

Exploring the Rainforest with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify the key characteristics of tropical rainforests and understand their global importance.

Read the passage below carefully and answer the questions using full sentences. Ensure you refer back to the text to support your answers.

Finn the dolphin has travelled far from the ocean to explore the world's tropical rainforests. These incredible areas are found near the equator, where the weather is warm and rainy all year round. A rainforest is divided into four layers: the forest floor, the understory, the canopy, and the emergent layer. The canopy acts like a giant umbrella, blocking most of the sunlight from reaching the ground. Because it is so humid and sheltered, the rainforest is home to more than half of the world's plant and animal species. This is known as high biodiversity. However, these vital habitats are under threat. Humans sometimes cut down trees for timber or to clear land for farming, a process called deforestation. This destroys the homes of rare creatures and changes our global climate. Finn hopes that by learning about these amazing places, we can work together to protect them. Every tree plays a part in keeping our planet healthy, from providing oxygen to acting as a home for colourful birds and insects.

Word bank: canopy · equator · biodiversity · humid · deforestation · ecosystem

1. According to the text, where are tropical rainforests generally located? (2 marks)

2. What are the four layers of the rainforest mentioned by Finn? (2 marks)

3. Why is the canopy described as acting like a 'giant umbrella'? (2 marks)

4. Why might the loss of trees have a negative effect on the animals living there? (2 marks)

5. Finn says we should protect rainforests. Based on the passage, why do you think it is important for humans to look after these areas? Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a diagram of the four layers of the rainforest. Label the emergent layer, canopy, understory, and forest floor, and include one animal that might live in each layer.



Extension challenge: Research one endangered animal from a tropical rainforest. Write a short paragraph explaining why its habitat is disappearing and one thing humans could do to help.