

# How does Rainforest Explorer link to Assessment in SOSE?

It is possible for teachers to use **Rainforest Explorer** for assessment purposes. There is an implied aim that it can be used for only a single lesson or anything up to a term. Certainly to get the most out of **Rainforest Explorer**, we encourage teachers to use the resource in its entirety.

*Demonstration of learning outcomes:* **Rainforest Explorer** allows students to demonstrate certain outcomes from Levels 4 and 5, which can then be used to make judgements on student work.

*Comprehensive range:* **Rainforest Explorer** uses a variety of media that could be used as assessment instruments. Students have the chance to demonstrate outcomes in a variety of flexible ways.

*Student monitoring of progress:* **Rainforest Explorer** is based loosely on Gardner's Multiple Intelligences. As such, the possibility exists for students to map their intended activity route, and consequently self-monitor their progress.

*Current knowledge of child and adolescent development:* **Rainforest Explorer** acknowledges that students behave and learn in different ways. The variety of issues included in this resource is a way for students to find something relevant to their own lives, which may help them to invest emotionally in their own progress.

*Integral part of the learning process:* **Rainforest Explorer** encourages authentic assessment. In fact, many activities have the dual purpose of being assessable by teachers, while at the same time, leading to actual change. By taking an issues approach to learning this increases the possibility that students can involve themselves in real-life problem solving.

*Valid and reliable information:* **Rainforest Explorer** has been structured so that, as students progress, activities increase in complexity. Activities have been designed to be as clear and unambiguous as possible. Conditions have been included to ensure that relative achievement between students is valid.

*Social justice principles:* **Rainforest Explorer** promotes an inclusive curriculum in three interdependent ways. First, the resource allows students multiple pathways to success. A variety of media is available to ensure all students are catered for. Second, the resource takes an issues-approach which means that activities may be relevant to students' lived experience. Finally, **Rainforest Explorer** encourages critical inquiry. Students are hopefully empowered to see the relationship between implicit values and explicit decision making.