

Exploring the Rainforest Layers with Finn

Learning objective: To identify and describe the different layers of the tropical rainforest.

Finn the dolphin has travelled from the ocean to the edge of the Amazon rainforest! He has found a map of the forest's layers, but the labels have gone missing. Using the word bank, fill in the blanks to label the four layers of the rainforest and describe what happens in each one.

Word bank: Emergent · Canopy · Understorey · Forest Floor · bright sunlight · thick roof · low light · dark and damp

1. 1. The highest layer is called the _____ layer. Here, the tallest trees poke through the top to reach the _____. (2 marks)

2. 2. Below that is the _____ layer. This acts like a _____, blocking out much of the rain and sun from reaching below. (2 marks)

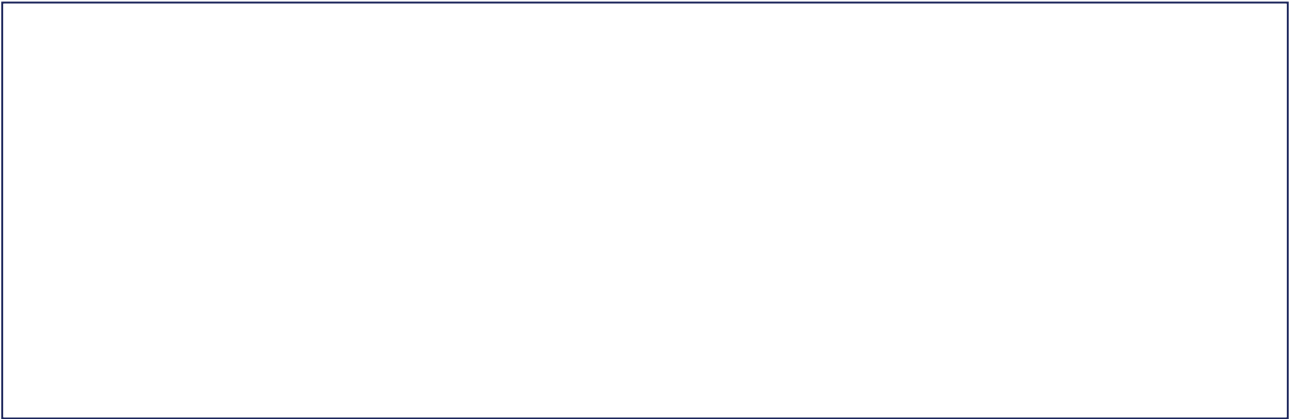
3. 3. The _____ layer is found beneath the canopy. Because the leaves above are so thick, there is very _____ here. (2 marks)

4. 4. The bottom layer is the _____. It is usually _____ because very little sunlight reaches the ground. (2 marks)

5. 5. If a monkey lived in the Canopy, why would it find it easier to find food there than on the Forest Floor? (2 marks)

6. 6. Finn noticed that plants on the Forest Floor have very large leaves. Why do you think they need larger leaves than plants in the Emergent layer? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of the rainforest. Draw one animal or plant in each of the four layers you labelled above!



Extension challenge: Research one animal that lives in the rainforest. Which layer does it spend most of its time in, and how has it adapted to survive there?