

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



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?

Most rainforest animals can be found in the Canopy.



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

What do you think 'dense' means in this sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that dense means the layer 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?

Pupils' own responses, such as: Animals would have no fruit or seeds to keep them alive because hardly anything grows on the forest floor.