# Exploring the Layers of the Rainforest with Finn

*Learning objective: To identify and describe the four layers of the tropical rainforest and understand the climate conditions that support them.*

Read each question carefully. Use your knowledge of geography and the word bank to provide full, descriptive answers.

Finn the dolphin has travelled far from the ocean to explore the world's great tropical rainforests. These incredible habitats are located near the Equator, where the climate is hot and wet all year round. The rainforest is divided into four distinct layers, each home to unique plants and animals that have adapted to their specific environment.

*Word bank: Emergent layer · Canopy · Understory · Forest floor · Equator · Photosynthesis · Humidity · Precipitation*

**1. Finn is looking at the very top of the rainforest, where trees poke out above the rest. What is this layer called, and why do you think animals living here need to be able to cope with strong winds? (2 marks)**

**2. The 'Canopy' acts like a giant umbrella for the rest of the forest. Explain how this layer affects the amount of sunlight that reaches the plants living on the forest floor. (2 marks)**

**3. Rainforests are found near the Equator. Using your knowledge of climate, describe two weather conditions that are typical for these regions. (2 marks)**

**4. If a researcher found a rare, shade-loving fern growing in the dark, damp part of the rainforest where very little light reaches, which layer would they be in? (1 mark)**

**5. Imagine a new species of insect has been discovered. It lives in the 'Understory' layer. Based on what you know about this layer, why might it be an advantage for this insect to have large eyes? (2 marks)**

**Draw: Draw a cross-section of a rainforest. Label the four layers clearly and draw one example of a plant or animal that might live in each specific layer.**

*Extension challenge: Research one threat to rainforests (such as deforestation). Write a short paragraph explaining how this impacts the global climate and what Finn the dolphin might say to encourage people to protect these habitats.*