

Name: _____ Date: _____



Can you draw a picture to show the different levels of the rainforest? You could include animals as well as plants if you want!

Emergent Layer

This layer has the tallest trees in the rainforest. They have thin trunks and thick, waxy leaves.

They get lots of hot sun and strong winds. Lots of birds live in this layer, as well as monkeys, butterflies and other insects.

Canopy

The canopy is thick and full. It is made up of the tops of trees which are all crowded together. It blocks sunlight and rain from the lower levels.

Sloths, monkeys, orang-utans, and many other insects and reptiles live in the canopy.

Under Storey

The under storey is damp and dark. It has small trees and plants. Vines, mosses and algae grow on the tree trunks. Reptiles and amphibians live in the under storey, as well as lots of insects. Some animals live in the trunks themselves.

Forest Floor

The forest floor is covered with forest litter, such as dead leaves, branches and animals.

The largest mammals of the rainforest live on the forest floor, such as elephants, tigers, jaguars, anteaters, tapirs and gorillas.

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Can you complete this diagram of rainforest levels by writing a description of each level and drawing a labelled picture? Use the words in the word box to help you.

sunlight	wind	rain	block	damp	dark	trunk	vine	moss
algae	insect	reptile	bird	mammal	amphibian	debris	decay	

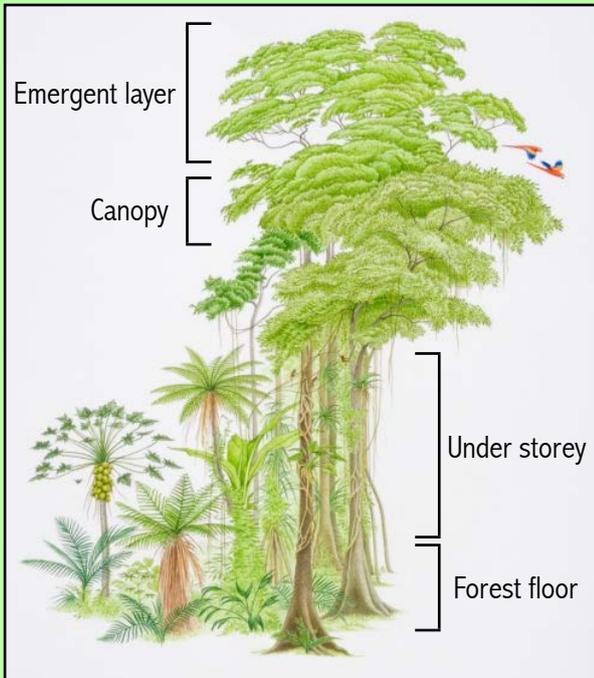
Emergent Layer

Canopy

Under Storey

Forest Floor

Levels of the Rainforest



Tropical rainforests have four main layers of vegetation. Each layer has different temperatures, levels of humidity and amounts of rainfall and sunshine.

The Emergent Layer

This is the top layer in the rainforest. A few very tall trees tower above the canopy. These trees can sometimes grow as high as 80m. They have thick, waxy leaves to withstand the hot sun and strong winds that they are exposed to. They also have thin trunks. Many birds have their home in the emergent layer, such as toucans, eagles and macaws, as well as other animals such as monkeys, bats, butterflies, and other insects.

The Canopy

The canopy consists of the tops of trees that are crowded together, forming a sort of roof over the lower levels. The canopy blocks most of the sunlight and rain from above. Many animals live among the leaves, trees, vines and flower of the canopy, including orang-utans, iguanas, snakes, sloths and monkeys, as well as many different species of insects.

The Under Storey

The under storey is very dark and damp. Because it gets very little sunlight, it only has small trees and shrubs although lots of moss, algae and vines grow on or around the tree trunks. Plants of the under storey can often have very large leaves so that they can absorb more light and collect water. Frogs, snakes, lizards, other reptiles and insects live here.

