

# How to Make an Amazon Rainforest in a Shoebox

Create your own 'biome in a box'.

You may also like to include labels to describe the different layers.

## You will need:

- shoebox (adult size)
- paintbrush
- green and brown paint (blue paint is optional)
- fallen leaves/different shades of green crêpe paper
- ruler
- brown paper/card
- green string/green pipe cleaners
- colouring pens/pencils
- natural objects e.g. pebbles, stones, twigs, dried leaves
- sticky tape
- scissors
- glue
- animal templates (optional)



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## What To Do

1. Begin by painting the inside of your shoebox. Paint the lid and sides green and paint the base of your box brown. You may want to add the Amazon river too.
2. Wait for the paint to dry.
3. Measure the height of your box from the base to the top of the open lid. Then, use this measurement when drawing tree templates on the brown paper/card. (These will be the tallest trees and will form the emergent layer.)
4. Carefully, cut out the trees and stick them to the back of your box.
5. Scrunch up different shades of green crêpe paper to create the leaves or alternatively use real, fallen leaves and stick them to the trees. (You could also stick leaves across the top edge of your box.)
6. Create the trees for the canopy layer. These should be made slightly smaller but need to form a roof over the plants below.
7. Create the smaller trees and plants using large, fallen leaves, such as ferns, for the understorey layer. Alternatively, to make your own ferns cut out individual leaves from plain paper or crêpe paper. Then, tie them together using string or sticky tape to form a bouquet.
8. Add these smaller trees and plants to your box to form the understorey layer.
9. Collect some objects from nature including small stones, twigs and dried leaves and stick them in place on the base of your box to create the forest floor.
10. Use green string or green pipe cleaners to create vines. Twist them around your trees and stick them from one side of the box to the other using sticky tape.
11. Draw your own rainforest animals (or use the templates included). Stick them in the correct part of your rainforest scene. You may even have some rainforest animal figures that you would like to include.



# The Layers of the Amazon Rainforest

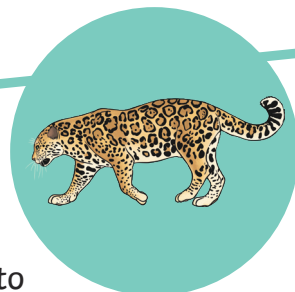


## Emergent Layer

Usually broad-leaved, evergreen hardwood trees can be found here. You might see birds, such as harpy eagles and macaws. Butterflies and some species of bats also live in this layer.

## Canopy Layer

Trees in this layer usually have smooth, oval, pointed leaves. Trees in this layer form a roof over the plants below. Many animals live in this layer as there is plenty of food. For example, red-eyed tree frogs, sloths, emerald tree boa, toucans and monkeys.

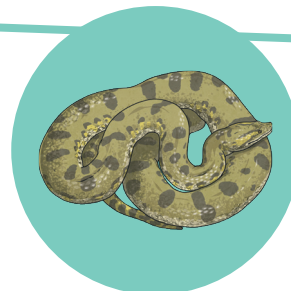


## Understorey Layer

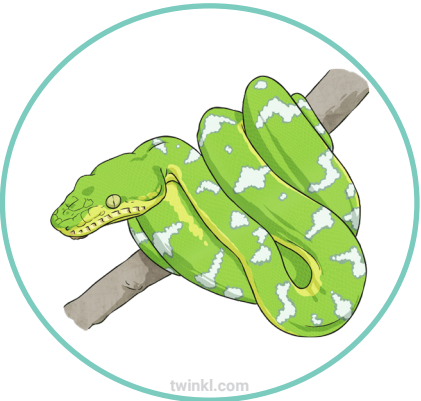
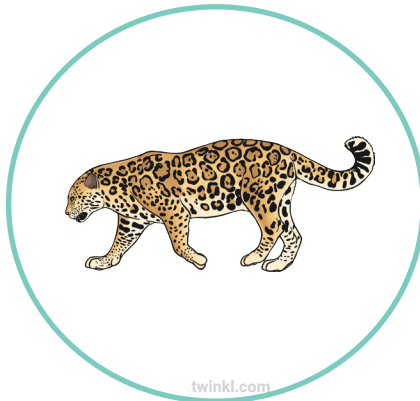
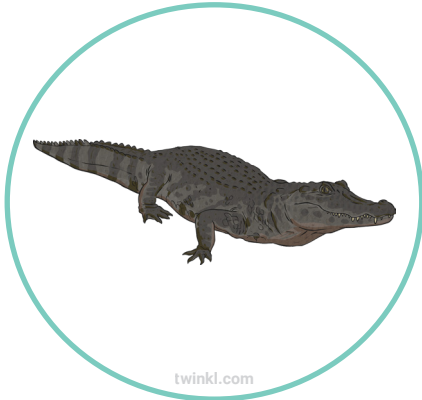
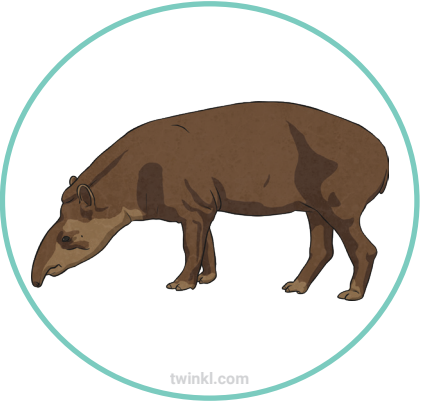
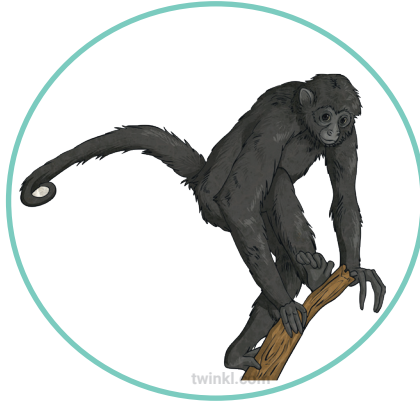
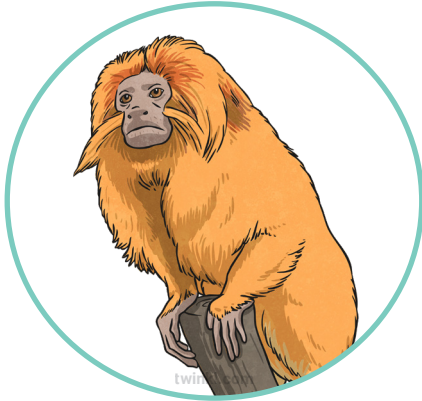
Trees in this layer don't grow any taller than 4 metres. This area is home to animals like the jaguar and some smaller animals, such as bats, insects, lizards and the hummingbird. Very little sunlight reaches this layer so plants have to grow larger leaves to try and reach the sunlight.

## Forest Floor

Very few plants grow in this dark environment. Leaves and other debris decompose very quickly. Animals such as tapirs, caimans and anacondas live here.







# Layers of the Rainforest



emergent

canopy

understorey

forest floor

twinkl

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