

How does Rainforest Explorer link to Lifelong Learning in SOSE?

Rainforest Explorer addresses all seven lifelong learner categories.

Knowledgeable person with deep understanding: **Rainforest Explorer** requires students to think deeply on issues. It does this by providing a range of competing and complementary sources which students are asked to critique. There is a focus on the different dimensions of issues (such as social, environmental, political, and economic) and how these dimensions interrelate.

Complex thinker: **Rainforest Explorer** is based on Bloom's Taxonomy. Students are asked to move from lower order thinking processes to higher order thinking processes. In particular, there is an emphasis that 'facts' are open to question, and that student conclusions must be presented tentatively.

Creative person: **Rainforest Explorer** requires students to engage in studies that span time, cultures and places. In doing so, it is hoped that students develop a natural curiosity for their world. In particular, the focus on the interconnections between issues allows students to practise transferring their knowledge across different domains.

Active investigator: **Rainforest Explorer** is an inquiry based resource. Students are exposed to, and practise framing, key questions that lead to further investigations. Students learn to critique a variety of sources, compare evidence and, most importantly, draw justifiable conclusions.

Effective communicator: **Rainforest Explorer** includes a number of activities that allow students to communicate in a range of media. The structure of activities is loosely based on Howard Gardner's Multiple Intelligences. What this means is that students have the opportunity to communicate their ideas in written, visual, multimedia, graphic, diagrammatic and oral media.

Participant in an interdependent world: **Rainforest Explorer** aims for students to **act** on the issues they've investigated. There is a focus on arriving at conclusions, but more importantly, using their knowledge and understandings in an empowering way. Ideally, students walk away from **Rainforest Explorer** feeling greater responsibility for their role in ensuring the World Heritage value of the Wet Tropics is maintained.

Reflective and self-directed learner: **Rainforest Explorer** allows students to navigate their own pathways through the different activities. Through the self-directed activities, students are also asked to reflect on their own life and how this impacts on the future of the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area.