Name:

The Tropical Rainforest

Rainforest Series, Part 1

By Mikki Sadil

ropical rainforests are among the most mysterious of all geographical biomes in the world. A biome is an area with very distinctive plants and animals that



distinct plant and animal life.

The next layer is called the canopy. These trees grow up to 130 feet tall, and



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degrees Fahrenheit all year long, and the air is almost always humid.

Rainforests have four very distinct layers of trees. The first is the emergent layer which has giant trees growing from 100 to 240 feet tall. These trees have umbrellashaped crowns that grow high above the rest of the forest. They have their own

Rainforest Facts

- Rainforests produce about 20% of the world's oxygen.
- About 25% of all medicine ingredients come from rainforest plants.
- Rainforests are home to more than half of our planet's land animals.

from the canopy reaches here, and it tends to be very warm and humid. Trees and leafy plants that require little sun grow here, with the trees growing to about 60 feet. This layer has many smaller trees, shrubs, vines, and plants, but little air movement. There are many animals and insects living in this layer.

The final layer of the rainforest is the forest floor. It is surprisingly dark and less than 2% of the sun's light reaches this area. Because the sun's rays don't shine on the ground, there is very little plant life on the forest floor. It is an area covered with fallen leaves, seeds, dead flowers, and fruits and branches that decompose very quickly. It also has a distinctive variety of animals and plants that live there.

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- 1. In a rainforest, the tallest trees can grow...
 - a. almost 200 feet tall
 - **b.** more than 200 yards tall
 - c. over 270 feet tall





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- 4. Most animals that live in the rainforest live in the...
 - **a.** emergent layer
- **b.** canopy
- **c.** understory
- d. forest floor
- **5.** Read the following sentence from the article and choose the best definition for the underlined word.

In most rainforests, the temperature ranges from 70 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit all year long, and the air is almost always humid.

The underlined word means...

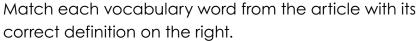
- a. difficult to breathe
- **b.** containing lots of oxygen
- **c.** warm and comfortable
- d. containing lots of water vapor

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- **4.** _____ decompose
- **5.** _____ Fahrenheit
- 6. ____ mysterious
- **7.** ____ adapted

- **d.** device for keeping rain or sun off of a person
- e. decay; rot
- **f.** scale for measuring temperature commonly used in the USA
- g. huge

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The Tropical Rainforest

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By Mikki Sadil

In the article, "The Tropical Rainforest," you learned about the four different layers of the rainforest.

Write a short paragraph that compares and contrasts the rainforest's canopy and the forest floor. Be sure you tell how the canopy and floor are the same, and how they're





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ANSWER KEY

The Tropical Rainforest



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ANSWER KEY

The Tropical Rainforest



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6. ____ mysterious

used in the USA

7. b adapted

g. huge