

Journey into the Amazon

Learning to give thanks for God's special gifts

Preparation and materials

This assembly includes a small 'drama' near the beginning. You need to prepare a member of staff to be involved. They will be teacher 'B', while you will be teacher 'A'. You will need:

- A desk and chair
- A pencil case full of pens, pencils and equipment like a set square.

The Assembly

1. Is there anyone here who got a new pencil case for the start of the new term? [Ask for hands up.] What is in your pencil case? [Ask a few children to say what they bought.] What does your pencil case look like – what sort of things are on the case?

2. [Sit down at the desk.] Well, you're not the only ones to have a new pencil case. I got one too! [Look very pleased with yourself and show off the pencil case.] I spent all my pocket money on it. Look I've got all sorts of things in this case. I've got a fantastic pen [hold up the pen]. This pen will mean my spelling is bound to get better. And I've got this ruler, [hold up ruler], so that will help me [look uncertain while thinking how it will help] with my sums. And this pencil will mean all my drawings will be fantastic – like that man who does the drawings in the Roald Dahl books – like in *The Twits*, I really like that one – my drawings will be just as good as them. And I've got one of these [holds up a set square]. I've no idea what it is but I'm sure it will make me very clever...

B: Hang on, excuse me, Mr/Mrs XXX. I think you've got a bit muddled.

A: What do you mean?

B: Well, just because you've got a nice pen, it doesn't mean you're going to be able to spell correctly.

A: Doesn't it?

B: Of course not! And just because you've got a fancy ruler, it doesn't mean you'll be better at sums.

A: Oh dear.

B: And having a fancy pencil won't mean your drawings are any better.

A: That's a shame. [Look dejected, then perk up.] Ah, but what about this? [Hold up the set square.]

B: [Look confused.] Well, to be honest, I'm not sure what that is, but I don't think it's going to make you very clever.

A: OK. Thank you, Mr/Mrs XXX.

3. Can you see what happened here? Even though my pencil case is great, it doesn't mean I'm going to be top of the class. However, it is the right equipment for the job.

4. Here's another story about some people having the right equipment for the job. I want to tell you now about some people who live in a small village in Brazil along the Amazon River. Does anyone know where the Amazon is? [Mention it's the second longest – some say the longest – river in the world.] And what is the Amazon famous for? [Piranhas, vampire bats, parrots, ant eaters.] It sounds like it might be a scary place to live, but it can be a lot of fun. There's lots of sunshine, and long grass and trees to play in, and if you're hungry you can pick berries and mangoes and other fruit. The other thing you can eat a lot of is fish.

[You could show the USPG film at this point.]

5. I want to tell you now about some people who live in a village called Maria Ribeira [pronounced Maria He-bay-ra]. The grown-ups in this village catch a lot of fish. But they had a problem. Who can tell me what happens to a fish if you don't eat it and leave it outside for a long time? [Invite answers.] Yes, it goes smelly! And no-one wants to eat it. But then the people of Maria Ribeira were given a present. Can you guess what it might be? How do you stop fish going smelly? Yes, you put them in the fridge. The Anglican church in Brazil help the community to get two fridge freezers. This means they can keep the fish as long as they want and always have something to eat.

6. In the same way that the pencil case is the right equipment for doing your school work, the fridge freezers are the right equipment for keeping fish fresh.

7. The freezers were a gift to the people of the Amazon from the Anglican church. The church wanted to make this gift because they care for other people – in the same way that God cares for us.

Time to think

The world around us is wonderful – whether the Amazon or our local park. God looks after the world and he has promised to look after us. In the Bible, Jesus has said he will always look after us whatever we are feeling – whether we are feeling happy or sad. [You may like to quote Luke 12:22-32.]

Prayer

Dear Father God, thank you that you look after us. And thank you for the hope you give us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Song

Oh, Don't Worry by Mike Burn

For words and music visit www.familyworship.org.uk/songs/dontworry