

Rainforests

What Is a Rainforest?

Rainforests are large forests that have tall trees, warm weather and lots of different species of animals living there.

They are called rainforests because they get lots of rain.

They are found in hot places such as Africa, Asia and Australia. The largest rainforest is called the Amazon in South America.

Did You Know...?

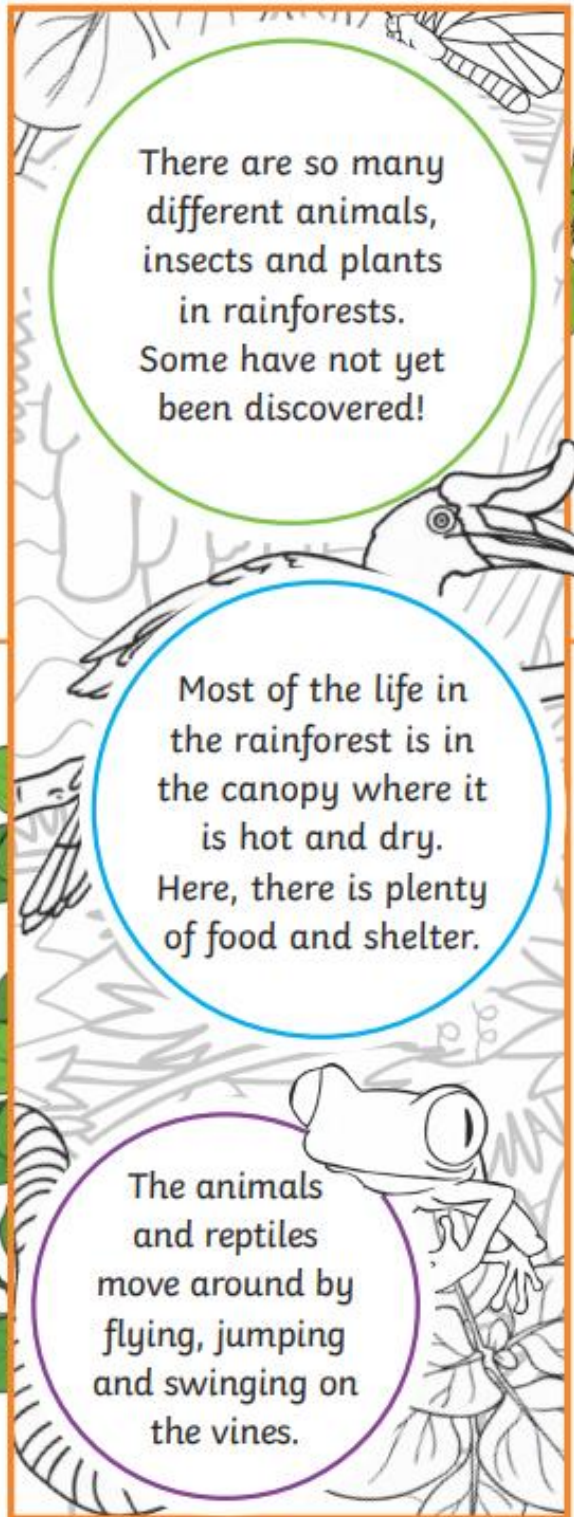
- Rainforests get at least 200cm of rain every year and sometimes more!
- Rainforests produce oxygen that we need to breathe.
- We get many things from rainforests such as bananas, chocolate, nuts, coffee and rubber.
- Around one quarter of the medicines we use come from plants in the rainforest.

