**Objectives**

Explore the way cacao and its environment influence people's culture and lifestyle

**Materials**

- *Chocolate: Riches from the Rainforest* by Robert Burleigh
- Pictures of cacao and its ecosystem (appendix)
- Overhead transparency of the People of the Rainforest scenarios
- A class set of the People of the Rainforest scenarios (P. 77)
- Art supplies for visual representation of rainforest and its people (poster board, markers, construction paper, etc.)

**Lesson Plans**

**Background Activities:**

1. Ask students to imagine that they are going to live in a nearby park or forest preserve.
   - What basic needs do they have to meet to survive?
   - How will they meet those needs (i.e., What would they use to build a shelter? Where would they get food?)

2. As a class, generate a list of the materials students would use to meet their needs.
   - Where they would obtain these materials?
   - Why did they choose them (availability? cost? necessity?)

3. Discuss the impact of the environment on people's ability to meet their needs (e.g. availability of materials?)

**Instructional Activities:**

1. Show students the picture card of the cacao tree and its surrounding ecosystem. Ask students to list the natural resources they see and then to think about the following questions:
   - What do the people who live in this environment use to make their houses?
   - Where do they get their food and what kinds of food do they eat?
   - How do they earn their living?
   - How might these people be connected to chocolate?

2. Help students become familiar with a group of people who live, harvest and use cacao. We suggest reading the book *Cocoa Ice* by Diana Applebaum or *Chocolate: Riches for the Rainforest* by Robert Burleigh with your students. You can also show them the pictures of the cacao farmers.

3. Have students think about the following questions:
   - How are the people of the rainforest utilizing the cacao tree to meet their needs?
   - How has the cacao tree influenced the people who live in the rainforest?
   - How would their lives be affected by the growth or decline of the chocolate industry?

4. Have students choose one of the two following fictional scenarios and create a visual representation (poster, diorama, sculpture, etc.) of the effect on the rainforest and on the indigenous people who live there based on the scenario they choose.
Lesson - Who Grows Chocolate and How Does it Affect Their Lives?

Lesson Plans (continued)

Scenario 1
*News flash... CHOCOLATE CURES THE COMMON COLD*

Researchers have discovered that people who eat at least 6 oz. of chocolate a day have a 95% less chance of contracting the common cold virus. Since this scientific announcement, chocolate bars have been flying off the shelves. Mike Mulligan, CEO of Mall-mart says, “It’s amazing! We can’t keep up with the demand for chocolate. They’re buying absolutely everything—from chocolate bars to chocolate cough drops.”

Scenario 2
*News flash... CHOCOLATE LINKED TO BAD LUCK*

After a year-long study of people who eat chocolate, researchers have found that the amount of chocolate a person consumes is directly related to the amount of negative energy or “bad luck” a person experiences. Scientists believe that the theobromine in chocolate emits negative ions, which cause adverse effects such as flat tires, stepping in large puddles, failing tests, and bad hair days. Scientists advise that people cut chocolate completely out of their diets, and instead, satisfy their sweet tooth with pastries, cotton candy, and other non-chocolate sugar items. Chocolate manufacturers have already begun to convert their chocolate processing plants into licorice factories and pizza parlors. Economists estimate that by the end of the year, 85% of the chocolate industry will be out of business.
Activity

Choose one of the two following invented scenarios. Write a brief description and create a visual representation (poster, diorama, sculpture, etc.) of the effect the described situation would have on the rainforest and the indigenous people who live there based on the scenario you choose.

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Scenario 2

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Escoge uno de los dos panoramas. Crea una representación visual (póster, diorama, escultura, etc...) del efecto que tiene en el bosque tropical y en los indígenas que viven en el área basándose en el panorama que escogiste.

**Panorama 1**
*Boletín informativo... EL CHOCOLATE CURA EL RESFRIADO*

Los investigadores han descubierto que la gente que come cuando menos 6 oz. de chocolate al día tiene un 95% menos de probabilidad de contagiarse con el virus del resfriado. Desde que se dio a conocer este descubrimiento las ventas de chocolate subieron hasta las nubes. Mike Mulligan, CEO de Mall-mart declaró, “¡Es sorprendente! No podemos dar abasto a la demanda de chocolate. La gente está comprando de todo, desde barras de chocolate hasta pastillas de chocolate para la tos”.

**Panorama 2**
*Boletín informativo... EL CHOCOLATE TRAE MALA SUERTE*

Después de un año de estudiar a gente que come chocolate, los investigadores descubrieron que la cantidad de chocolate que consume una persona está directamente relacionada al nivel de energía negativa o “mala suerte” que tiene este individuo. Los científicos creen que la teobromina del chocolate emite iones negativos, que tienen efectos negativos como llantas desinfladas, caer en charcos, reprobar exámenes y tener mal cabello. Los científicos aconsejan a la gente que deje al chocolate absolutamente fuera de su dieta, y que en su lugar consuma pan, algodón de dulce y otras golosinas que no contengan chocolate. Los fabricantes de chocolate ya han comenzado a convertir sus plantas de chocolate en fábricas de otras golosinas y en pizzerías. Los economistas creen que para fin de año, el 85% de la industria del chocolate habrá desaparecido.