

Comparing Delaware and a Rain Forest

Many animals at the Brandywine Zoo are native to tropical rainforests. Compare Delaware and the rainforest and see if you can find out why special arrangements have been made for these animals at the zoo.

TEMPERATURES

Look at the table of the average temperatures in Delaware. What was the lowest temperature? _____ What was the highest temperature? _____ Subtract the lowest temperature from the highest temperature and find the difference between these two temperatures. _____

Temperatures in Delaware

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
31 F	33 F	43 F	52 F	63 F	72 F	76 F	75 F	68 F	56 F	46 F	36 F

Look at the table showing the average temperatures in a tropical rainforest. What was the lowest temperature? _____ What was the highest temperature? _____ What was the difference between these two temperatures? _____

Temperatures in a Tropical Rainforest

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
79 F	79 F	82 F	81 F	80 F	83 F	81 F	83 F	80 F	83 F	77 F	78 F

Compare the information on these two tables. Where does the temperature vary more – in Delaware or in a tropical rainforest? _____

RAINFALL

Look at the table showing average rainfall in Delaware. Add all the months' rainfall together to find the total rainfall in a year.

Rainfall in Delaware

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
3.0	2.9	3.4	3.4	3.8	3.6	4.2	3.4	3.4	2.9	3.3	3.5

Look at the table showing rainfall in inches in a tropical rainforest. Find the total rainfall in a year for this area. _____

Rainfall in a Tropical Rainforest

Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
24	20	13	11	10	7	8	9	9	12	15	18

Compare the two tables. Which has more rain in a year – Delaware or a tropical rainforest? _____

LENGTH OF DAY – AMOUNT OF SUNLIGHT

Look at the table of Delaware Times of Sunrises and Sunsets. Using the times for sunrise and sunset, figure out the day length for the first day of each month included on the chart. Write the day length in the space under each month.

Delaware Times of Sunrises and Sunsets

Jan.	Mar.	May	July	Sept.	Nov.
7:23A.M.	6:36A.M.	5:03A.M.	4:38A.M.	5:30A.M.	6:31A.M.
4:48P.M.	5:54P.M.	6:56P.M.	7:34P.M.	6:34P.M.	5:00P.M.

Look at the table of Rainforest Times of Sunrises and Sunsets. Using the times for sunrise and sunset, figure out the day length for the first day of each month included on the chart. Write the day length in the space under each month.

Tropical Rainforest Times of Sunrises and Sunsets

Jan.	Mar.	May	July	Sept.	Nov.
5:58A.M.	6:11A.M.	6:01A.M.	6:09A.M.	6:02A.M.	5:41A.M.
6:09P.M.	6:14P.M.	5:54P.M.	5:53P.M.	6:03P.M.	5:51P.M.

How much does the length of the day vary in a tropical rainforest compared to the length of the day in Delaware?

Using the comparisons you just made, what are three characteristics of a tropical rainforest?