



Forest FunDay

You don't want your community to miss out on this awesome VBS, so get the word out by hosting your very own promo event called the Forest FunDay. This is a carnival-type event held two to three weeks before VBS so you can preregister children, build excitement, and spread the word throughout the community.

The Forest FunDay will be a good time filled with games, crafts, activities, and snacks. Admission is free. Invite the community by setting up an event page on Facebook and by mailing or handing out **"You're Invited!" invitations** to church attendees, friends, sports teams, clubs, and family.

For a list and description of suggested activities to offer at your carnival, check the following pages. (**Activities** are also on the Resource Download.)

Many of these suggestions can also be incorporated into VBS week or the closing program if not used prior to VBS.

Setup

- Decide if your event will be indoors or outdoors. If indoors, use a multipurpose room. If outdoors, choose a grassy area or a safe area of the church parking lot.
- Each activity should have its own space, a sign with its name, prize tickets, and a marker or stamp (12-1-093) to use on each child's master ticket.
- Use folding tables or large cardboard boxes for activities requiring a base. Drape each table with a colorful, thematic tablecloth, fabric, or sheet. Attach boards, PVC pipe, or long cardboard tubes to each side of the table.

Stretch a colorful sign made from roll paper between the two boards and add some colorful balloons.

- A simpler option is to use rope, cones, or sidewalk chalk to mark individual activity spaces.
- Choose a few of the decorating suggestions found in the decorating section. Keep it fun, colorful, and simple.
- Play VBS music.

Staffing

- Enlist at least one worker for each activity area. Church families may want to sign up to decorate, organize, and staff one activity each. This divides the workload into small, manageable pieces.
- Workers should dress in VBS T-shirts or jungle-themed clothing.
- Friendly, costumed greeters can welcome the arriving families.

Registration

- Set up the registration area near the entrance to your event. Warmly greet each arriving family.
- Check everyone in.
- Copy extra **carnival master tickets** on bright card stock. Cut apart. Give one to each child. This ticket enables children to participate in each activity once and will be marked or stamped at each location when it is completed.
- Sign up any unregistered children for VBS. (See **registration forms** on the Resource Download.)

Activities and Games

Note: Some of the games need a start line, finish line, or throwing line. These can be made from painter's tape, masking tape, rope, cones, or chalk.

Forest Flowers

SUPPLIES

- » Brightly colored tissue paper, cut into 8 x 8 inch squares, at least 6 per person
- » Green pipe cleaners, at least 1 per child
- » Child-safe scissors

DIRECTIONS

- » Stack six layers of tissue paper and fold accordion-style.
- » Trim the ends into semicircles.
- » Fold in half.
- » Use a stem (pipe cleaner) to cinch around the mid-point fold.
- » Gently separate the layers, pulling upward and downward, until you've formed a flower.
- » Players get 1 ticket after completing this activity.



FunDay Face Painting

SUPPLIES

- » Face paints
- » Paintbrushes
- » Wet wipes
- » **Face Painting Reference Chart**

DIRECTIONS

- » Paint the kids' faces using images on the Face Painting Reference Chart.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.



Tutti-Frutti Tree

SUPPLIES

- » 3 buckets
- » Zip ties
- » Ladder
- » 3 pieces of play tropical fruit (real or fake)

DIRECTIONS

- » Ahead of time, hook buckets to different rungs of a ladder.
- » Players have three tries to throw the tropical fruits into the buckets. The higher the bucket, the more points a fruit is worth.
- » Give 1 ticket for a fruit that lands in the bottom bucket, 2 for the middle bucket, and 3 for the highest bucket.



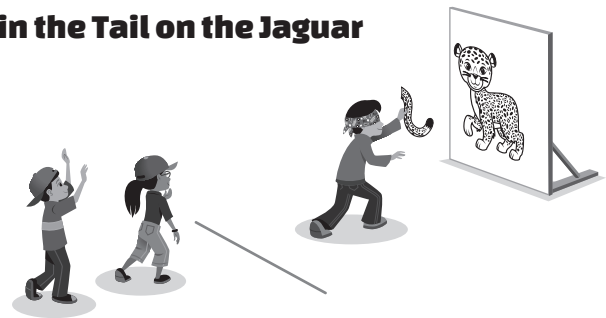
Pin the Tail on the Jaguar

SUPPLIES

- » **Jaguar Backdrop** (see Resource Download)
- » Jaguar tail cutouts
- » Tape or sticky tack
- » Blindfold

DIRECTIONS

- » This is played like Pin the Tail on the Donkey.
- » Ahead of time, put up the backdrop and put loops of tape or sticky tack on the jaguar tails.
- » Have at least two players play this each round.
- » One at a time, players are blindfolded, spun around, and sent off in the direction of the jaguar backdrop with a jaguar tail in their hand that they're trying to pin nearest to the jaguar's tail area.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity. Give 2 bonus tickets for the tail that is closest to the right spot.



