

Rainforests

Rainforests grow in parts of the world where it is hot and wet all _____ round. They are beautiful, dark, mysterious places in which millions of _____ of plant and animal life thrive. Most rainforest _____ are broadleaved evergreens, so rainforests always look lush and green.

The typical _____ is divided into four main layers: the emergent layer, the canopy, the understorey and the forest floor. Each _____ provides food and shelter for its own array of animal life.

The _____ or leaf of the rainforest is called the canopy. Here, the trees reach for the sun at heights of between 30 to 40 _____. They have long slender trunks but wide branches which reach each other to form the canopy. This _____ acts like a huge umbrella, blocking out most of the _____ and sun to the layers below.

The canopy is so thick that, from the air, the _____ is invisible. These are birds and animals that live in the canopy all their _____ without ever coming down to the ground!

Sometimes, a few giant trees _____ out through the forest canopy. This is called the emergent layer. These trees, such as the 60m Cotton Tree, can _____ up to 70 metres in height!

Under the canopy, where it is _____, still and humid, is the understorey. This layer consists of a huge variety of small trees, shrubs, palms, ferns and _____ also called lianas. Some of the small trees will _____ part of the canopy when they are fully grown. Lack of sunlight creates their _____. Trunks of the giant trees die and let the sunlight stream through.

The lowest level of the rainforest is the forest _____. This is where mosses, herbs, fungi and a few flowers grow. The ground is _____ with thick and moist leaf litter, as well as rotting wood and animal remains. Many creatures _____ on this rich forest of food. They are all part of a very complex ecosystem which we must not disturb!

grows	trunk	dark
live		
grow	trunk	canopy
palms		
floor	ground	food
layer		