

# 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?

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

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

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

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## Paul the Lucky Octopus

- 10 Over the past few weeks, Paul the Octopus has been  
19 predicting the result of the World Cup football games.  
23 He's an amazing animal!
- 32 Before each match, the sea creature's owners have been  
41 putting some clear, plastic boxes into Paul's tank. Each  
51 box is decorated with the flag of a football team.
- 61 Paul has been choosing one of the boxes by crawling  
71 towards it and he has correctly guessed the winner of  
81 six football games so far in the World Cup competition.
- 92 Is Paul a football expert or just a very lucky octopus?  
96 What do you think?



## Quick Questions



1. What does Paul predict the results of?

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2. Which adjectives has the author used to describe the boxes in Paul's tank?

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3. Why do some people think Paul is a football expert?

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4. What do you think – is Paul just a lucky octopus?

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