



Lower KS2

Geography

What are the layers in a tropical rainforest?



Learning Objective:

- To understand and identify the layers of a Rainforest.
- To understand and describe a vegetation belt.

Layers of the Rainforest

The rainforest consists of several layers. Each layer has plants and animals which are adapted to the conditions found there.

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

Please watch this video to learn more:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zkdnvcw>



Layers of the Rainforest

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

Their trunks can be up to 5m in circumference.

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

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

Trees in this layer rarely grow taller than 4m.

It is very warm and very humid here.

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

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.

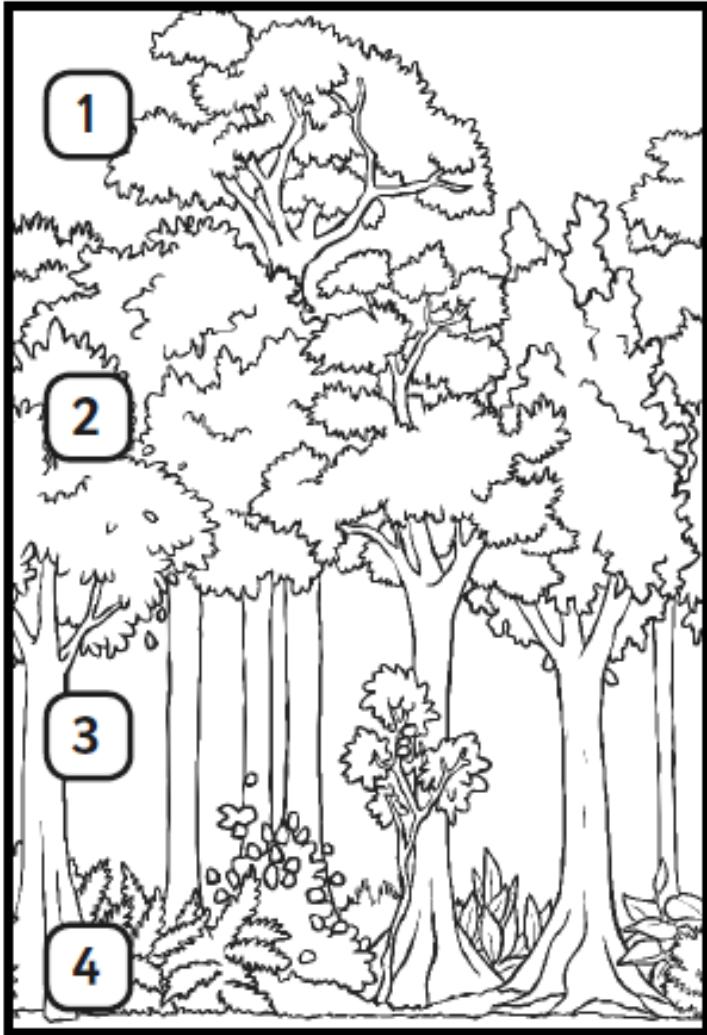
Activity 1

On the following slide is a numbered picture of a Rainforest and labels and descriptions of the different layers. This can be copied into work books or this slide can be printed.

Please number the layers and descriptions to match the picture of which layer is being shown.

Activity 1

Number each label and fact to match the correct layer of the rainforest.



canopy

2

It is very cool and windy
in this layer.

1

forest floor

4

This layer is dark, hot
and humid.

3

understorey

3

This layer gets the most
rain and sunlight.

2

emergent

1

This layer gets almost no
sunlight.

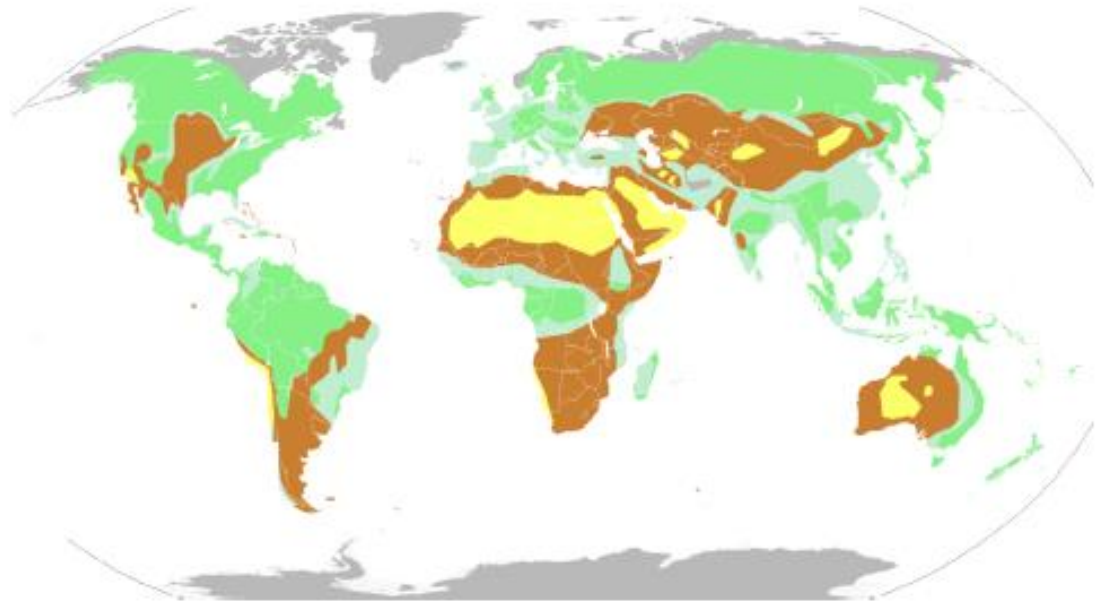
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Vegetation Belts

A vegetation belt is an area with distinct plant types, determined by climate, soil, drainage and elevation.

There are five major vegetation belts:

forest
grassland
tundra
desert
ice sheet



Vegetation Belts - Forest

Forests are areas with trees grouped in a way so their leaves, or foliage, shade the ground. Forests can be found just about anywhere trees can grow, from below sea level to high in the mountains. From tropical rain forests near the Equator to boreal forests in cold climates close to the Arctic Circle, different types of forests can be found all over the world.

Activity 2

Thinking about the vegetation belt found in a Rainforest, can you use the internet or non-fiction books to find one plant and one type of tree that you might find in a Rainforest.

Rainforest Plant

Rainforest Tree

