

Rainforest Explorers with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify, describe, and understand the physical geography and distinct layers of tropical rainforests.

Read each question carefully and use your knowledge of tropical rainforest geography to provide detailed answers. Remember to use geographical vocabulary where appropriate.

Finn the Dolphin has swapped his ocean maps for a map of the world's tropical rainforests! He is studying how these vital ecosystems are structured and why they are located near the Equator. Use your knowledge of the four layers of the rainforest to help Finn complete his field notes.

Word bank: Emergent layer · Canopy · Understory · Forest floor · Equator · Tropical · Humidity · Precipitation · Biodiversity

1. Explain why the majority of tropical rainforests are situated along the Equator. Consider the impact of the climate on the vegetation. (2 marks)

2. Compare the 'Canopy' layer with the 'Forest floor'. How does the amount of sunlight reaching these layers affect the types of plants that grow there? (3 marks)

3. Justify why the rainforest is often described as having high 'biodiversity'. Why is this important for the health of our planet? (2 marks)

4. What might happen if the trees in the 'Emergent layer' were removed? Describe the potential impact on the lower layers of the rainforest. (3 marks)

5. Many rainforest plants have 'drip tips' on their leaves. Explain how this physical adaptation helps them survive in a climate with high precipitation. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a tropical rainforest, clearly labelling the four distinct layers: Emergent, Canopy, Understory, and Forest floor. Include one animal that you would expect to find in each specific layer.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scientist exploring the Amazon. Write a persuasive diary entry explaining to the world why we must protect these environments from deforestation. Use at least five words from the word bank in your writing.