

Exploring the Rainforest Layers with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify and describe the four layers of a tropical rainforest and understand the unique characteristics of each.

Finn the Dolphin has travelled from the ocean to explore the world's great rainforests! He needs your help to label the rainforest layers. Look at the description for each layer provided in the questions and match it to the correct layer name from the word bank. Write the layer name next to the description.

Word bank: Emergent Layer · Canopy Layer · Understory Layer · Forest Floor

1. I am the very top layer. Trees here are giant and get the most sunlight. I am very windy and home to eagles and butterflies. Which layer am I? (2 marks)

2. I am a thick roof of leaves and branches that blocks out most of the sunlight from reaching the ground. Many animals like monkeys and sloths live here. Which layer am I? (2 marks)

3. I am very dark and humid because the sun struggles to reach me. Plants here have large leaves to catch any tiny bit of light. Which layer am I? (2 marks)

4. I am the bottom layer. It is very quiet and dark here. Decomposers like fungi and insects work hard to break down fallen leaves. Which layer am I? (2 marks)

5. If a travel company charges £15 per person for a guided rainforest walk, how much would it cost for a group of 5 students to visit? Show your working. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a rainforest showing all four layers. Label each layer and draw one animal that lives in each specific section.



Extension challenge: Research why deforestation is a threat to the rainforest. Write three sentences explaining how the loss of trees affects the animals living in the canopy layer.