How to make a Rainforest diorama

- The Canopy and Emergent Layer

You will need:
Tubes
Shoe boxes
Scissors
PVA glue
Tissue, paper, pipe cleaners
(browns and greens for foliage,
bright colours for flowers)

Making the Canopy Floor

The canopy is the upper parts of the trees.
Most canopy trees have smooth, oval leaves that come
to a point. This allows the water to run off the leaf
which stops fungi growing on it:

Many animals live in the canopy because there
are lots of things to eat. It is full of insects,
arachnids, birds, mammals (monkeys,
orangutans) reptiles, vines, mosses, lichens and
orchids, snakes, toucans and tree frogs.

What are you going to include in the canopy layer?

Put two tubes in the middle of your box. Make sure they are in the same place as the tubes
in the Understory box. Cut them to fit exactly. Use the paper and tissue to make a bright
canopy layer with lots of flowers and leaves.

Which creatures are you going to include? Type "Rainforest Creatures Canopy"
into Google Images and print out or draw some creatures for your diorama.

Making the Emergent Layer

The emergent layer includes all the tops of the tallest trees. They can tower as much as 200 feet above the forest floor with trunks that measure up to 16 feet around!

Common animals found in the emergent layer are birds, insects, eagles, monkeys, bats and butterflies.

There is a lot of sunshine up here!

What are you going to include in the emergent layer?

Take a tube and make it look like it is sticking out of the top of the canopy layer. Put leaves on this tube to make it look like a very tall tree growing taller than anything else in the rainforest.

Which creatures are you going to include the emergent layer? Type "Rainforest Creatures Emergent Layer" into Google Images and print out or draw some creatures for your diorama.

Now you are ready to put all your dioramas together!