

# Rainforest Layers

Rainforests are divided into four main layers. The position of each layer means that it receives a different amount of sunlight and rainfall from the others. Different plants and animals are suited to the different environments that each layer offers.

## Emergent Layer

The emergent layer is at the very top of the rainforest. This layer receives the most sunlight, rain and wind. The tallest trees in this layer can reach up to 60 metres (197ft). It is home to animals that can fly, swing or glide, including:

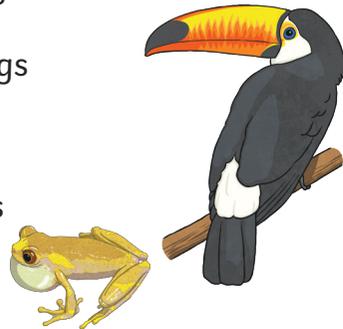
- birds
- monkeys (who survive at height due to their agility and balance)
- bats
- butterflies



## Canopy Layer

Below the emergent layer is the canopy. There is plenty of food, such as fruit and nuts, available in this area and more animals live in the canopy than in any other layer of the rainforest. The tightly-packed, overlapping leaves and branches of the canopy provide shelter for the animals that live there. These include:

- iguanas
- tree frogs
- sloths
- toucans



## Understorey

Located underneath the canopy is the understorey. Not much sunlight reaches this layer but rain does drip through. The understorey is dark, warm and damp. Shrubs, ferns and climbing plants that like the shade and moisture grow well. It is home to smaller animals, insects and snakes. Larger predators that can climb trees, such as jaguars, can also hunt there.



## Forest Floor

The forest floor is very dark and damp and is covered with dead leaves from the layers above. Only 2% of sunlight reaches the forest floor so very few plants grow there. Millions of insects live among the dead leaves and these provide food for insect-eating animals, such as anteaters. Larger mammals, such as tigers and jaguars, also roam in this layer.

