

What is a MODEL?

Constructing a model is a good way to show the complexity of the rainforest. Constructing a model of the rainforest is very similar to drawing a picture of it. The benefit of a model is that your audience can look at the rainforest in three dimensions. The challenge for you is to decide what recycled materials to use to make your model look realistic. Use the information below to help you construct your model:

1. Your model should show **SCALE**.

- It is common to think of the different levels of the rainforest. Your model should show the canopy, the understorey and the rainforest floor. It should also attempt to show how elements like water and the weather impact on the rainforest.
- For each different level of the rainforest, include examples of plants or animals that are unique to that level. For instance, you could show a *Wompoo Fruit-Dove* sitting high in the canopy.

2. Your model should show a lot of **DETAIL**.

- Your model should include the *micro scale*. You want to convey a sense of the complexity of the rainforest. Include things in your model that the average person might not notice. It could be an example of a *green ants'* nest hidden within thickly entangled *syzygium* branches.

3. Your model should show **LIFE**.

- Your audience needs to get a sense that the forest is a living thing. Include mammals, insects and birds, even humans so that your audience gets a sense that the rainforest is home to many things.

4. Your model should show **COLOUR**.

- The rainforest is probably one of the most colourful ecosystems. Show the colour of the rainforest. Use colours that many people might not associate with the rainforest such as the pink fruit of the *Lilly Pilly* or the yellow *Cooktown Tulipwood*.

5. Your model should show **RELATIONSHIPS**.

- Make sure that your audience gets a sense of the relationships that exist in the rainforest. For instance, a *Sulphur-crested Cockatoo* might be eating *Northern Silky Oak* fruit, or a *White-tailed Rat* might be stealing eggs from a *Pale-yellow Robin's* nest.

Hints

- Spend some time in the rainforest simply observing. Look at the shapes found in the rainforest and try to think where these shapes are replicated in your home. For instance, a toilet roll might conceivably represent the thick trunk of a *Banana Fig*.