

# Beat the Extinction Clock

*Please use this checklist to confirm that all of the parts of this station are in this bag both when it is unpacked before the OSF Science Night AND when it is re-packed after your event.*

- Table sign, laminated
- Explanation sheet/ What to Do sheet, laminated
- "Beat the Extinction Clock" answer sheet, laminated
- 12 - golf pencils in a Ziploc bag
- 2 – egg timers in a Ziploc bag
- Blank "Beat the Extinction Clock" worksheet to be copied

## **What you will need to provide for this activity station:**

- Tape to attach table sign
- Copies of the "Beat the Extinction Clock" worksheet

## **BEAT THE EXTINCTION CLOCK**

### **Background/Explanation:**

Forests of the world give us many gifts, including medicines. In the past, people thought of forests and fields as their pharmacies. Today, although most medicines in the United States are synthetically manufactured, the majority of them are based on derivatives of plant medicines. Many species in forests and their uses are yet to be discovered. If forests continue to be destroyed, these unknown medicines will remain undiscovered - and people with illnesses will remain without medical aid.

### **What You Will Do:**

Participants have to try to find all of the medicinal plants in a word find for which cures might be found from rain forest plants. They have to do this within a set time.

### **What You Need:**

- Handouts with word finds and keys on back
- Pencils
- Egg timers

### **What To Do:**

1. Explain how the game reflects the facts that
  - a) many rainforest plants have been the source of beneficial medicines and other products
  - b) many rainforest plants and animals have not yet been identified nor their chemistries examined and
  - c) these plants and animals could be lost forever if the rainforest continues to be destroyed.
2. Encourage participation and explain how the game is played.
3. Provide participants with handouts, pencils, and access to egg timers.
4. Maintain game supplies.



