

## Journey into the Rainforest with Finn

Grab your binoculars and join Finn the dolphin on a land-based expedition to explore the world's most vibrant ecosystems!

- The emergent layer is the very top section of the rainforest where the tallest trees rise above the rest of the canopy to soak up the intense tropical sunlight.
- The canopy acts like a thick green roof, blocking most of the sunlight from reaching the ground and creating a humid environment for many birds and monkeys.
- The understory is a dark, sheltered area beneath the canopy where plants have developed large leaves to capture the tiny amount of light that filters through.
- The forest floor is the foundation of the ecosystem, where fallen leaves and organic matter decompose quickly to provide rich nutrients for the giant trees.
- Most of the world's tropical rainforests are located near the Equator, where the temperature remains warm and rainfall is frequent all year round.

*Did you know? Did you know? Even though rainforests only cover about 6% of the Earth's surface, they are home to more than half of the world's plant and animal species! They act like the Earth's lungs by taking in carbon dioxide and releasing the oxygen we need to breathe.*

**Key vocabulary:** Emergent layer · Canopy · Understory · Forest floor · Equator · Humidity · Biodiversity · Deforestation