Thank you for your interest in The Digital Field Trip to The Rainforest. Using virtual reality technology, you will visit the Blue Creek Rainforest Reserve in Belize, Central America, as well as learn all about the ecology and importance of the world's rainforests.

This brief guide will step you through the CD in standard mode, giving you a taste of the program's many sections and features. Use this guide as an introduction and then explore on your own. Check out Help and the Quick Tour for more information on using the program.

**Getting Started**

All of Digital Frog's products are on hybrid CDs, allowing you to use the same disc on both Windows and Macintosh platforms. The program can be run directly from the CD, but should be installed on your hard drive for optimal performance.

The Rainforest requires QuickTime, and will automatically check for a minimum version. If you don't already have the correct version of QuickTime installed on your computer, make sure you run the QuickTime installer from the CD before running The Rainforest for the first time.

**Exploring the Rainforest**

Getting around The Rainforest is easy. All you need is natural curiosity and a mouse.

Starting the program will display the opening screen. Press the space bar or click the mouse to move on to the main menu, which highlights the CD’s five sections:

- **The Field Trip** uses QuickTime Virtual Reality to allow you to explore the Blue Creek Rainforest Reserve in Belize, Central America.
- **Rainforest Study** deals with plant and animal characteristics, including an introduction to botany, and the complex interdependencies between the rainforest's organisms.
- **Rainforest Types** looks at tropical and temperate rainforests, covering their classifications, similarities and differences.
- **Mechanisms of a Rainforest** covers the mechanisms that keep all rainforests alive and thriving, such as succession and tree fall gaps.
- **Our Endangered Rainforests** teaches about biodiversity, the importance of rainforests to our environment, what is threatening them, and what is being done to protect them.
From the main menu screen, you can also access the Quick Tour, which contains five short videos. These give an overview of how to navigate around the CD and its various features. Context-specific help is also available on every screen by either pressing “H” on your keyboard or pointing your mouse to the arrow in the top left corner ( erectile dysfunction ) and selecting “Help” from the toolbar that appears.

The best place to begin is with the Field Trip, by clicking on the Field Trip button from the main menu. You can begin by locating the Blue Creek Rainforest Reserve, or skipping straight to the field trip.

Once you've reached the entrance to the Blue Creek Rainforest Reserve, you can begin exploring. Move your pointer to the VR picture, hold down the mouse button and drag to look around. As you turn, the blue arrow on the map at the bottom of the screen rotates to show your location and direction you're facing. Pressing the shift key will zoom in your view, and pressing the control key zooms out.

Find the sign labeled “2” and click on it to move to the next post. This allows you to move through the reserve, following the paths marked on the map at the bottom of the screen. You can also jump to any other post by clicking on the numbered dots on the map. Spend some time to explore Blue Creek before moving on.

Now return to the first post and move your pointer to the jaguar in the VR window. If you can't find it by looking around, click on the blue text on the field notes page to the right of the VR window, which will locate the jaguar for you.

Click on the jaguar, which will take you to its information screen. A total of 30 of the rainforest's plants and animals are profiled in the Digital Field Trip. The arrows under the photo will cycle through the multiple pictures, and clicking on the projector brings up one of the CD's 29 movies. You can view the text on the right by clicking on the blue, “expanding” headers. The silhouettes of other animals and plants show the interdependencies with other organisms.

Extra! Clicking on any photograph or movie will display extra, anecdotal text with additional information and comments about the image.

As you move your cursor over the text, you'll notice it changes to the Hot Text Cursor ( erectile dysfunction ). Clicking on the word will display its definition. Virtually all of the more than 3000 words used in The Rainforest have been defined, making the text accessible to users with a wide range of reading abilities.

Extra! If you see the speech icon in the definition box, clicking on it will give you a spoken pronunciation of the word. More than 150 scientific and technical terms have been pronounced in addition to the written definitions!

To return to the previous screen—in this case, the field trip—either press the back arrow on the keyboard or move the pointer until it appears as the Go Back Arrow ( erectile dysfunction ) and click. Turn around until you see the “Learn about Tropical Rainforests” signpost and click on it to go there.

In addition to following links from the field trip and menu screens, there are several ways to quickly navigate around The Digital Field Trip to The Rainforest. Pressing “M” on the keyboard while in Standard Mode, or selecting “Map” from the toolbar will display a screen with thumbnails of every screen on the CD. Checkmarks indicate
screens you've already visited. Clicking the “Menu” button in the tool bar will also open up an expanding screen menu. Point to a menu option to reveal any sub-menus, then click on the screen name you want to go to.

From the “Tropical Rainforests” screen, you can continue by learning more about the different types of tropical rainforests, or go to the map or the back to the main menu to explore other areas. There is far more to discover in The Digital Field Trip to The Rainforest than we can show you here. Take your time, explore the wonders of the rainforest and, most of all, have fun.

Accessibility Features

The fully accessible version of The Digital Field Trip to The Rainforest includes QuickTime 6 and can no longer be distributed by Digital Frog International. If you require this version, let us know and we'll ship it from The Rotary Club Guelph South—all proceeds will be donated to their Touch-A-Word program, providing adaptive technology for young people with disabilities.

Product Information

Price: Home License: $60.00 (licensed for home use)
Single Educational License: $84.00 (with public performance rights)
Lab packs and unlimited site licenses also available.

Minimum System Requirements
Macintosh—G3 300 , MAC OSX 10.3.9 or later, 30 MB MB of available RAM.
PC—Pentium II with Windows 2000, XP or Vista, 32 MB RAM (64 recommended)

Reaching Us

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Thank you for your interest and enjoy exploring the rainforest!