



## Who is Living in the Forest?

Lesson Plan for Grades K-3

**Focus Question:** Why is Hawai‘i such a special place? Where do native plants and animals live?

**Lesson At A Glance:** In this series of activities, students will learn about native plants and animals that live in forest communities and compare and contrast that to their school environment.

### Key Concepts:

There are many unique plants and animals in Hawai‘i. They have adapted to various growing conditions and have developed interdependent communities. Some native plants and animals have become very rare. Some have gone extinct.

### Objectives:

Students will be able to:

- Observe and identify plants and animals on a DVD and discuss how they are interdependent.
- Describe the different layers of a forest.
- Explain why some animals cannot live without the forest.
- Describe why forests are important to us.

**Time:** 2 weeks

**Materials:** ‘Ōhi‘a Project lessons “Trees are Treasures” and “Forest for Us”

Maoli Nō DVD and DVD player

Book: Beyond ‘Ōhi‘a Valley: Adventures in a Hawaiian Rainforest (by Lisa Matsumoto)

**Subject Areas:** Science and Social Studies

**Standard Met:** Standard 5: Life and Environmental Sciences: Diversity, genetics, and evolution. Understand genetics and biological evolution and their impact on the unity and

diversity of organisms. Benchmark 2.5.1: Identify distinct environments and the different kinds of organisms each environment supports.

**Procedure:**

1. Introduce the lesson by showing the song, “*Kahuli Aku*” on the Maoli Nō DVD. There are many images of plants such as moss or smaller plants growing on the branches of trees. Point out these images as they come up and explain that the smaller plants depend on the trees for safety and nourishment. It may also be helpful to pause the DVD at these points to discuss and describe what is happening in the images. Explain that the snails and plants are native to Hawai‘i.
2. In the song, “*Kahuli Aku*,” there are also many images of rainforest canopies. Describe these canopies using the images provided in the DVD. Have the students break up into groups of four or five to create these forests using their bodies. Who is sheltering the other plants and who is being sheltered? How are the plants lower down in the canopy helping the taller ones?
3. Read and discuss the story Beyond ‘Ōhi‘a Valley. Ask students if they recognize any plants or animals from the Maoli Nō DVD. Where do these plants and animals live? (forest)
4. Conduct the following lessons from the ‘Ōhi‘a Project: “Trees are Treasures,” Humans and the Environment K-1, p. 144 and “Forest for Us,” Humans and the Environment K-1, p. 147.
5. Go out to the schoolyard with students and ask them to look for different types of plants and animals. Are any of them native to Hawai‘i? (Most likely not if your school is in an urban area.) Discuss why more native species are not found here. What will allow them to come back?

**Extended Activities:** In the Maoli Nō DVD, watch the song, “*I‘iwi Polena*.” Have the students pay special attention to the birds shown. Explain that these birds are native to Hawaii and found nowhere else in the world. Describe the importance of the different types of beaks the birds have using the images in the DVD. Create an activity by instructing the students choose a bird they saw and making a puppet made from recycled materials at home. When they bring the bird back to school have them talk about the reason for choosing the shape of the beak. What does their bird eat?

**Resources:** Videos – “Rainforest Friends” and “Flowing to the Sea”

