



EXPEDITIONARY
LEARNING

Grade 5: Module 2A: Unit 1:

Recommended Texts



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Unit 1 builds students background about rainforests around the world, with a particular focus on biodiversity. The list below includes texts with a range of Lexile® text measures on this topic. This provides appropriate independent reading for each student to help build content knowledge. Note that districts and schools should consider their own community standards when reviewing this list. Some texts in particular units or modules address emotionally difficult content.

It is imperative that students read a high volume of texts at their reading level to continue to build the academic vocabulary and fluency that the CCLS demand.

Where possible, texts in languages other than English are also provided. Texts are categorized into three Lexile measures that correspond to Common Core Bands: below-grade band, within band, and above-grade band. Note however that Lexile measures are just one indicator of text complexity, and teachers must use their professional judgment and consider qualitative factors as well. For more information, see Appendix 1 of the Common Core State Standards.

Common Core Band Level Text Difficulty Ranges:

(As provided in the NYSED Passage Selection Guidelines for Assessing CCSS ELA)

- Grade 2–3: 420–820L
- Grade 4–5: 740–1010L
- Grade 6–8: 925–1185L

Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures below band level (under 740L)			
<i>A Rainforest Habitat</i>	Molly Aloian and Bobby Kalman (authors)	Informational	470
<i>The Magic School Bus in the Rain Forest</i>	Scholastic Publishers	Informational	550 ¹
<i>Rain Forests</i>	Nancy Smiler Levinson (author), Diane Dawson Hearn (illustrator)	Informational	570
<i>El Soñador</i>	Pam Muñoz Ryan	Literature	650
<i>The Great Kapok Tree: A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest</i>	Lynne Cherry (author/illustrator)	Literature	670
<i>El gran capoquero: Un cuento de la selva Amazonica</i>	Lynne Cherry (author/illustrator), Alma Flor Ada (translator)	Literature	NP
<i>Tropical Rain Forests</i>	Peter Benoit (author)	Informational	730



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures within band level (740–1010L)			
<i>Rain Forests: Garden of Green</i>	Laura Purdie Salas (author), Jeff Yesh (illustrator)	Informational	770
<i>Rain Forest Explorer</i>	Greg Pyers (author)	Informational	830
<i>One Day in the Tropical Rain Forest</i>	Jean Craighead George (author)	Informational	880
<i>Natures Green Umbrella: Tropical Rain Forests</i>	Gail Gibbons (author/illustrator)	Informational	880
<i>Hands of the Rain Forest: The Emberá People of Panama</i>	Rachel Crandell (author/photographer)	Informational	890
<i>Discover the Amazon: The World's Largest Rainforest</i>	Lauri Berkenkamp (author), Blair Shedd (illustrator)	Informational	900*
<i>Tree of Life: The Incredible Biodiversity of Life on Earth</i>	Rochelle Strauss (author), Margot Thompson (illustrator)	Informational	910
<i>Protecting Earth's Rain Forests</i>	Anne Welsbacher (author)	Informational	920
<i>Bats, Bugs and Biodiversity: Adventures in the Amazonian Rain Forest</i>	Susan E. Goodman (author), Michael J. Doolittle (photographer)	Informational	920*
<i>The Rainforest Grew All Around</i>	Susan K. Mitchell (author), Connie McLennan (illustrator)	Verse	980
<i>La Selva Creció y Creció</i>	Susan K. Mitchell (author), Connie McLennan (illustrator)	Verse	NP ²

*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level



Title	Author And Illustrator	Text Type	Lexile Measure
Lexile text measures within Grade 6–8 band level (925–1185L)			
<i>The Dreamer</i>	Pam Muñoz Ryan	Literature	NP
<i>Chatter, Sing, Roar, Buzz: Poems about the Rain Forest</i>	Laura Purdie Salas (author)	Poetry	NP
<i>Biodiversity of Rain Forests</i>	Greg Pyers (author)	Informational	1020*

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*Lexile based on a conversion from Accelerated Reading level

¹Available as an ebook through <http://store.scholastic.com/webapp/wcs/stores>.

²Available as an ebook with Bi Lingo, LLC (translator).