Jungle Boat Photo Spot

SUPPLIES

- » **Photo spot backdrop**
- » Step stool for small children
- » Camera (smart-phone can work)



DIRECTIONS

- » Make or buy (12-1-127) the photo spot and put it up. There are **clip art** images in the Resource Download you may want to use if making your own.
- » Children stand behind the backdrop and put their face through the hole. Photograph them and print the picture (either at the carnival or later) to give to them. You may want to have a spot during VBS where they can pick them up.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.

Forest Fishing Hole

SUPPLIES

- » Fun foam fish
- » Paper clips
- » Fishing line
- » Magnets
- » Dowel rods
- » Small wading pool or large tub



DIRECTIONS

- » Write 1, 2, or 3 on each fish.
- » Attach 1 paper clip to each fish.
- » Tie fishing line around one end of the dowel rod.
- » Attach a magnet to the other end of the fishing line.
- » Players “catch” a fish and receive the appropriate number of prize tickets, according to the number on the fish.



Jungle Scavengers

SUPPLIES

- » Writing utensil, 1 per team
- » Paper lunch bag for collecting items that begin with the letters in “rainforest” (see Resource Download for list), 1 per team
- » **Scavenger Hunt List**, 1 per team

DIRECTIONS

- » Collect the items on the list in the paper bag.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for each item found.

Tropical Drop

SUPPLIES

- » Large mason jar, pickle jar, or other large container with moderately narrow opening
- » Small plastic tropical animal figurines

DIRECTIONS

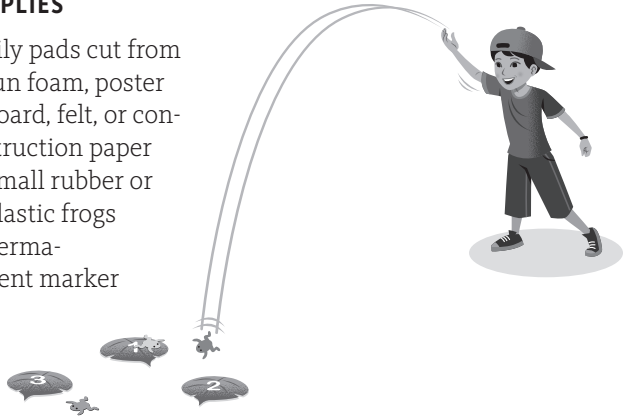
- » Players stand directly over the jar and have 3 tries to drop an animal figurine directly into the mouth of the jar.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity and an extra ticket for each successful drop.



Leapin' Lily Pads

SUPPLIES

- » Lily pads cut from fun foam, poster board, felt, or construction paper
- » Small rubber or plastic frogs
- » Permanent marker



DIRECTIONS

- » Write 1, 2, or 3 on each lily pad.
- » Scatter the pads on the ground.
- » Players get 3 turns to toss a frog onto the lily pads.
- » Total the points and receive that number of prize tickets.

Rainy Ring Toss

SUPPLIES

- » 3 2-liter bottles
- » Sand or rice
- » Jungle animal face cutouts
- » Tape
- » 3 rings



DIRECTIONS

- » Fill 3 2-liter bottles half full with sand or rice. Tape faces of jungle animals to the front of the bottles.
- » Players have 3 tries to toss the rings over the bottles.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for playing and an extra ticket for each successful toss.

Lemon Puckering Contest

SUPPLIES

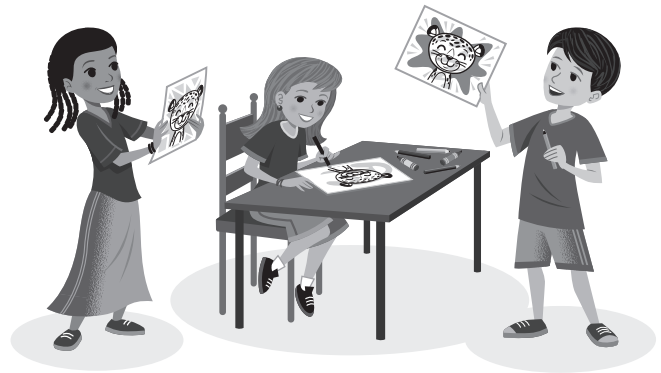
- » Lemon wedges

DIRECTIONS

- » Attempt to suck on a lemon wedge without puckering.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for completing this activity. Receive a bonus ticket if the player didn't pucker.



