

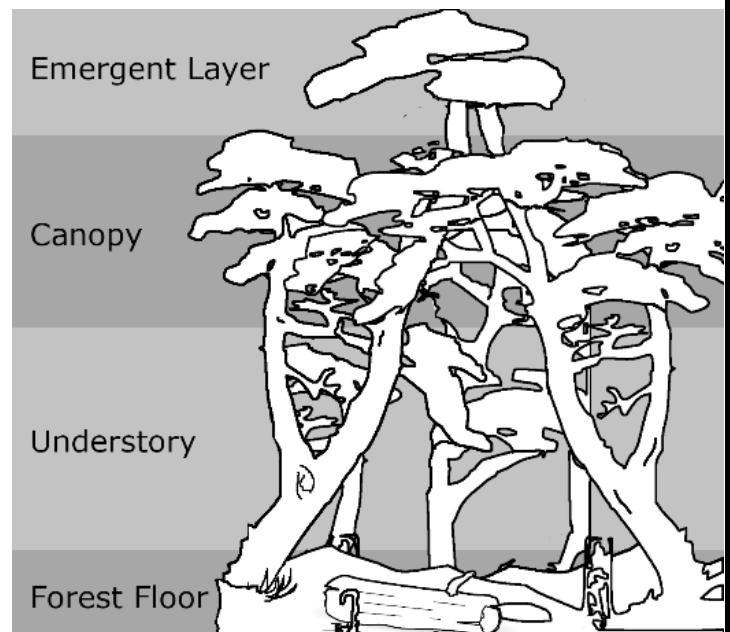
Rainforests

What is a Rainforest?

Rainforests are areas with many tall trees and high rainfall. Rainforests are teeming with life. More than half the world's species of plants and animals live in rainforests.

Layers of a Rainforest

Rainforests have four main layers. The first layer is the forest floor. Very little sunlight reaches the forest floor and so not many plants grow in this dark place. It is home to the larger rainforest animals as well as many insects. Above the forest floor is the understory. Shrubs, bushes and younger trees occupy this layer. The understory is also a dark place. The canopy layer acts as a roof over the understory and forest floor layers. The canopy is home to more life than any of the other layers. Plants grow on the thick branches and climbing plants wrap around them, creating a maze of leaves and branches. At the top is the emergent layer. The very tallest of the trees are found in this layer. The trees up here receive the most sunlight but must deal with very high temperatures and often high winds.



Animals

The forest floor and understory layer are home to many insects, frogs and snakes as well as some of the largest rainforest animals like jaguars and anteaters. Animals that live in the canopy include monkeys, birds, sloths and lizards. Some of the animals that live in the canopy never need to touch the ground! The emergent layer is home to some species of eagles, hawks and other birds.

Task A

1. Which layer has the most life?

2. Why is the forest floor very dark?

3. Which word from the text means 'full of'?

4. List 4 animals that live on the forest floor.

5. How many layers do rainforests have? List them.

6. Why do you think rainforests are home to so many animals?

Task B

Compound words are words that have been joined to make a new word. For example, **rainforest**.

Join words below to make **4 compound words**. Draw!

light

under

fly

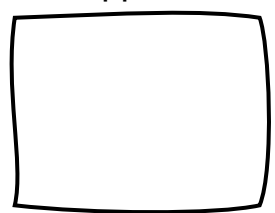
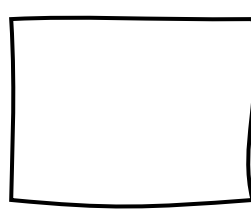
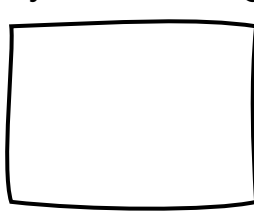
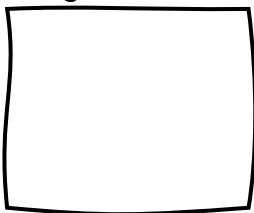
sun

grass

butter

story

hopper



Task C

Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. For example: **high** and **low**

Find the **antonyms** for the following words in the text:

few _____

thin _____

always _____

last _____

Challenge!

Draw a diagram explaining the different layers of a rainforest.