

Discover
AMAZONIA
Scotland's Indoor Tropical Rainforest

ONLINE LESSONS



Canopy Layer



Use the words at the bottom of the page to help you fill in the blanks.

The third layer up of the rainforest, between the understory and the emergent layer is called the _____.

The canopy is the 'roof of the rainforest', with the dense network of _____ and _____ forming a roof over the two lower layers.

The trees in the canopy entwine to make a very thick cover which is generally 60 – 130 feet above the ground. Because the trees are so _____, the canopy layer blocks _____, rainfall and sunlight, so creates a humid, still, _____ environment below. Trees have adapted to this damp environment by producing glossy leaves with pointed tips that repel _____.

Many canopy plants, lacking wind, cannot scatter their seeds this way, so encase their seeds in _____. Fruit eating animals then eat this and deposit seeds on the forest floor as _____. Fig trees, common throughout most of the world's tropical rainforests, are often the most familiar fruit tree in the canopy.

With so much water, _____ and shelter available here, more animals live in the canopy than any other layer of the rainforest. Because the dense vegetation muffles sound, many canopy dwellers have loud or frequent vocalizing. In the Amazon rainforest, canopy fruit is snatched up in the large beaks of screeching _____ and toucans and picked by barking spider and howler monkeys. The silent two-toed _____ chews on leaves, shoots and fruit in the canopy layer.

Thousands of _____ species can also be found in the canopy, from bees and beetles to _____. Many of these insects are the principal diet of the canopy's _____ species, such as draco lizards in Southeast Asia.

BUTTERFLIES

DROPPINGS

REPTILE

BRANCHES

MACAWS

DARK

TALL

INSECT

LEAVES

CANOPY LAYER

WIND

FRUIT

SLOTH

WATER



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**COMMON
MARMOSET**

Callithrix jacchus



DESCRIPTION

Common marmosets are New World monkeys (belonging to a group of monkeys found in South and Central America). They are small and easily identified by the white tufts of hair on the sides of the head and the white patch on the forehead.

DISTRIBUTION

These small monkeys are found in tropical forests in Brazil in South America.

LIFE SPAN

On average 7 years, however they have been known to live up to 16 years.

DIET

Common marmosets have a varied diet including fruit, flowers, nectar, insects and small mammals but their favourite food is tree sap. They have specialised teeth to help them to access this high energy food and will eat more tree sap when there is little fruit available to them.

STATUS IN THE WILD:

Least concern.





Canopy Layer

MONKEY MASK

Colour me in then cut me out carefully with the help of an adult. Make two holes on my ears and tie string through to wear me as a mask!



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**WHITE'S
TREE FROG**

Litoria caerulea



DESCRIPTION

White's tree frogs are medium to large sized greeny-brown frogs. They can change colour to some degree, to help them continuously camouflage in the trees of the rainforest, changing from dark browns to much lighter greens.

They have suckers at the end of each toe, called toe pads, which enable them to climb high in the trees.

DISTRIBUTION

These frogs are native to Australia and New Guinea. They live in rainforests and other tropical forests. They are arboreal ('tree dwelling') so spend much of their time in the trees, as their name suggests. They are usually found near to

LIFE CYCLE

On average 7-10 years, but have been known to live up to 16 years in captivity, a very long lifespan for a frog!

DIET

Their diet mainly consists of small invertebrates such as crickets and locusts, but will take larger items too.

STATUS IN THE WILD: Least concern.