Canopy Coloring Contest



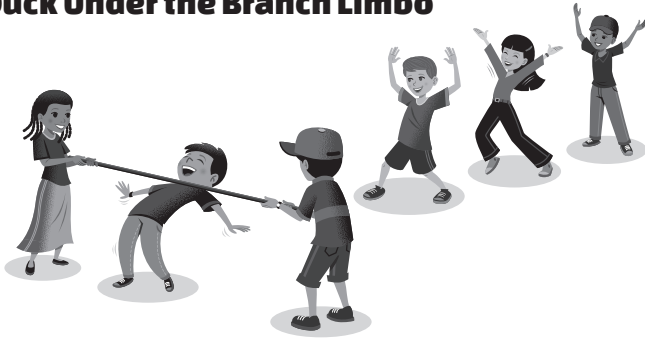
SUPPLIES

- » Photocopies of the **Canopy Coloring Contest** page (see Resource Download), 1 per child
- » Crayons or markers

DIRECTIONS

- » Children color the picture. Collect the pictures and hang them somewhere during VBS week.
- » Announce winners during VBS week. If you have a lot of entries, you can have winners of various age categories. Return pictures to the children the last day of VBS.
- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.

Duck Under the Branch Limbo



SUPPLIES

- » Broomstick or other long stick

DIRECTIONS

- » Two people hold the broomstick between them.
- » Players attempt to go under the broomstick as the holders lower it with each turn.
- » Give 1 ticket for each successful turn.

Your Nose Knows

SUPPLIES

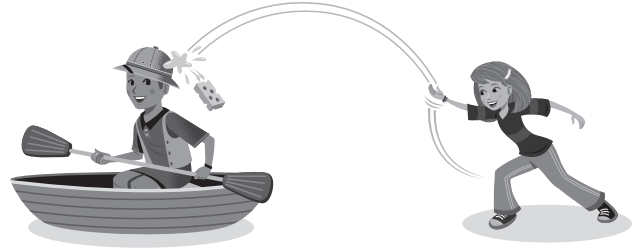
- » Paper numbered 1-10
- » 10 paper lunch bags
- » Markers
- » Stapler
- » Vanilla
- » Chocolate
- » Orange
- » Banana
- » Pineapple
- » Cinnamon
- » Tomato
- » Coconut
- » Nutmeg
- » Corn



DIRECTIONS

- » Put a little of each item in a bag, staple shut, and poke a few small holes in each bag. (If the item is messy, put inside a baggie, but leave the baggie open, then put that inside the lunch bag.
- » Players try to guess what's in each bag using just their sense of smell (not sight), writing their guesses on their numbered papers.
- » Give 1 ticket for each correct answer.

Soak You in a Canoe



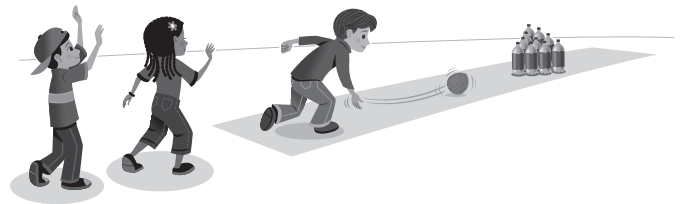
SUPPLIES

- » Canoe
- » Bucket filled with water
- » Sponges
- » 1 willing volunteer

DIRECTIONS

- » Try to hit the person sitting in the canoe with the sponges.
- » Earn 1 prize ticket if you hit him.
- » Note: If you are doing this during or after VBS, the stars of the drama make great targets!

Coconut Bowling



SUPPLIES

- » Coconut "bowling ball"
- » 10 bowling pins or water bottles

DIRECTIONS

- » Set up the pins in a pyramid shape like a bowling alley.
- » Players roll the coconut down the "lane" to the pins and see how many they knock over.
- » Give 2 tries per player.
- » Give 1 ticket for each pin that gets knocked over.

