Jamaican Spindalis Rainforest Collage

The Jamaican Spindalis, along with many of Jamaica’s other endemic birds including; Yellow-shouldered Grassquit, Vervain Hummingbird, Arrowhead Warbler, Jamaican Euphonia and Jamaican Vireo are fairly common in Jamaica’s forested hills and mountains.

Blue Mountains, Jamaica.

There are different types of plants in these forests like flowering plants, ferns, orchids and canopy trees. Forests provide food, shelter, nesting sites and in some cases a cool sanctuary from hot urban areas for birds and other wildlife.

Using a variety of textures and colors of paper you can create your own forest collage with some of Jamaica’s endemic birds.
Ask an adult to help you find and use the following items:

- Paper: construction paper, gift wrap paper, textured paper like crepe paper and sandpaper, magazine pages, newspaper, brown grocery bags, old calendars
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Glue and/or tape
- Endemic bird colouring pages; Jamaican Spindalis, Yellow-shouldered Grassquit, Vervain Hummingbird, Arrowhead Warbler, Jamaican Euphonia and Jamaican Vireo, plant silhouettes; tree, fern
- Animal silhouette; iguana, lizard, butterfly (optional)
- Poster paint (optional)

Creating your rainforest collage:

1. Print and cut the tree and fern silhouettes (below). Cut the tree so that it is separated into two parts; tree trunk and treetop.

2. Create more trees by tracing the outline of the tree trunk and treetop on various colors and textures of paper you have collected. Cut each one out. You will need about four or more trees for your collage. Repeat using the fern silhouette.

3. Cut out a paper background large enough to accommodate all your trees. Layout your trees on the paper, positioning some trees slightly at the back to create depth. Don't worry about going over the edges of the paper. Remember to leave space in areas where you plan to add other details later like the fern and birds.

4. Glue the trees onto the paper, starting with the trees at the back. Leave spaces to add the birds.

5. Cut out, and paint as needed, other details such as bushes, rocks, or a river. You can use the paper scraps from the previous steps.

6. Glue these onto your collage in the available spaces.

7. Print, colour/paint and cut out the Jamaican birds from the endemic bird colouring pages. Or you may print the coloured illustration and simply cut out the birds.

8. Position the animals in your collage. You can perch them on branches or slip them behind tree trunks or grass.

9. Finally, glue or tape them in place.

Click on the bird names. Each link will take you to the BirdsCaribbean website where you can find more info on the bird!

Idea: Use your rainforest collage to tell your friends & family about Jamaica's endemic birds!