No Monkeys, No Chocolate

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Ecosystems, the Rainforest, Animals

Book Brief: This book traces how chocolate gets from the tropical rainforest into our stomachs. Each player has an important role in the process.

Authors: Melissa Stewart and Allen Young

Illustrator: Nicole Wong

TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Ask children what they think the monkey on the cover is eating. What do monkeys have to do with chocolate? Tell them this story is about how chocolate gets to our grocery store shelves. They may be surprised at some of the steps in the process!

RELATED ACTIVITIES

CHUNKY MONKEY MIX (AGES 5-12)

Ingredients: dried banana chips, chocolate chips, almonds, shredded coconut, 1 zip-up baggie per child

Give each child a plastic baggie and spoon. Have ingredients in large bowls so that children can spoon them into the baggies to create their own chunky monkey mix. (Be sure to check for nut allergies beforehand.)

WHITE CHOCOLATE? (AGES 7-12)

Materials: 4 snack size chocolate bars, 4 bowls, plastic wrap

Have you ever had a chocolate bar with white spots? That’s what happens when the sugar and fat in the chocolate begin to separate. Experiment to see what type of environment will cause chocolate to whiten faster. Put each chocolate bar in a bowl; cover with plastic wrap. Place each bowl in a different location: hot, cool, moist, and neutral. Observe bars to see which environment causes white spots to appear first.

IT’S A MYSTERY (AGES 5-7)

Create a mystery box for children to practice using their sense of touch. To prepare, cut a hole large enough for a child’s hand at each end of a shoebox. Put one rainforest item in the box. Have children put a hand through each hole. Have them describe what they feel and guess what the object is. Open the lid after everyone has had a turn and see if the predictions were correct. Suggested mystery items: banana, chocolate bar, lemon, coffee beans, rubber ball, and chewing gum.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Animal Grossapedia (2012)
A Place for Butterflies (2011)
Under the Snow (2009)