

Create a Creature

For the final project, you will create your own temperate rainforest animal that would be well adapted to this environment. You can be as creative as you want in creating your animal. Once you've created your temperate rainforest creature, you will draw it in its habitat. You will need to include other animals and plants that might interact with your animal.

While creating your animal, answer these questions:

- How will they stay warm?
- What will they eat?
- How will they find shelter?
- How will they blend into their environment?
- What will they do in the rain?
- What senses do they need to improve?
- How will they walk through dense vegetation?
- What behavioral changes do they need to make (Migration? Hibernation?) Additionally, you will write a brief artist statement answering these questions:
- What temperate rainforest layer does your animal live in and why (canopy, understory, or forest floor)?
- What are at least three adaptations that your animal will have to help it thrive in its environment?
- What two senses has your animal adapted to use the most? How do they use these senses?
- What two (or more) plants or animals covered in the presentation interact with your animal?
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For example, does your animal eat epiphytes like lichen? Are there any predators your animal would need to look out for? Does your animal eat other animals? Does your animal use trees for shelter?

After completing your artist statement, you'll be ready to start your drawing. The drawing will show your new animal in the temperate rainforest. In the drawing, you should include two plants or animals that interact with your animal. These can be smaller and in the background, but should help your drawing tell a story.

Example creature: Frogmouse of the Temperate Rainforest



For my final project, I chose to create a frogmouse. Frogmouse is part frog and part mouse and I was inspired to create it because I think there are aspects of a frog and a mouse that would do well in the temperate rainforest. My frogmouse would live on the forest floor of the temperate rainforest because it likes to spend time in the water in the warmer months and then in the winter it shelters in the hollow areas between Western Red Cedar tree roots.

My frogmouse is adapted to have thick, warm, waterproof fur so that it can stay warm in the water. My frogmouse has large ears and an excellent sense of hearing so it can hear any predators that might sneak up on the ground or even by air. My frogmouse has adapted a temperate rainforest diet of lichen and ferns because those are two of the plants that also share the forest floor. My frogmouse likes to hang out on rocks or logs that are often slippery so it has adapted to have sticky toe pads on the bottom of its feet that help the frogmouse to hang on even when rocks are wet. The two senses my frogmouse uses the most are hearing and sight because it needs to be on the lookout for eagles coming down from the sky.