Rainforest Layers Exploration with Finn

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

Finn the dolphin has flown over the Amazon rainforest to map its structure! Use the word bank to label the four layers of the rainforest correctly. Then, match the descriptions provided in the questions to the correct layer.

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

1. Identify the layer that receives the most sunlight and contains the tallest trees that poke above the rest of the forest. (2 marks)

2. Which layer is known as the 'roof' of the rainforest, where most animals live and where the leaves form a thick umbrella? (2 marks)

3. Describe the conditions found on the Forest Floor. Why is it so dark here? (3 marks)

4. True or False: The Understory layer is very hot and sunny because the trees are short. Explain your reasoning. (3 marks)

5. If a rare orchid costs £12.50 to protect in the Canopy and a tree sapling costs £8.75 to plant on the Forest Floor, what is the total cost to support one of each? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a cross-section of a rainforest tree. Label each of the four layers clearly and draw one animal that you would expect to find in the Canopy layer.

Extension challenge: Research one animal that lives exclusively on the Forest Floor. Write a short paragraph explaining how its body is adapted to live in an area with very little sunlight.