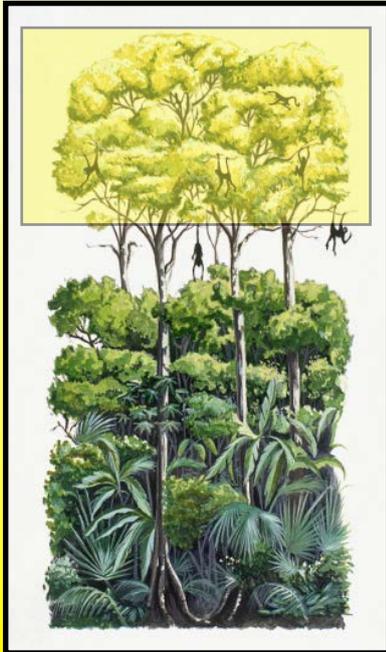
The Forest Floor

The forest floor is covered with forest litter, such as dead leaves and animal remains. This litter rots quickly due to the hot weather, fungi and the insects that feed on it. The largest animals of the rainforest live on the forest floor, such as elephants, tigers, jaguars, tapirs and anteaters, as well as frogs, insects and reptiles.



The Emergent Layer

Can you work as a group to create the plants and animals of the emergent layer?



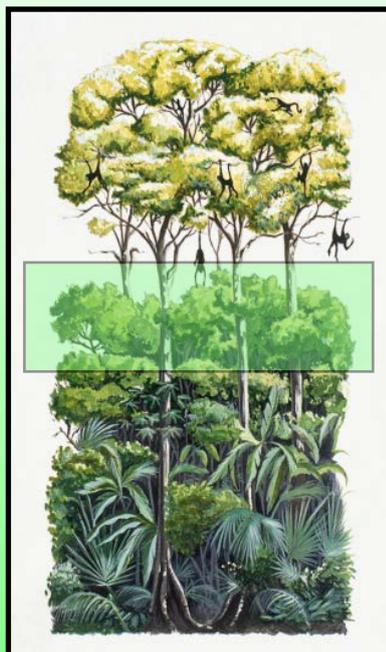
- What kind of plants are there in the emergent layer? What materials will you use to make them?
- Which animals live in the emergent layer? How will you make these animals?
- What interesting facts can you find out about the emergent layer? How will you display these facts?

Check the size of the display you will be making with your teacher!



The Canopy

Can you work as a group to create the plants and animals of the canopy?



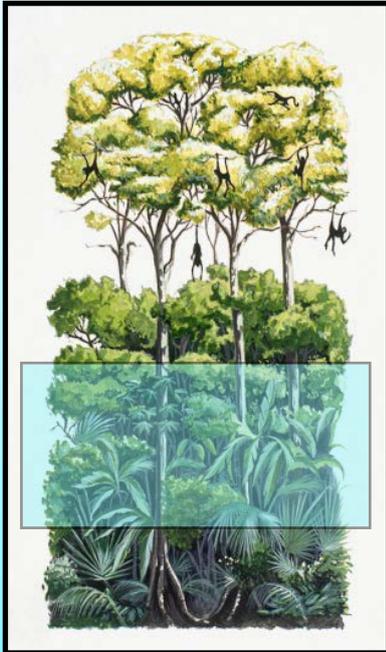
- What kind of plants are there in the canopy? What materials will you use to make them?
- Which animals live in the canopy? How will you make these animals?
- What interesting facts can you find out about the canopy? How will you display these facts?

Check the size of the display you will be making with your teacher!



The Under Storey

Can you work as a group to create the plants and animals of the under storey?



- What kind of plants are there in the under storey? What materials will you use to make them?
- Which animals live in the under storey? How will you make these animals?
- What interesting facts can you find out about the under storey? How will you display these facts?

Check the size of the display you will be making with your teacher!



The Forest Floor

Can you work as a group to create the plants and animals of the forest floor?



- What kind of plants are there in the forest floor? What materials will you use to make them?
- Which animals live in the forest floor? How will you make these animals?
- What interesting facts can you find out about the forest floor? How will you display these facts?

Check the size of the display you will be making with your teacher!

