

TROPICAL BUILDING BAG

The following items should be in the bag, if they are not let someone in education know. If you discover a new problem with any biofact (broken pieces, loose teeth, etc.), it is your responsibility to let the staff know and make a notation with the date, time and your name on the sign out clipboard.

TROPICAL BUILDING BAG INVENTORY

- Ibis skull
- Toucan skull
- Macaw skull
- Green Anaconda skull
- Green Anaconda shed
- Sloth skull (additional items to come)
- 5 sets Resource Cards (Anaconda, Beaks, Rainforest/Biodiversity, Sloth and Amphibians)

Note: Please return all items to their appropriate place in the bag, and make sure lids and bungee cords are secured. Things should be left exactly as you found them.

BENEFICIAL BEAKS CHAT

Primary message: Tropical rainforests like the Amazon are biodiversity hot spots where many animals have adapted unique foraging strategies aided by both physical and behavioral adaptations. (**Biodiversity**)

Secondary message: Specialized foraging habits can make species more vulnerable to dramatic changes in the environment, like habitat destruction. (**Conservation**)

Tertiary message: In order to maintain great bird species diversity in this exhibit, special care was taken to insure the birds could practice natural foraging behaviors. (**Wellness & Animal Care**)

BENEFICIAL BEAKS TALKING POINTS

Objective: Introduce visitors to physical foraging adaptations through the observation and discussion of three very different bird beaks that illustrate the rich biodiversity found in tropical forests.

IBIS Skull: This pointed, slender beak is adapted for probing mud and shallow water for worms, crustaceans, and insects. Their beaks are sensitive to movement and can detect prey through mud and water. The bird's nostrils are at the base of the bill, so the ibis can breathe while sticking its bill in the water or mud. (see photo)

MACAW skull: Macaws have a very powerful hooked beak, which has evolved to crush or open even the hardest nuts and seeds. (see photo)

TOUCAN skull: The bill is a spongy, mostly hollow bone covered in keratin and is extremely light and very strong. The bill is edged with tooth-like ridges. The toucan's bill is surprisingly dexterous and allows the bird to feed on a variety of tropical forest fruits. It feeds by snipping off the fruit and flipping its head back to swallow the fruit whole. The family, Ramphastidae also includes the aracaris. (see photo)

FUN FACTS

The deadfall trees and branches in this exhibit were placed intentionally as enrichment for the various parrot species. By providing tough material for the parrots to explore with their powerful beaks, we hope to keep the other living trees thriving!



Scarlet Ibis (*Eudocimus ruber*) foraging



Hyacinth Macaw (*Anodorhynchus hyacinthinus*) eating a palm nut



Toco Tucan (*Ramphastos toco*) eating



Keel-billed Toucan (*Ramphastos sulfuratus*) eating