



Layers of the Rainforest

Aim

- I can describe and understand the features of the layers of a rainforest.

Success Criteria

- I can name the four layers of a rainforest.
- I can tell you about the climate in each layer.
- I can tell you about the plants found in each layer.
- I can tell you some animals that live in each layer.

Inside a Rainforest



What do you notice about the plants in a rainforest?

Are all the plants the same height?

Are they all the same shade of green?

Do they have the same kinds of leaves?

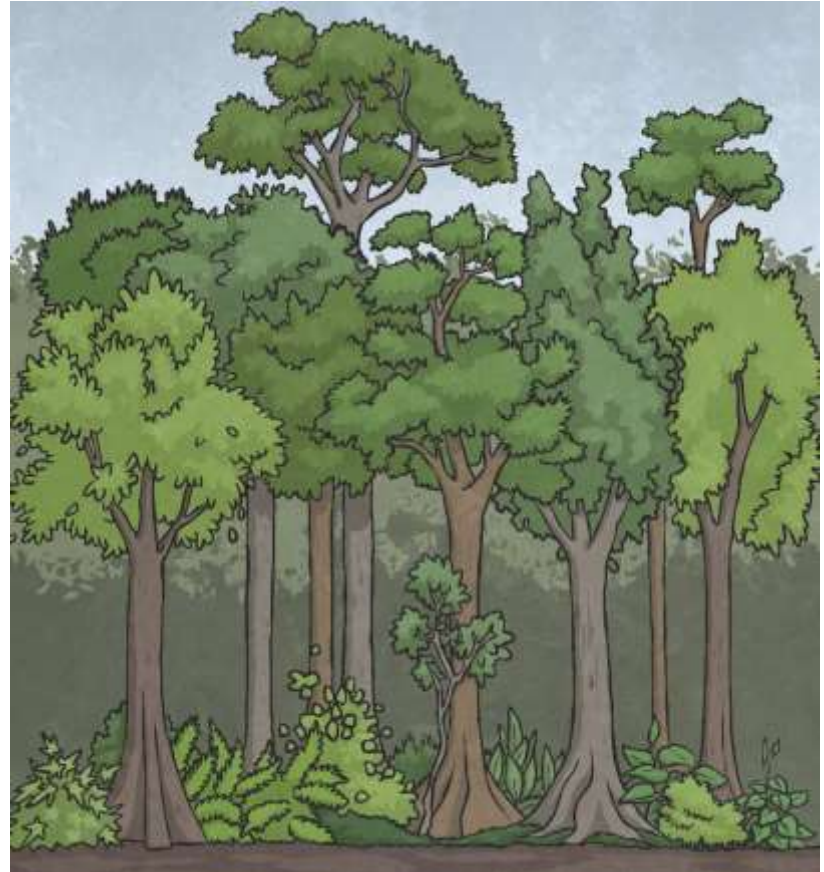


Why do you think they are all different?

Layers of the Rainforest

A rainforest can be split up into layers.

Each layer is different because of the amount of light and water it gets.



Layers of the Rainforest – Emergent Layer

Trees in this layer can be up to 60m tall.

Their trunks can be up to 5m in circumference.
(Around the trunk)

They are usually broad-leaved, evergreen hardwood trees.

Emergent Layer



There is lots of sunlight up here, but it is also very cold and windy.

Many birds, monkeys, bats and butterflies live here.

Layers of the Rainforest- Canopy layer

Trees in this layer form a roof over the plants below.

Trees in this layer usually have smooth, oval, pointed leaves.

There is lots of sunlight but also plenty of rain.

Canopy Layer



Many animals live in this layer as there is plenty of food.

These include snakes, toucans and tree frogs.



Layers of the Rainforest- understory layer

Trees in this layer rarely grow taller than 4m.

It is very warm and very humid here.

(humid means the atmosphere is warm and wet)

Many insects live in this layer.



Understory Layer



Very little sunlight reaches this area, so the plants have to grow larger leaves to reach the sunlight that there is.

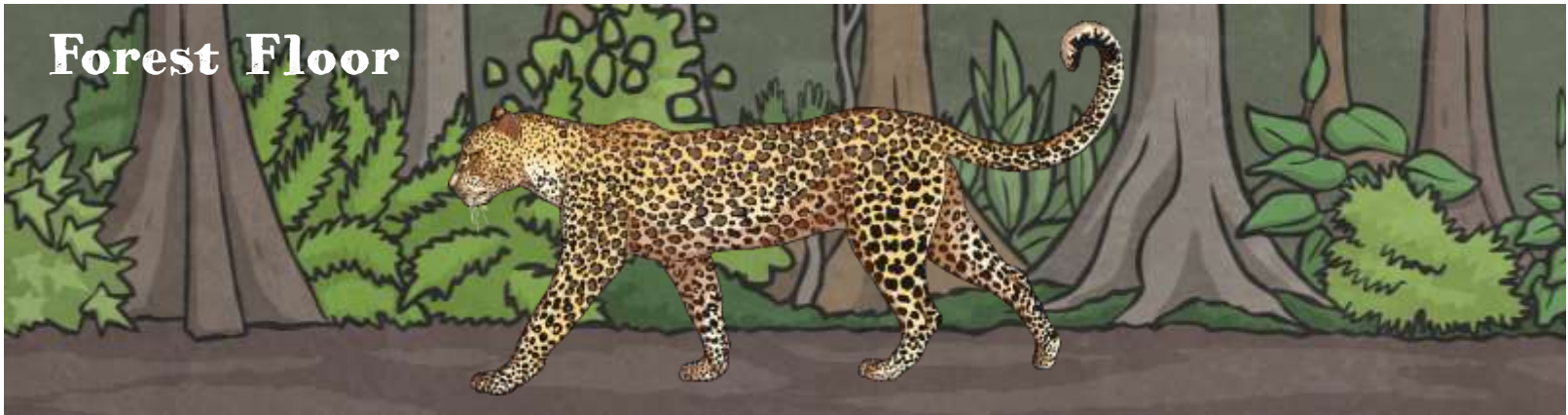
Layers of the Rainforest - forest floor

It is very dark here – almost no sunlight reaches this area.

Very few plants grow in this area.

Leaves and other debris decompose very quickly.

Forest Floor



Animals such as gorillas, anteaters, leopards and tigers live here.

Layers of the Rainforest



Now look at the worksheets

Your task is to cut out the animals of the rainforest and stick them on the correct layer. Use information from the powerpoint to help you.