

ONLINE LESSONS



Emergent Layer



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

The top layer of the rainforest is called the _____. Here, there is a lot of sunshine and plenty of rain and is also very _____. Emergent layer _____ are often called "giants" and can reach heights up to around 70 metres tall!

To maintain such heights, these trees must have strong, highly water-resistant bases and trunks and wide-spreading tops with tough, waxy leaves. In the rainforest, many trees have _____

_____ which are large wide roots which help to _____ the tree.

The trees take advantage of their height and also of the strong _____ and scatter their _____ and pollen throughout the lower layers. Some trees produce seeds with "wings" that allow them to fall far away from the parent tree, to avoid competition for food and _____ once they germinate.

The emergent layer of the rainforest is home to many animals that are able to survive climbing tall trees and _____ or jumping from branch to branch and have a good sense of _____.

Animals found living in the emergent layer include many _____, monkeys, and bugs. Some other animals like sloths also have a home in the emergent layer because it is the only place they can live _____, without being disturbed by other animals higher up the food chain.

STABILISE

SAFELY

SEEDS

WINDY

WATER

FLYING

BUTTRESS ROOTS

TREES

BIRDS

BALANCE

WINDS

EMERGENT LAYER



Discover
AMAZONIA
Scotland's Indoor Tropical Rainforest

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Emergent Layer

**BLUE AND GOLD
MACAW**

Ara Ararauna



DESCRIPTION

Blue and gold macaws are a large species of parrot. They are almost entirely bright aqua blue on the top parts and golden yellow on the under parts, hence their name. They have a creamy white face, with distinct black feather lines and a green forehead.

DISTRIBUTION

Blue and gold macaws are found in tropical rainforest in South America, being found widely across the continent in countries including Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Peru and Venezuela.

DIET

Their diet consists of fruits, seeds and nuts. They will also regularly visit clay licks to get mineral supplements into their diet.

LIFE SPAN

These birds are extremely long lived and on average will reach 70-80 years!

STATUS IN THE WILD: Least concern.



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Today we learnt about the emergent layer of the rainforest. Colour in this macaw to match ours!



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**SEBA'S
FRUIT BAT**

Carollia perspicillata



DESCRIPTION

Seba's fruit bats are a small species of South American bat, only reaching between 1.8 to 2.5 inches in length. They are usually dark brown in colour but a paler or orangey colouration can occur.

DISTRIBUTION

They are nocturnal creatures, meaning they are most active during the night. They are found living in forests throughout South America, from southern Mexico to Bolivia, Paraguay and Brazil.

DIET

These bats feed on over 50 different fruits! They also feed on nectar and take occasional insects. They have an excellent sense of smell which

LIFE SPAN

Like many bat species, they have a fairly long lifespan, on average reaching 10 years old.

STATUS IN THE WILD: Least concern.



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Emergent Layer

BAT PEG CRAFT

You will need:

1. A wooden clothes peg
2. Googly eyes
3. Glue
4. Scissors
5. Black paper or card
6. Black paint or felt tip pen

And an adult to help!

INSTRUCTIONS

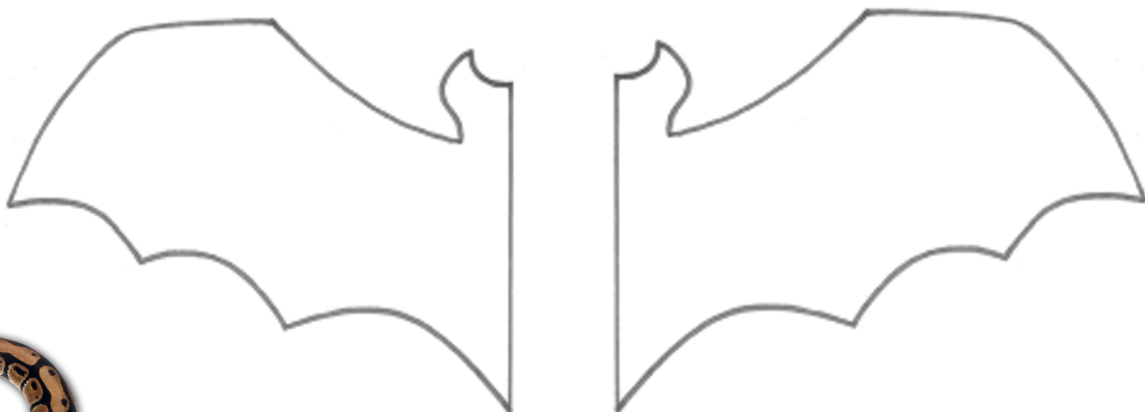
Cut out the template of the bat wings below and use these to cut out black wings from your black paper or card.

Colour the peg in black using paint or felt tip pen and leave to dry.

Glue the wings either side of the peg and leave to dry.

Stick 2 googly eyes at the top end of the peg, for the bat's eyes.

Bat peg complete!





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Answer Sheet (Teachers info)

The top layer of the rainforest is called the **EMERGENT LAYER**. Here, there is a lot of sunshine and plenty of rain and is also very **WINDY**. Emergent layer **TREES** are often called "giants" and can reach heights up to around 70 metres tall!

To maintain such heights, these trees must have strong, highly water-resistant bases and trunks and wide-spreading tops with tough, waxy leaves. In the rainforest, many trees have **BUTTRESS ROOTS**. These are large wide roots which help to **STABILISE** the tree.

The trees take advantage of their height and also of the strong **WINDS** and scatter their **SEEDS** and pollen throughout the lower layers. Some trees produce seeds with "wings" that allow them to fall far away from the parent tree, to avoid competition for food and **WATER** once they germinate.

The emergent layer of the rainforest is home to many animals that are able to survive climbing tall trees and **FLYING** or jumping from branch to branch and have a good sense of **BALANCE**.

Animals found living in the emergent layer include many **BIRDS**, monkeys, and bugs. Some other animals like sloths also have a home in the emergent layer because it is the only place they can live **SAFELY**, without being disturbed by other animals higher up the food chain.

