

# Under the Canopy

The **Emergent layer** means the tops of the very tallest trees, which soar 20-100 feet above the rest of the rainforest.

The **Canopy** is the dense ceiling of closely spaced trees and their branches.

The **Understorey** is the term for more widely spaced, smaller tree species and young trees that form a broken layer below the canopy.

The **Shrub Layer** is full of short, bushy plants and young trees that grow only 5-20 feet off the forest floor.

The **Forest Floor** is the ground layer of the forest made up of the fallen trunks of trees, dead leaves and dead animals, fungi, and low-growing plants

Rainforests are the oldest ecosystems on Earth and they are home to millions of people, plants and animals. There are two types of rainforest: tropical and temperate.

**Tropical Rainforests** are found near the equator. The enormous amount of rain and tropical heat means that the conditions in the rainforest are humid and damp. These rainforests only cover 6% of the surface of the Earth but scientists believe that about 50% (half of) of the plant and animal species in the world live in them.

**Temperate Rainforests** are found along coasts in temperate zones. They are cooler and receive much less rain than tropical ones. They have only three layers; the canopy, the understorey and the forest floor.



## Scientific and geographical vocabulary

Word	Definition
<b>Adaptation</b>	The special features that a living thing has to help it to survive in a particular habitat.
<b>Camouflage</b>	The way that an animal hides itself by blending into its surroundings.
<b>Climate</b>	The weather and temperature usually found in an area.
<b>Colony</b>	A group of the same kind of animal that live and work together.
<b>Decomposition</b>	When something breaks up and decays.
<b>Deforestation</b>	The destruction of trees over large areas.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	A community of plants and animals that depend on each other to survive.
<b>Environment</b>	Everything in the world around us, which can affect our lives.
<b>Equator</b>	An imaginary circle around Earth. It runs east and west halfway between the North and South poles.
<b>Extinct</b>	An animal or plant species that has died out completely
<b>Fertile</b>	Soil that is able to produce a large amount of vegetation.
<b>Habitat</b>	The place where a living thing makes its home.
<b>Humid</b>	Having a high level of moisture in the air.
<b>Indigenous</b>	A living thing that belongs naturally to an area.
<b>Interdependent</b>	When two or more people or things rely on each other.
<b>Logging</b>	Felling and cutting trees.
<b>Species</b>	A group of living things that the same main features and can breed with one another.
<b>Threat</b>	Something that can cause harm to an animal, plant or habitat.
<b>Vegetation</b>	The plant life growing in a certain area.

### Rainforest Products:

Many medicines were discovered in the tropical rainforest, for example ginger (which can be used to treat nausea) and quinine, which is used to treat malaria.

