

# OKLAHOMA'S RAINFOREST CONNECTION

Presented by the Oklahoma City Zoo

## Lesson 4

### What is Palm Oil?

It's an ingredient in many food and household products that comes from palm trees.

### Hot Topic – Palm Oil Crisis

With the growing demand for palm oil, rainforests are being cut down to make way for palm plantations. Currently, Indonesia is facing the highest rate of rainforest loss in the world. Because of this many animals, such as the orangutan, are facing extinction within the next ten years.

The Oklahoma City Zoo is striving to help. Zoo staff has done orangutan work in other countries and we support conservation efforts in the wild. We're also making smarter purchases as we raise awareness about this crisis.

**How can you help?** Buy Smart – Read ingredient labels. If you see palm or palm kernel oil, pick a different brand! Check makeup, bath products, and foods like candy bars, peanut butter, and microwaveable popcorn to see if they contain palm oil. Go a step further – Educate your family, friends and even your favorite restaurant about the palm oil crisis—ask them to go palm free.

### Activity

1. Visit [www.cmzoo.org/conservation/palmOilCrisis](http://www.cmzoo.org/conservation/palmOilCrisis) to learn more. Be sure & watch the YouTube video.
2. Generate a list of products derived from rainforest palm oil. Which of these items can be found in your home?

### Discussion

- How are natural resources used to create consumer products?
- Which products can be linked to palm oil? Why is palm oil used?
- How does what we buy in Oklahoma affect orangutan populations in Indonesia?
- Are other animals besides orangutans affected by the palm oil crisis?

### Teacher's Homework

- Bring in chocolate for the students that completed the listed activities.

Newspapers for this educational program provided by:

