lynne Cherry**

In this story of discovery and hope, a fatal disease comes to the Tirio village in the Amazon leaving only a few villagers with faith in the shaman's healing. When a foreign woman arrives, she helps the village understand the importance of the shaman's wisdom, and this helps a Tirio boy realize his dream. LeVar and author/ethnobotanist Mark Plotkin visit the Tirio village and meet Kamanya, the boy from the book, who has become a shaman.

Here are several activities you and your child can do together after watching this program.

Tropical Garden Terrarium

You will need:

- clear plastic 2-liter pop bottle
- gravel
- potting soil
- crushed charcoal
- small plants such as ferns, moss, ivy, tropical flowers
- clear tape

Directions:

1. About a third of the way down from the neck of the bottle, cut across to remove the top. (Later the top will be put back in place.)
2. In the bottom of the bottle, put a 1½ inch layer of gravel. Add a thin layer of crushed charcoal. Add a 3-inch layer of soil.
3. Carefully plant the tallest plants in the middle of your bottle. Scoop a hole with a plastic spoon, lower the plant into the hole, and pat down the soil. Continue by planting the smaller plants around the larger one. Make certain the plant roots are covered with soil. Add a bit of soil if needed.
4. Trickle water down into the bottle.
5. Reattach the bottle top to the bottom by taping or cover with plastic wrap and tape. Place it in a light place, but not in direct sunlight. Then watch your garden grow!

Weaving

Weaving is important to those who live in the rainforest. They weave baskets to be used in many ways. Your family may want to practice weaving just like the Trio



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villagers. Using a large piece of construction paper make 1-inch silts lengthwise to create the warp for your weaving. You will need many strips of paper 1 inch by 11 inches to be woven through the warp. Use different colored strips to make your weaving colorful. Practice weaving over, under, over, under. If your strips are too long, cut them after you are through. Use your weaving as place mats for your supper table. Your family will be quite impressed!

Rain Sticks

You will need:

- paper towel tube
- toothpicks
- rice
- tape
- markers or paint

Directions:

1. Take your towel tube and start to push the toothpicks through the inside of the tube. Parents or caregivers may need to help. Crisscross lots of toothpicks through the tube at various points. The more toothpicks the more it sounds like rain.
2. Put tape over the bottom hole of the tube, so it is completely closed.
3. Pour a handful of dry rice into the tube.
4. Now tape up the other end
5. Decorate your rain stick with markers or paint. Slowly tip your rain stick and it will sound like you are in the rainforest.

Be An Apprentice

Share your special talents with your child. Let them become an apprentice of sort, by learning to do something that you are good at. Whether you knit, garden, fix lawn mowers, or cook, be sure to pass on these special talents.

A Trip to the Community Library

Here is a book you can find on your next trip to the library:

Here is the Tropical Rain Forest by Madeleine Dunphy