

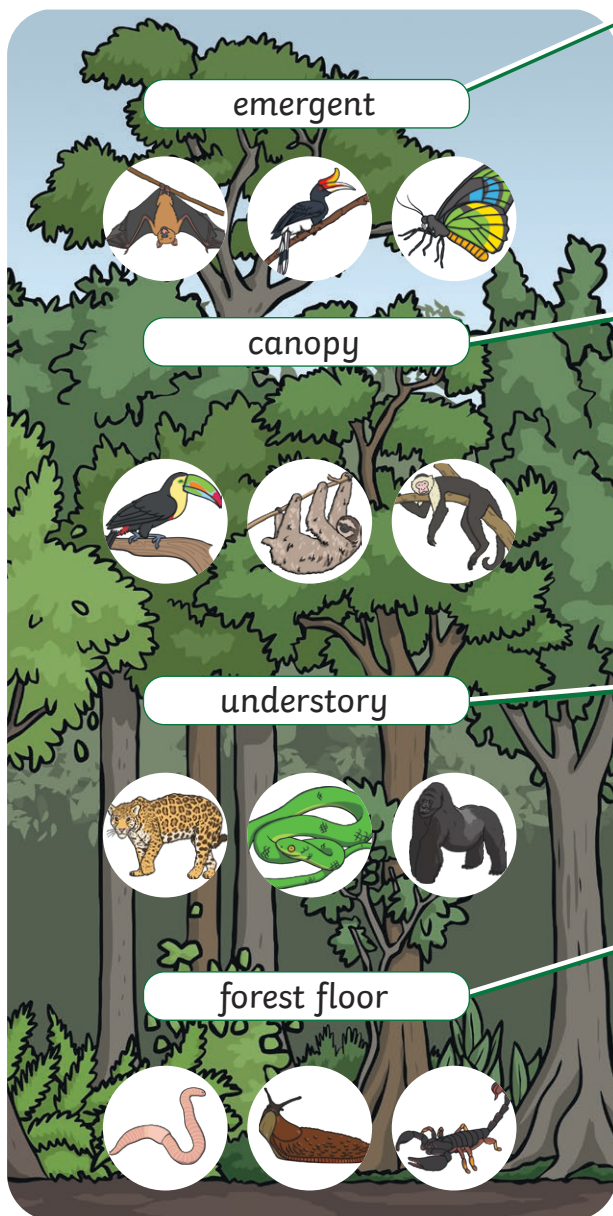
Rainforests

What is a Rainforest?

Rainforests are large forests that have tall trees, warm weather and lots of different species of animals living there. They are called rainforests because they get lots of rain. They are found in hot places such as Africa, Asia and Australia. The largest rainforest is called the Amazon in South America, which reaches over many countries, but is mostly in Brazil.

Parts of a Rainforest

A rainforest is made up of different layers (parts).



The emergent layer - At the top is the emergent layer, also known as the sunlit zone. This layer has the tallest trees and is sunny, wet and windy. Only a few animals live here such as bats, birds and butterflies.

The canopy - This where the branches and leaves of the trees are so close together that they touch and join up to form a kind of umbrella. This is home to most of the animals and plants of the rainforest such as toucans, sloths, howler monkeys and fig trees.

The understory - This layer is found under the canopy. It does not get much sunlight. The understory is home to animals such as jaguars, gorillas, elephants and snakes.

The forest floor - Here it is dark and humid (damp and hot). Very little sun reaches the forest floor as the leaves of the canopy block the sunlight. The smaller animals live here, such as slugs, scorpions and worms.

Animals and Wildlife

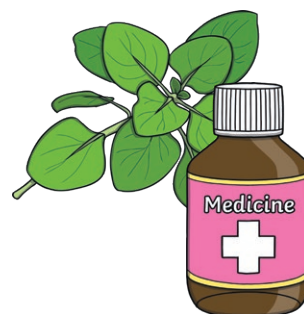
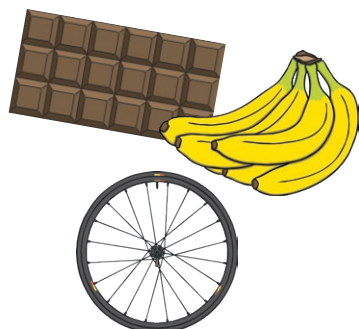
There are so many different animals, insects and plants found in the rainforests, that some have not yet been discovered!

Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of life in the rainforest can be found in the canopy where it is hot and dry and there is plenty of food and shelter. Here the animals and reptiles move around by flying, jumping and swinging on the vines.



Did You Know...?

- Rainforests get at least 200cm of rain every year and sometimes more!
- $\frac{1}{2}$ of the plants and animals of the world live in rainforests.
- Rainforests produce oxygen that we need to breathe.
- About $\frac{1}{4}$ of the medicines we use come from plants in the rainforest.
- We get many things from rainforests, such as bananas, chocolate, nuts, coffee and rubber.



Rainforests – Questions

1. What is a rainforest and why have they been given this name?

2. Which country in South America is the Amazon Rainforest mostly in?

3. Can you put the different layers of the rainforest in order from the top to bottom?

1. _____ top

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____ bottom

4. Different animals and wildlife can be found at each layer of the rainforest. Can you match the name of the layer with the animals and wildlife found there by drawing lines to connect them?

emergent	•	•	Home to most of the animals and plants of the rainforest such as toucans, sloths, howler monkeys and fig trees.
canopy	•	•	It has the tallest trees. Only a few animals live here such as bats, birds and butterflies
understory	•	•	The smaller animals live here, such as slugs, scorpions and worms.
forest floor	•	•	Home to animals such as jaguars, gorillas, elephants and snakes.

5. Why is so much life found in the canopy layer of the rainforest?

Tick **all** that apply.

- ☐ It is dark, wet and windy
- ☐ It is hot and dry
- ☐ There is plenty of food and shelter

6. Give **two** reasons why it is important that we look after and protect our rainforests.

