

The first thing you need to know before you go into the rainforest is that...

# Rainforests have layers

It is no surprise that rainforests can be characterised by their tall trees and downpours of rain. But here are some interesting facts about their layers that you may not already know.



## Emergent Layer

Where the tallest trees peak out, or **emerge**, from the canopy. This layer gets the most sunlight but it is also most open to the wind and rain!

## Canopy Layer

The leaves of these trees are so close together that they form a cover, a bit like a **canopy**.

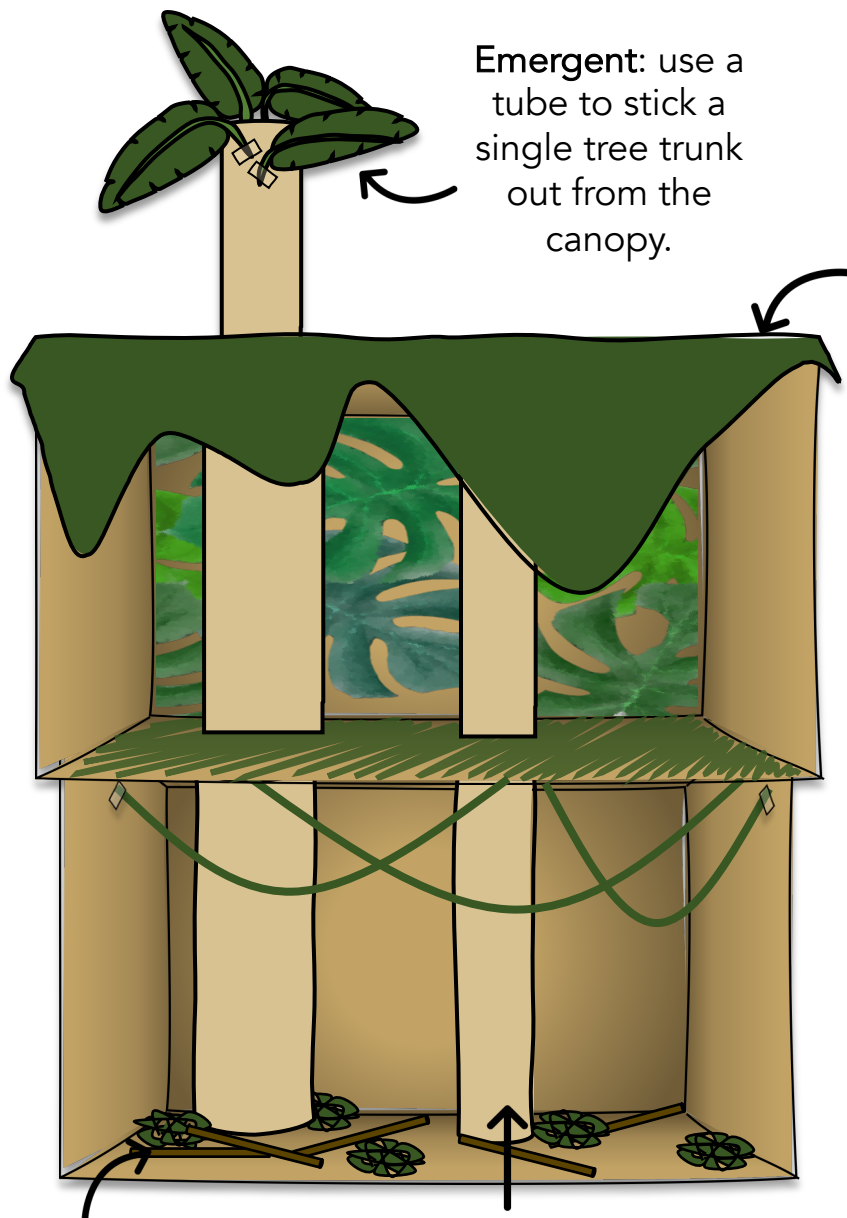
## Understory Layer

This layer is named because it is found **under** the canopy. The canopy prevents this layer from getting much sunlight but the rain still pours here.

## Forest Floor

**CHALLENGE:** Using recycled cardboard boxes, tubes, magazines, leaves and whatever you can get your creative hands on, we challenge you to make your own rainforest model... with layers! Check out our example idea below.

**TIP:** using cardboard boxes helps you to divide your layers better.



**Emergent:** use a tube to stick a single tree trunk out from the canopy.

**Canopy:** use your second box to create a canopy. Use tubes for tree trunks. Remember the leaves are close together here. Why not use a piece of material to create a continuous cover?

Decorate paper and stick it in, colour and paint straight onto the cardboard. Go wild with your creations and use every surface of the box to your advantage.

Show us your photos using [#CRGPGorillaClub](#) and make sure you save your creation for **Pack 3** when we will be adding animals!

**Forest floor:** use the bottom of a box as your forest floor. Scatter model sticks, bark and small shrubs.

**Understory:** use your first box to decorate the understory. Use tubes for tree trunks. You could have vines hanging down made from string. The more creative, the better!