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# Rainforest Ranger Worksheet

## 5th & 6th Class

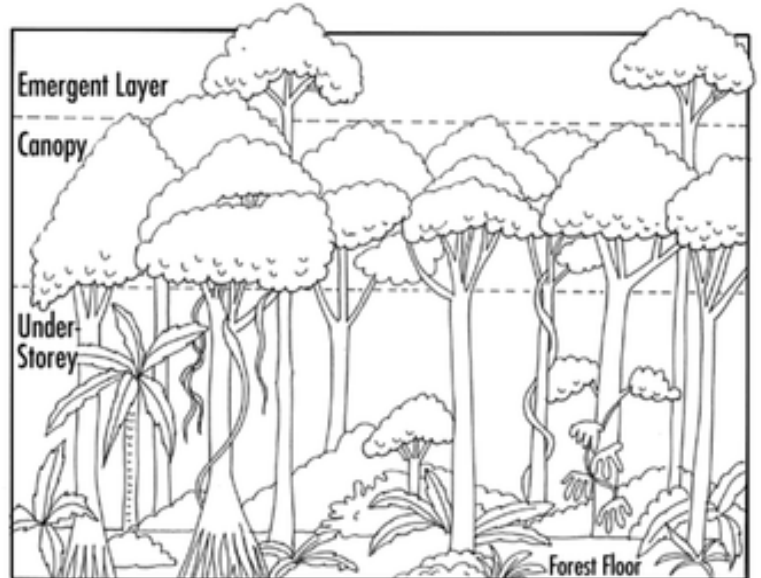
The rainforests ecosystem is home to millions of different species of plants, animal and fungi. These forests are dense with vegetation, experience high levels of rainfall and have a hot and humid climate.

In South America, the Amazon consists of 390 billion individual trees and is considered the largest rainforest in the world. Because trees in a rainforest are so abundant and grow to huge heights, they can make their own rain. Clouds are created from the water evaporating off the leaves. Which leads to daily rainfall.

### Layers of the rainforest:

The rainforest is made up of different layers of plant-life. Most of the food in the forest is produced by trees in the **canopy** layer. Animals have adapted to living in the trees to utilise this available food resource. **Adaptation** is when a physical characteristic or behaviour changes to help an organism survive in its environment.

How have Bornean orangutan's feet adapted to living in the trees?



How do tapirs escape from being predated by jaguars in South America?

Some plants in the rainforest live on the dark forest floor. Since the soil found here has very little available nutrients for plants to eat, some species have even adapted to digesting insects.

The pitcher plant is known to digest flies, moths, wasps, butterflies, beetles, and ants.



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**Rainforest conservation:**

**Wildlife conservation is the practise of protecting wild plant and animal species, as well as their native ecosystems. This can be successfully carried out either in the animal’s wild habitat or through the good work of high quality zoos and wildlife parks. Globally through WAZA (World Association of Zoos and Aquariums), zoos of a high standard are all working together to protect species currently facing a threat of extinction.**

If a Bornean orangutan lives a solitary lifestyle in the wild, would conservationists need a large or small area of protected rainforest to help this species survive?

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To replicate their wild habitat, what facilities would an Asian elephant need in a zoo?

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**A National Park is an area of land that is protected by law to prevent unregulated hunting, farming and building development.**

If an ecosystem such as the Amazon rainforest is home to thousands of species of plants and animals, how would you protect it?

**Education:** How would you teach local communities about the importance of conserving their native species?

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**Research:** How would you determine what species needs immediate protection?

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**Conservation.** How would you make sure your park is fully protected? (E.g. fence or patrolling rangers)

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