

How to make a Rainforest diorama - Forest floor and Understory layers

You will need:

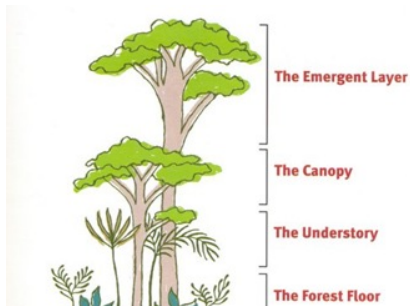
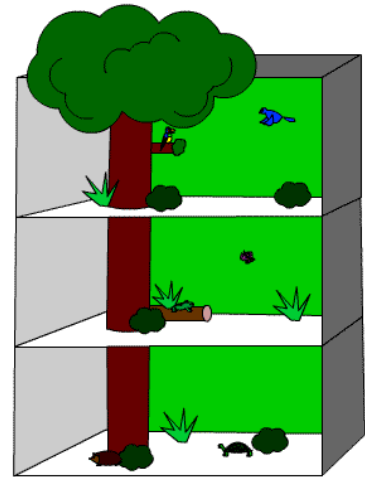
Tubes

Shoe boxes

Scissors

PVA glue

Tissue, paper, pipe cleaners
(browns and greens for foliage,
bright colours for flowers)



Tropical rainforests
have four different layers.

Making the Forest Floor

Did you know that the floor of the forest is home to lots of animal life, especially insects and arachnids (like tarantulas)? The largest animals in the rain forest live on the forest floor, including gorillas, anteaters, wild boars, jaguars and people.

It is very dark down on the forest floor and there is hardly any sunlight, because of the large trees and leaves above. Things decay quickly and almost no plants grow on the forest floor.

What are you going to include in the forest floor layer?

Put two tubes in the middle of your box.
Cut them to fit exactly. Use materials available to
make a dark forest floor with decaying leaves
and very few plants.

Which creatures are you going to include?



Type "Rainforest Creatures Forest Floor" into Google Images and print out or draw some creatures for your diorama.



Making the Understory Layer

The understory layer is one above the forest floor.

It is a dark, cool environment that is under the leaves but over the ground.

It contains short, leafy, mostly non-flowering shrubs and vines.

Animals include insects like beetles, lizards and small mammals.

Larger animals such as jaguars spend a lot of time sitting on branches watching the area for prey.



What are you going to include in the understory layer?

Put two tubes for trees in the middle of your box. Cut them to fit exactly and make sure they match the positions of the tubes in the forest floor box.

Use dark green paper and tissue to make a dark understory layer. Cut short leaves out of paper and tissue and wrap green pipe-cleaners around the tubes. These are the vines.

Which creatures are you going to include?

Type "Rainforest Creatures Understory" into Google Images and print out or draw some creatures for your diorama.