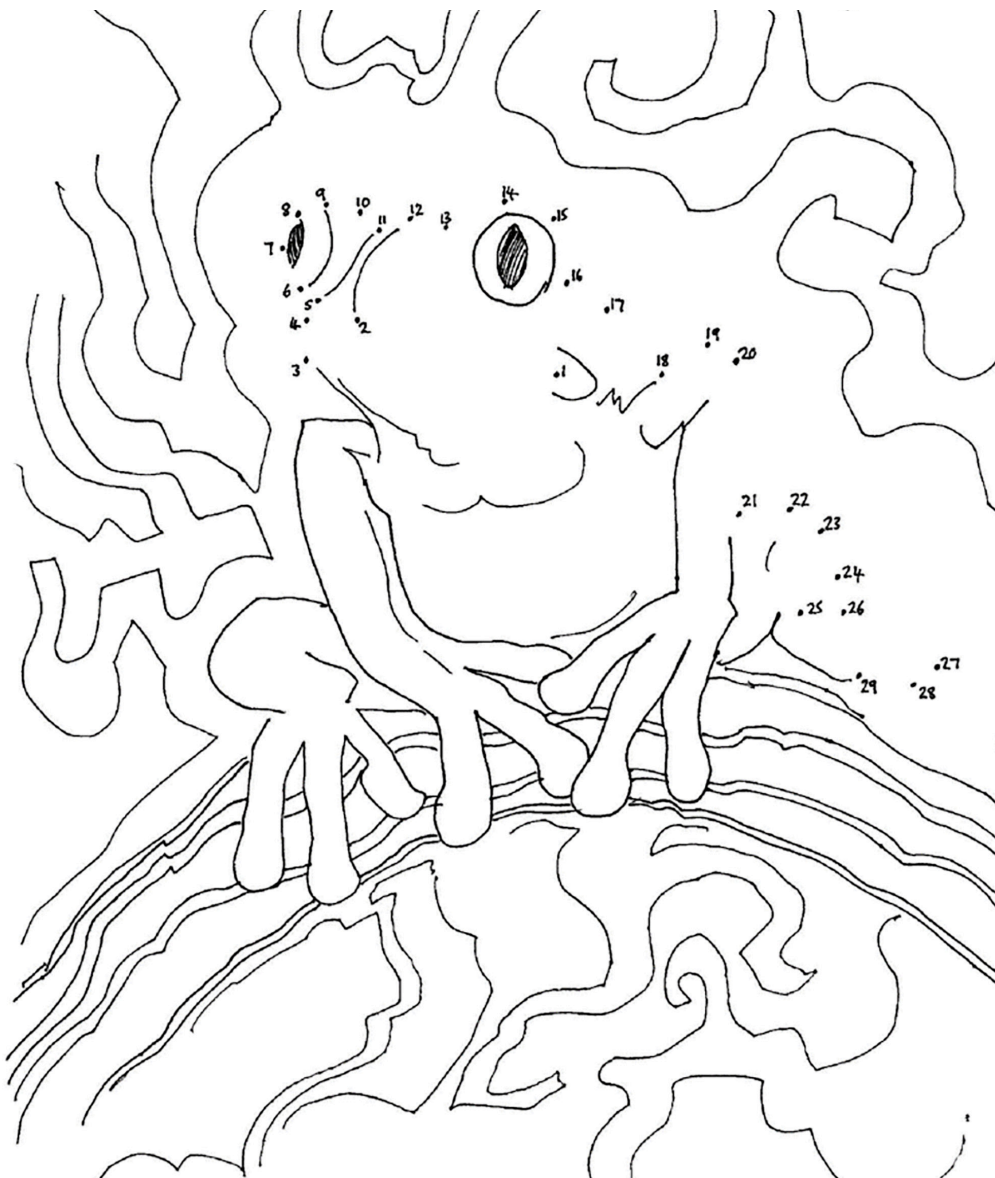
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Today we learnt about the canopy layer of the rainforest. Complete this dot-to-dot picture to reveal one of our rainforest creatures that will live there and then colour it in!





Canopy Layer



Answer Sheet (Teachers info)

The third layer up of the rainforest, between the understory and the emergent layer is called the **CANOPY LAYER**.

The canopy is the 'roof of the rainforest', with the dense network of **LEAVES** and **BRANCHES** forming a roof over the two lower layers.

The trees in the canopy entwine to make a very thick cover which is generally 60 – 130 feet above the ground. Because the trees are so **TALL**, the canopy layer blocks **WIND**, rainfall and sunlight, so creates a humid, still, **DARK** environment below. Trees have adapted to this damp environment by producing glossy leaves with pointed tips that repel **WATER**.

Many canopy plants, lacking wind, cannot scatter their seeds this way, so encase their seeds in **FRUIT**. Fruit eating animals then eat this and deposit seeds on the forest floor as **DROPPINGS**. Fig trees, common throughout most of the world's tropical rainforests, are often the most familiar fruit tree in the canopy.

With so much water, **FOOD** and shelter available here, more animals live in the canopy than any other layer of the rainforest. Because the dense vegetation muffles sound, many canopy dwellers have loud or frequent vocalizing. In the Amazon rainforest, canopy fruit is snatched up in the large beaks of screeching **MACAWS** and toucans and picked by barking spider and howler monkeys. The silent two-toed **SLOTH** chews on leaves, shoots and fruit in the canopy layer.

Thousands of **INSECT** species can also be found in the canopy, from bees and beetles to **BUTTERFLIES**. Many of these insects are the principal diet of the canopy's **REPTILE** species, such as draco lizards in Southeast Asia.

