

Layers of the Rainforest

- 8 Tropical rainforests are made up of distinct layers.
- 19 The forest floor is very hot and humid and little grows
- 31 there. This part of the rainforest gets less than 2% of the
- 43 sun's light. It is covered in a thin layer of fallen leaves
- 47 which rot away quickly.
- 57 Next are the shrub layer and the understory - a dark
- 68 place, where lots of insects, frogs and snakes can be found
- 77 amongst the few plants which don't need much sunlight.
- 87 Above this is the canopy, where most trees stop growing
- 98 and where up to 90% of rainforest creatures can be found.
- 111 This sunny area, rich in fruit and seeds, can be as high as
- 116 thirty metres off the ground.
- 125 Finally, the few giant trees that thrust themselves above
- 134 the dense canopy layer are called the emergent layer.



Quick Questions



1. In which layer can most rainforest animals be found?



2. *'The few giant trees that thrust themselves above the dense canopy layer...'*
What do you think dense means in this sentence?



3. How is the forest floor different to the canopy?
Give two reasons.



4. Why don't animals live on the forest floor?
