

# Layers of the Forest



You will need a parent or trusted adult to help you with this activity !

## Materials:

- printed copies of pages 2 and 3
- pencil
- colouring pencils
- scissors
- glue stick

First you will need to print pages 2 and 3.

Read the descriptions of each forest layer and then label the diagram on page 2.

When you are done labeling the forest layers, cut and stick the White-eyed Thrushes where you expect to find them looking for food on the diagram.

**Forest Floor-** The forest floor is the lowest layer of the forest. In this layer you find mushrooms and moss as well as dead and decaying plant matter. This layer provides shelter and dens for a variety of animals including ground-dwelling birds, mammals, and insects.

**Understory-** is the second lowest layer of the forest. In this layer you will find plants like shrubs, ferns and sapling trees. This layer provides foods such as leaves and berries. The dense, shrubby plants in this layer also provide shelter for prey animals to hide from predators.

**Canopy-** The canopy is the second highest layer of the forest. In this layer you find young and mature trees, as well as standing dead trees called snags. Vines, moss, and lichens attached to tree branches are also found in the canopy. The trees of the canopy also provide the nuts, seeds, fruit, and leaves that many animals eat.

**Emergent layer-** The emergent layer is the highest layer of the forest. In this layer you find the tallest species of deciduous and coniferous trees as well as very old trees that have lived long enough to grow to great heights. This layer provides an important habitat for songbirds and raptors.

Color and cut out the White-eyed Thrushes below. Then place them where you expect to find them looking for food in the forest.

**Check back the White-eyed Thrush species page on the BirdsCaribbean website ([www.birdscaribbean.org/category/from-the-nest/](http://www.birdscaribbean.org/category/from-the-nest/)) to make sure you've placed them in the correct layers.**

Finally stick them in place using the glue stick.



