Finn’s Rainforest Expedition: Layers of Life

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

Finn the dolphin has traded his fins for hiking boots to explore the Amazon Rainforest! Match the description of each rainforest layer to its correct name in the word bank. Write the letter of the layer next to the correct description.

Word bank: A: Emergent Layer · B: Canopy Layer · C: Understorey · D: Forest Floor

1. 1. This is the very bottom of the rainforest. It is dark and damp because very little sunlight reaches here. Decomposers like fungi live here. Which layer is this? (2 marks)

2. 2. This layer is made up of the tops of the tallest trees. It gets the most sunlight and is very hot and windy. Which layer is this? (2 marks)

3. 3. This layer acts like a roof over the rainforest. It is thick with leaves and branches, providing a home for many birds and monkeys. Which layer is this? (2 marks)

4. 4. This layer is in the shade below the canopy. It is very humid and calm. Many plants with large leaves grow here to catch any light that filters through. Which layer is this? (2 marks)

5. 5. Why do you think plants on the Forest Floor have such large leaves compared to plants in the Emergent Layer? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a tall rainforest tree and label the four layers (Emergent, Canopy, Understorey, and Forest Floor). Draw one animal that you think might live in each layer.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scientist like Bea the honeybee. Research one animal that lives in the rainforest and write a short fact file about which layer it calls home and what it eats.