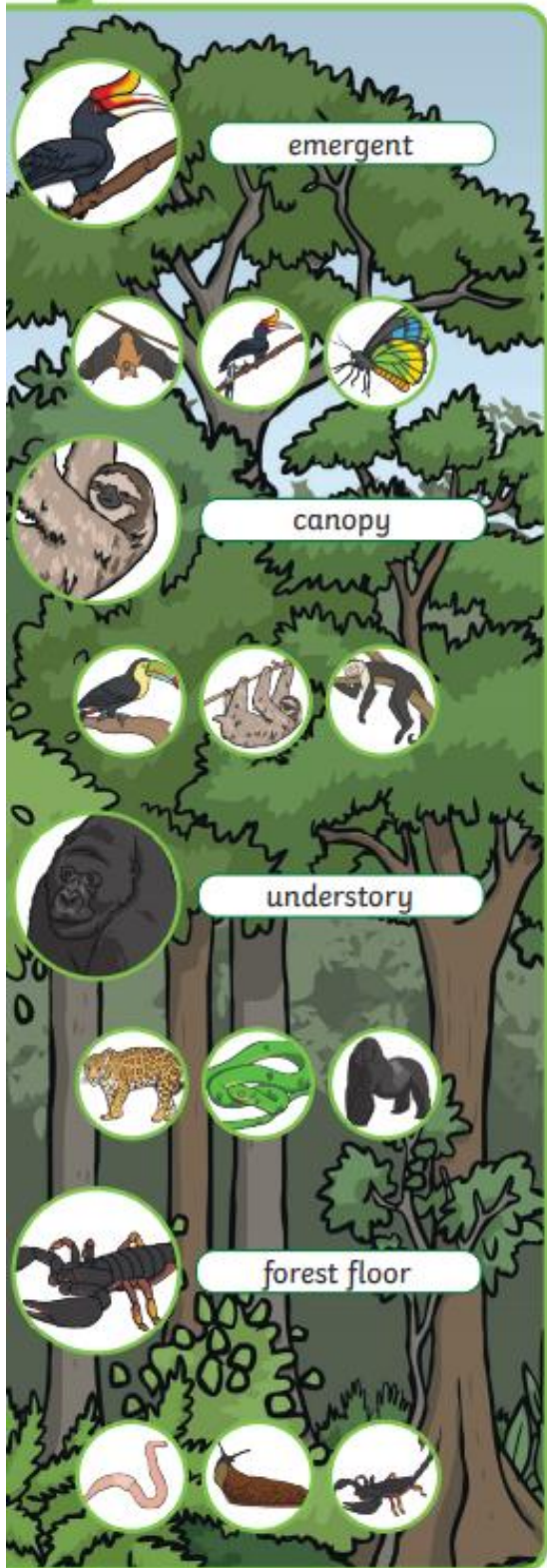
Animals and Wildlife

There are so many different animals, insects and plants in rainforests. Some have not yet been discovered!

Most of the life in the rainforest is in the canopy where it is hot and dry. Here, there is plenty of food and shelter.

The animals and reptiles move around by flying, jumping and swinging on the vines.





The Emergent Layer

At the top is the emergent layer, also known as the sunlit zone.

This layer has the tallest trees and is sunny, wet and windy. Only a few animals live here such as bats, birds and butterflies.

The Canopy

This is where the branches and leaves of the trees are so close together that they join up to form a kind of umbrella. This is home to most of the animals and plants of the rainforest such as toucans, sloths, howler monkeys and fig trees.

The Understory

This layer is found under the canopy. It does not get much sunlight. The understory is home to animals such as jaguars, gorillas, elephants and snakes.

The Forest Floor

Here it is dark and humid. This means damp and hot. Very little sun reaches the forest floor as the leaves of the canopy block the sunlight. The smaller animals live here, such as slugs, scorpions and worms.

