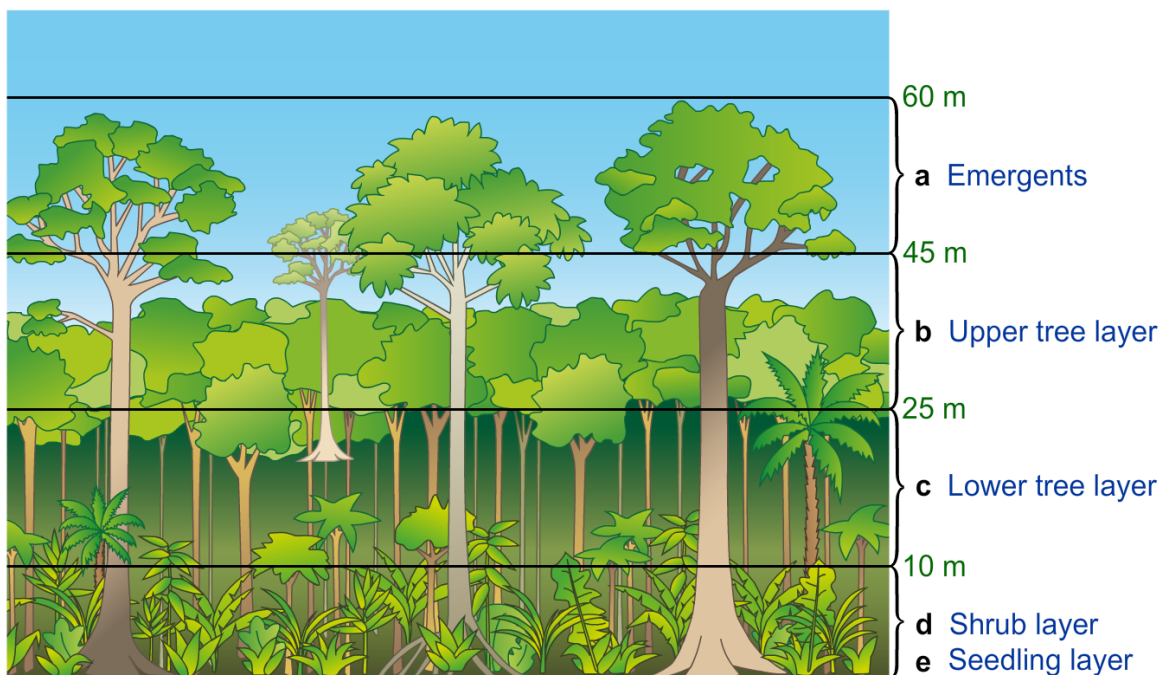


## Characteristics of tropical rainforests

There are a few universally valid characteristics that are typical for classic, evergreen tropical rainforests:

- A lot of rain, temperatures that do not fluctuate much, and no seasons.
- Many different species of animals and plants. For example, up to 500 tree species can be found on one hectare of tropical rainforest, while usually only a few are found in, for example, the European mixed deciduous forests (oak, beech, etc.).
- The vegetation is divided into layers, like the stories of a house: Four to five layers (stories) can be counted from bottom to top. In the moderate latitude zones, by contrast, the vegetation has a maximum of three layers.



The layer structure in tropical rainforests.

- Lianas grow only in tropical rainforests. They are rooted in the ground, but these woody vines can grow up to 300 meters long, their crowns frequently extending all the way to the rainforest's leaf canopy, where there is more light than on the ground.
- They lack storage organs such as bulbs or tubers. These organs ensure that plants in the moderate latitudes will survive through the cold season.



Lianas in a rainforest.