

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 there. This part of the rainforest gets less than two per cent of the sun's light. It is covered in a thin layer of fallen leaves which rot away quickly.
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- 59 Next are the shrub layer and the understory – a dark place, where lots of insects, frogs and snakes can be found
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- 79 amongst the few plants which don't need much sunlight.
- 89 Above this is the canopy, where most trees stop growing and where up to 90 per cent of rainforest creatures can be found. This sunny area, rich in fruit and seeds, can be as high as 30 metres off the ground.
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- 129 Finally, the few giant trees that thrust themselves above the dense canopy layer are called the emergent layer.
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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?