Questions

1. Why have rainforests been given this name?

2. Number the rainforest layers from 1-4, starting with the highest layer. The first one has been done for you.

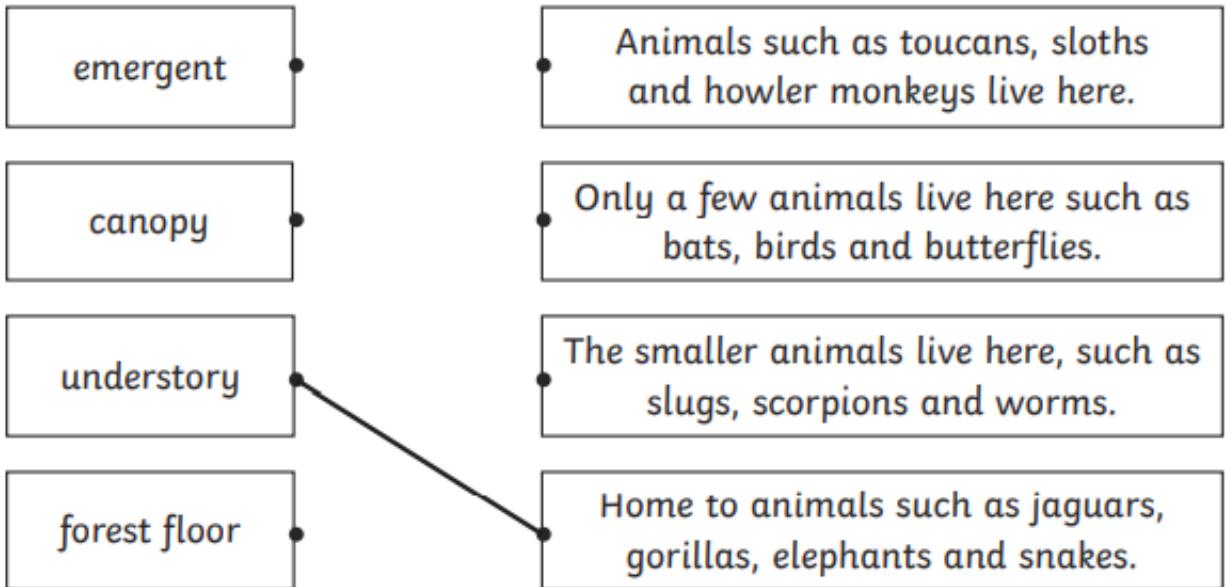
forest floor

1 emergent

understory

canopy

3. Draw **four** lines and match each layer to the animals that live there. The first one has been done for you.



4. Why it is important that we look after our rainforests?

5. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'make'.

6. Fill in the missing word.

Around one _____ of the medicines we use come from plants in the rainforest.

Answers

1. What is a rainforest and why have they been given this name?
They are called rainforests because they get lots of rain.
2. Number the rainforest layers from 1-4, starting with the highest layer.
The first one has been done for you.

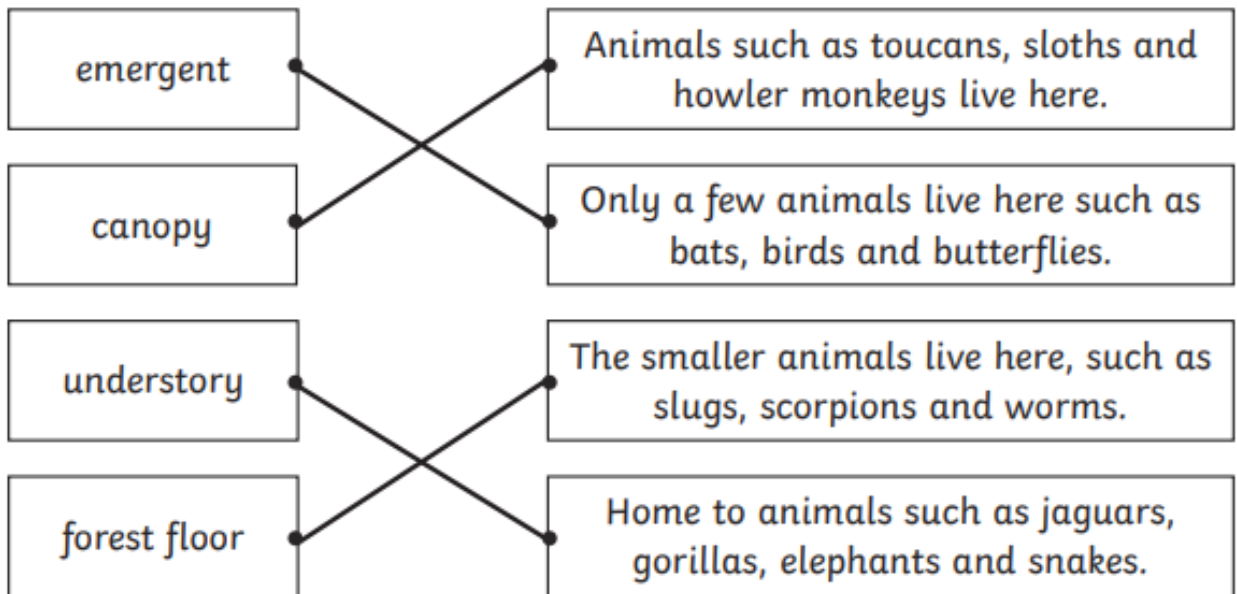
4 forest floor

1 emergent

3 understory

2 canopy

3. Draw **four** lines and match each layer to the animals that live there.
The first one has been done for you.



4. Why it is important that we look after our rainforests?
It is important that we look after our rainforests because they give us lots of things we need such as, oxygen, medicines and food.
5. Find and copy one word that means the same as 'make'.
produce
6. Fill in the missing word.
Around one **quarter** of the medicines we use come from plants in the rainforest.