

# 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?

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2. *'The few giant trees that thrust themselves above the dense canopy layer..'*  
What do you think dense means in this sentence?

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

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

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