

Layers of the Rainforest Facts

The rainforest is divided into four zones, known as layers. The four layers are the emergent layer, the canopy layer, the understory layer, and the forest floor layer. Each layer has lots of different animals and plant life, however, some animals can be found in several different layers.

The emergent layer is the top of the rainforest. The weather is hot, wet, and windy in this layer. The trees can be from 150 to 200 feet off the ground here. The emergent layer is home to birds and some small mammals. The bird-eating tarantula, hummingbirds, macaws, and butterflies make their home in this layer. Some small monkeys can also be found here too.



The canopy is the next layer of the rainforest. This is where most of the animals and plants can be found. This layer is 100 to 150 feet off the ground. There are many branches, vines, and leaves in the canopy layer of the rainforest. This is home to many types of animals. The red-eyed tree frog, sloths, toucans, and monkeys all make the canopy their home. The canopy layer has plenty of food and places to make homes for the animals that live here.

The understory layer is located under the canopy layer. Many different types of small insects and animals live in the understory layer. Some of the animals that live in this layer are leaf cutter ants, geckos, bats, and boa constrictors. The understory is dark and humid because only a small amount of sunlight makes it to this layer. Some larger animals use the understory layer to hunt, such as the jaguar.

The forest floor layer is the bottom layer of the rainforest. The forest floor is dark, damp, and hot. Only 2% of the sunlight makes it to the forest floor layer. The forest floor is home to anteaters, anacondas, scorpions, and jaguars.