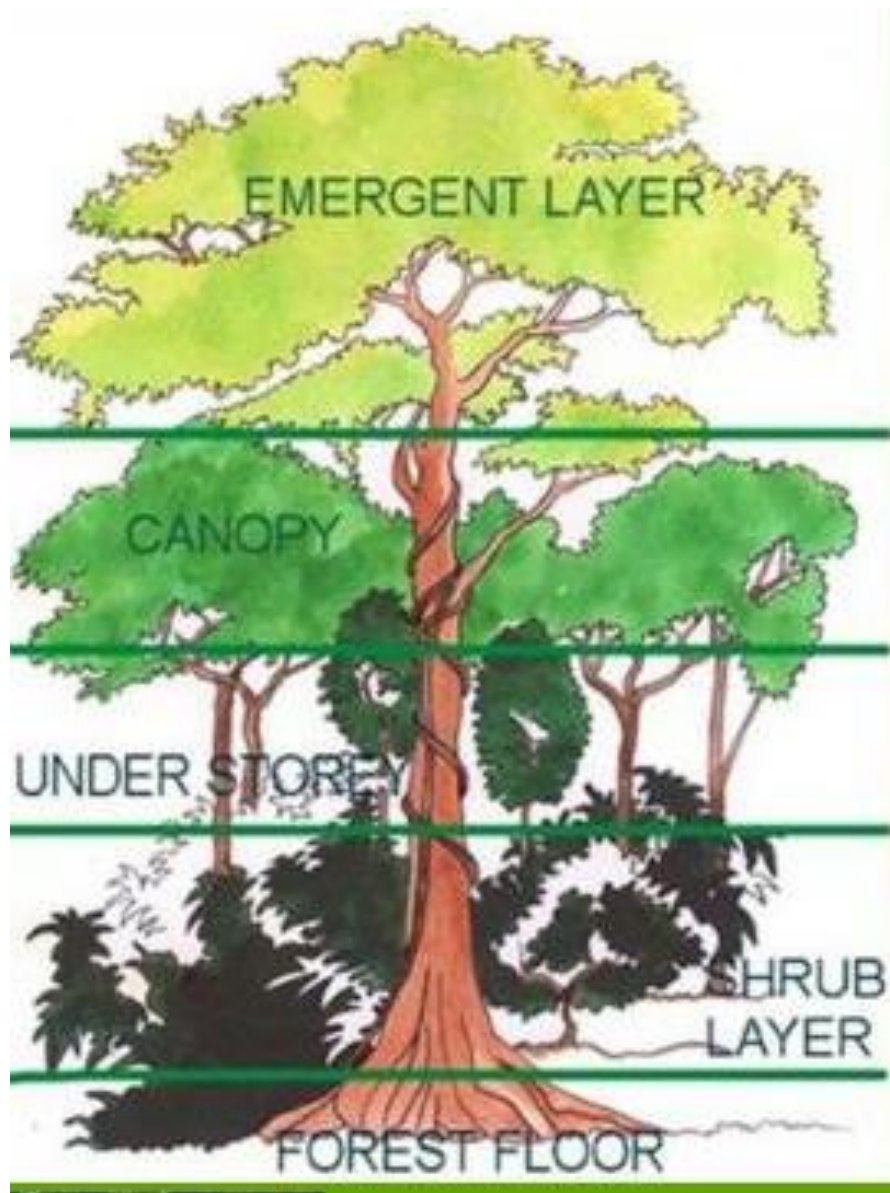
Many foods also come from the rainforest, such as chocolate, coffee and bananas. Other common products from the rainforest include rubber and bamboo.



### Causes of Deforestation:

1. To clear space for farming: growing crops (soya beans and palm oil) and grazing land for beef cattle.
2. Chopping down trees for wood.
3. To build roads to mine for metal, gold and diamonds.
4. To dig for oil.
5. To flood areas to make dams and generate electricity.





## Rainforests

### knowledge quiz

Tick one answer for each question, unless you are told to tick more	Start of unit	End of unit
<b>1. A rainforest is:</b>		
a) A rainy, cold woodland		
b) A rainy, warm woodland		
c) A dry, hot woodland		
d) An umbrella		
<b>2. The largest rainforest in the world is called the:</b>		
a) Thames		
b) Mississippi		
c) Amazon		
d) Google		
<b>3. The tallest trees in a rainforest are in which layer?</b>		
a) understory		
b) emergent		
c) forest floor		
d) canopy		
<b>4. Tick <u>two</u> things that might decompose on the forest floor:</b>		
a) animals		
b) cars		
c) rocks		
d) plants		
Tick one answer for each question, unless you are told to tick more	Start of unit	End of unit

<b>5. Tick <u>two</u> places in the world which have rainforests:</b>		
a) South America		
b) Antarctica		
c) The United Kingdom		
d) Asia		
<b>6. Biodiversity means:</b>		
a) A dance group		
b) A washing powder		
c) All the living things are the same		
d) The wide range of different living things		
<b>7. Tick the names of two countries that have part of the Amazon rainforest in them:</b>		
a) Brazil		
b) USA		
c) New Zealand		
d) Venezuela		
<b>Total out of ten :</b>		
<b>Parents:</b> Don't write or tick on the start of test answers - just tell your child how many they got out of ten, and let me have a copy of their answers and scores. Once your child has done the end of unit test, we can reveal the correct answers.		