

Layers of the Rainforest

8 Tropical rainforests are made up of distinct layers.

19 The forest floor is very hot and humid and little grows
31 there. This part of the rainforest gets less than 2% of the
43 sun's light. It is covered in a thin layer of fallen leaves
47 which rot away quickly.

57 Next are the shrub layer and the understory – a dark
68 place, where lots of insects, frogs and snakes can be found
77 amongst the few plants which don't need much sunlight.

87 Above this is the canopy, where most trees stop growing
98 and where up to 90% of rainforest creatures can be found.

111 This sunny area, rich in fruit and seeds, can be as high as
116 thirty metres off the ground.

125 Finally, the few giant trees that thrust themselves above
134 the dense canopy layer are called the emergent layer.



Quick Questions



1. In which layer can most rainforest animals be found?



2. *'The few giant trees that thrust themselves above the dense canopy layer...'*

What do you think dense means in this sentence?



3. How is the forest floor different to the canopy? Give two reasons.



4. Why don't animals live on the forest floor?

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Answers



1. In which layer can most rainforest animals be found?

Accept: (the) Canopy.



2. *'The few giant trees that thrust themselves above the dense canopy layer...'*

What do you think dense means in this sentence?

Accept any answer which states that dense is thick, full or tightly packed.



3. How is the forest floor different to the canopy? Give two reasons.

Accept any two accurate differences as stated in the text, e.g. little grows on the forest floor and lots grow in the canopy.



4. Why don't animals live on the forest floor? **Accept any explanation regarding it being inhospitable, e.g. 'Animals would have no fruit or seeds to keep them alive because hardly anything grows on the forest floor.'**