

RAIN FOREST

TOUCANS

Purpose

- To learn about toucans and their habitat, the rain forest
- To explore the use of oil pastels

Docent Provides

- One piece of 12" x 18" black construction paper
- Portfolio
- Examples of stages of lessons
- Pictures of toucans
- Oil pastels
- Kleenex
- Newsprint to cover desks.
- Rain Stick - to retain students attention!
- Music Tape

Set Up

- Students should cover their desks with newsprint paper
- Distribute black construction paper and oil pastels
- Display pictures of toucans and examples of lesson

Introduction

□ Toucans

- Live mostly high in the trees of the rain forests of Central and South America. They live in groups of 6-10 birds around palm tree areas. They eat mainly this fruit and others and some insects. They will also attack weaker birds during nesting season and eat their eggs. They eat a fruit or insect by flipping it in the air with their bill, then swallow it whole. They also toss food to each other.
- Their bill may be a third of their length and although it looks heavy, it is very lightweight. The outside is made of keratin, like your fingernails.
- Inside the bill is an incredible tongue! It's as long as the bill and very narrow. No one has figured out why the tongue is shaped the way it is.. It has closely-packed barbs like those on a feather.. In fact, the word toucan comes from a Brazilian word meaning feather.
- Toucans nest in holes in trees and lay two eggs. They make a hissing noise and are difficult to get near. Like many rain forest creatures these birds are threatened as more and more of the world's rain forest is cut down to sell the exotic wood and to provide room for raising cattle.

□ Describe what students will do

- Draw some toucan bills and explore the use of oil pastels. Show examples.

□ Oil Pastels

- You'll notice oil pastels are somewhat like crayons, but they are greasy. Because of this, you will need to:
 - Wipe you hands with Kleenex
 - Gently brush off the bits of pastel that pile up on your paper onto your newsprint with the Kleenex
 - Be careful of clothes!
 - Keep sticks clean by replacing them in their holder each time.

Procedure

□ Draw outline in White

- Start with line where the bill meets the head.
- Draw a long curved top.
- Draw a serrated edge in middle.
- Draw curved under bill
- Draw outline of bib
- Draw in two more bills (smaller ones)
- Add a black tear-drop shape on top end of beak
- Outline black band near head end of bill.

□ Head and Eye

- Dime size eye
- Larger circle around eye
- In dime-size circle place a white dot.
- Fill in larger circle with white
- Make one more serrated large circle around eye (show examples) Now undercoat with white then add yellow and green on top for feathers. Can blend in with finger. Can add some blue too around this area.
- Use black to close top of head and accentuate serrated part of eye.
- You can also add a few black or brown lines in white of eye (iris) .

□ Undercoat bill and bib

- Use white to start because it makes the colors brighter and more luminous. Do not undercoat black or very dark colors.

□ Topcoat bill and bib

- Bright yellow over white then can smooth with finger.

□ Details on bill

- Bright orange on edge of bill and serrated mouth across center of bill.

- Put deepest red on outside of orange edges of bill and next to serrated orange on mouth.
 - We contrast with cool colors, light green and light blue around tear drop nostril.
 - Highlight with white on top of yellow in center part of bill and blend.
 - Use black to outline entire bill and tear drop and serrated mouth edge.
- **Complete other two bills**
- Working in the same way, use cool colors this time highlighted with hot colors. Or make a bill like one of the examples you see. Or use your imagination. Scientists believe we may not have discovered all the different kinds of these birds yet.
- **Rain forest background**
- You can leave the background black or add two colors of green to give your birds a familiar habitat. Either use the colors together in an all over pattern or make plant shapes. Refer to poster for leaf and bamboo examples as well as finished examples. May want to demonstrate on blackboard some of these.

The finished project looks great if laminated as it seals off the oil pastels. However, it must be run through on fast mode #3 in order for it not to melt and run colors together. Teachers can ask their aids to help out here.