Topple the Pineapple



SUPPLIES

- » 3 plastic or real pineapples
- » 3 beanbags or balls
- » Table, box, or crate

DIRECTIONS

- » Place three pineapples on the elevated surface. Try this ahead of time to make sure your beanbags are heavy enough to knock over the pineapples. If not, switch to balls.
- » Players stand at the start line and have 3 tries to knock the pineapples over using a beanbag.
- » Give 1 prize ticket for each pineapple that is knocked over.

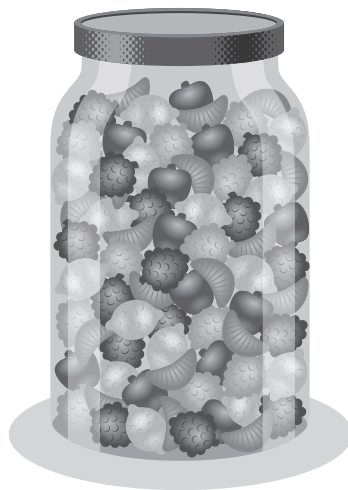
Tropical Fruit Figuring

SUPPLIES

- » Fruit snacks that look like tropical fruits (enough to fill a jar)
- » Jar with lid
- » Bowl to hold guess papers
- » Small pieces of paper (1 per player)
- » Markers

DIRECTIONS

- » Players write how many fruit snacks they think are in the jar on their paper.



- » Give 1 prize ticket after completing this activity.
- » Announce the winner of this contest at the end of the carnival or on the first day of VBS. The winner gets the jar of fruit snacks.

Cruise Souvenirs

- » Set up an area called Cruise Souvenirs with various prizes worth a various number of tickets. Children turn in their tickets to receive prizes. Check Oriental Trading Company or Rhode Island Novelty for inexpensive prize possibilities. The following are some possible suggestions: rainforest animal pencil wrap erasers; rainforest friends finger puppets; rainforest TOOB animals; stretchable flying monkeys or frogs; neon monkey bendables; stuffed animal or plastic monkeys, frogs, bears, tigers, snakes, sloths, flamingos; mini umbrella hats; tropical bird gliders; tropical stick pens; tropical bird sticker sheets; sloth bendables; watch it grow sloth water toy; sequin butterfly masks; sticky snakes; fruit mochi squishies; candy such as gummy bears, frogs, or snakes; chocolate or vanilla anything (chocolate and vanilla originate in the rainforest).



- » Another option is to give prizes at each location. If this option is chosen, children will need bags of some kind to keep their prizes in as they move from activity to activity.

FunDay Food Booth

Set up the FunDay Food Booth area and choose one or more fun snacks from the suggestions listed below. Make signs that announce the name of each snack.

Note: There are also lots of additional great ideas in the *Snack Guide* and the Training Workshop section of this guide. You may want to make some of the snacks you will be serving during VBS week. Check out the snack guide!

FUNDAY SUNDAES (OR BUILD YOUR OWN BANANA SPLITS)

- » Vanilla and chocolate come from the rainforest, so serve vanilla ice cream (originating from vanilla beans) with a chocolate-inspired toppings bar (chocolate originating from the cacao beans), complete with hot fudge, chocolate syrup, crushed Oreos, and chocolate chips. Throw in some banana slices, shredded coconut, and tropical fruit-flavored candies for added fun.

CREATION CUPCAKES

- » Serve cupcakes that are decorated with assorted creation symbols such as the sun, moon, stars, sea, land, sky, plants, fish, birds, and animals.

RAINFOREST CRUNCHIES

- » Serve bags of salty snacks and call them twigs and branches (pretzels), tiger tails (Cheetos), and bird beaks (Pringles).

TIGER CUTIES

- » Draw a face, ears, and a few stripes on the outside of some clementine oranges and serve as a healthy, delicious treat!

BANANA PUDDING CUPS

- » Make individual banana puddings using 7- or 9-ounce disposable cups.

CANOPY COOKOUT

- » Grill hamburgers and hotdogs and call them monkey meat.

DRINKS

- » Serve drinks of your choice and call them Jungle Juice.
- » Water: Wrap water bottles with labels that say **Rain Water**.

Additional Ideas

- » Rainforest Animal Piñatas—Buy fun and colorful rainforest animals and try a whack (at a safe distance!) at a rainforest piñata.
- » Jungle Balloon Animals—Try making some jungle balloon creations, such as a snake or a flower. Look online for ideas.
- » Thematic Costumed Greeters—Use your drama team or others to greet and interact with the kids while dressed in fun costumes like a banana, a parrot, or a tiger.