

Layers of Life in the Forest

Well hello there boys and girls. This week on 'Tree Talk' we take a look at the layers of life in the forest. The forest community consists of many layers with each level being characterized by the type of plants and animals that live there. Let us go through the various layers in the forest community.

On the **forest floor** you will find insects, spiders, earthworms, ants and mushrooms living amid the grass, decaying leaves and logs.

The second floor – **the herb and shrub layer** – is home to colourful butterflies, mongooses, mice, dragonflies and other animals. These live among herbaceous plants or grass, tree seedlings, large ferns and a variety of shrubs.

The next layer of the forest is called the **under-storey**. Here the tops of trees are home to a variety of birds and insects.

In the **forest canopy**, formed by the arching upper branches of trees up to 30 m high, you might see a hawk or hear the hoot of an owl.

In addition to the different plants and animals, each forest layer is characterized by its temperature, humidity and the quality and quantity of light necessary for the survival of the organisms living there.

Well friends that's our look at the layers of life in the forest.