

A Forest With Four Floors

Read the text. Then answer the questions.

A rainforest is a warm, wet forest. It rains almost every day. The trees grow very tall.

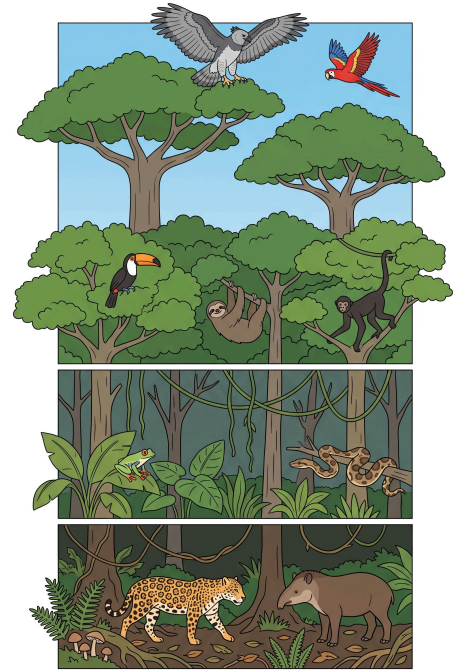
A rainforest has four layers. They are like the floors of a tall building.

The top is the **emergent layer**. A few giant trees poke up into the sky. It is sunny and windy. Eagles nest here.

Next is the **canopy**. The treetops make a thick, leafy roof. Most rainforest animals live here. Monkeys and sloths find fruit and leaves to eat.

Under the roof is the **understory**. It is shady and still. Plants grow big leaves to catch the light. Frogs and snakes live here.

The bottom is the **forest floor**. It is dark and damp. Jaguars and tapirs walk on the ground.



1. How many layers does a rainforest have?

- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4

2. Which layer is like a leafy roof?

- ☐ The emergent layer
- ☐ The canopy
- ☐ The forest floor

3. Why do plants in the understory grow big leaves?

4. Which layer would you like to visit? Tell why.

A Forest With Four Floors: Answer Key

Answers are in green. Written answers will vary; these are examples.

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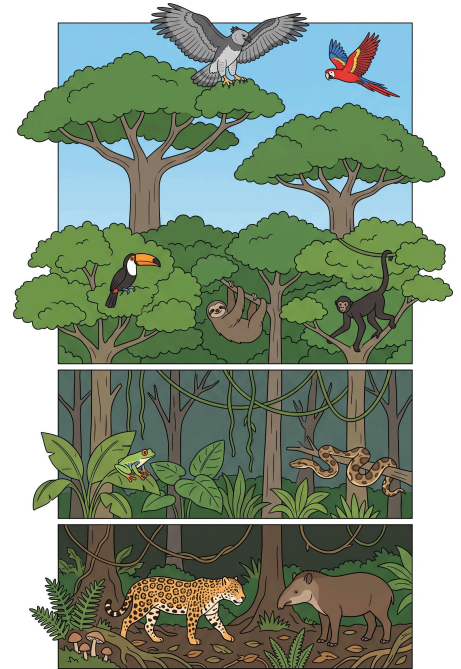
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2. Which layer is like a leafy roof?

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- ☒ The canopy
- ☐ The forest floor

3. Why do plants in the understory grow big leaves?

To catch the light.

4. Which layer would you like to visit? Tell why.

Answers will vary. Example: The canopy, because most of the animals live there.