

# The Daintree Rainforest



The Daintree rainforest is a tropical forest on the north east coast of Queensland, Australia. It is the largest tropical rainforest in Australia and measures 1200 square kilometres. The Daintree rainforest is where the largest number of different animals and plants grow in the world.

## Wildlife

Some of the world's most strange animals live in the Daintree rainforest. Some of these are the tree kangaroo, Boyd's forest dragons and the southern cassowary. Tree kangaroos have adapted to spend their lives in the trees of the Daintree rainforest. Tree kangaroos are active for short amounts of time both in the day or at night. After too much activity, they like to



have a nap! Boyd's forest dragons are active during the day. They are sit-and-wait predators, meaning they catch prey that they spy from their perches. Boyd's rainforest dragons eat mainly invertebrates, including earthworms. Small fruits and vertebrates are also sometimes eaten. The southern cassowary eats fallen fruits, many of which are poisonous to humans. The bottom claw on each foot is very long and sharp. The birds will strike out with these to defend themselves.

### Layers of the Daintree Rainforest

The canopy layer is where most of the insects and animals of the entire forest live. The canopy provides protection from predators and lets them be closer to the warmth of the sunlight. The understorey of the rainforest is dark and cool because hardly any sunlight reaches this layer. Plants and animals which require little sunlight and a damp environment to survive live here. Wildlife such as ferns, palm trees, birds, geckos and lizards can be found in the understorey. The shrub layer has shrubs, bushes and other small trees. The shrub layer is the greenest layer of the rainforest. The herb layer is under the shrub layer and plants which grow here include ferns, grass and soft moss.



### Indigenous Australians and the Daintree Rainforest

The land that the Daintree rainforest occupies belongs to the eastern Kuku Yalanji Aboriginal tribe. Lots of different plants and animals provide food for the eastern Kuku Yulanji people. They use their knowledge of the weather cycle to hunt and gather food throughout the year.



# The Daintree Rainforest Questions

1. Where is the Daintree rainforest located?

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2. How big is the Daintree rainforest?

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3. List three animals found in the Daintree rainforest.

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4. What does the southern cassowary eat?

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5. Describe the way in which the Boyd's forest dragon hunts.

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6. Match the words to their meaning.

adapted
gecko
1200 km sq
Kuku Yalanji

the traditional owners of the forest
how the tree kangaroos came to live in the trees
an animal found in the understorey
the size of the Daintree rainforest

7. What knowledge did the Kuku Yalanji people use to hunt their food?

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8. Using information from the text, draw a diagram of the layers of the Daintree rainforest.

# The Daintree Rainforest Answers

1. Where is the Daintree rainforest located?

**The Daintree rainforest is a tropical forest on the north east coast of Queensland, Australia.**

2. How big is the Daintree rainforest?

**The Daintree rainforest measures 1200 square kilometres.**

3. List three animals found in the Daintree rainforest.

**The tree kangaroo, Boyd's forest dragons and the southern cassowary are three animals found in the Daintree rainforest.**

4. What does the southern cassowary eat?

**The southern cassowary eats fallen fruits, many of which are poisonous to humans.**

5. Describe the way in which the Boyd's forest dragon hunts.

**Boyd's forest dragons are sit-and-wait predators. They catch prey that they spy from their perches.**

6. Question 6

adapted	the traditional owners of the forest
gecko	how the tree kangaroos came to live in the trees
1200 km sq	an animal found in the understorey
Kuku Yalanji	the size of the Daintree rainforest

7. What knowledge did the Kuku Yalanji people use to hunt their food?

**The Kuku Yalanji people used their knowledge of the weather cycle of their land to hunt their food.**

8. Using information from the text, draw a diagram of the layers of the Daintree rainforest.

**Diagrams will vary.**



# The Daintree Rainforest

The Daintree rainforest is a tropical forest on the north east coast of Queensland, Australia. It is the largest tropical rainforest in Australia and measures 1200 square kilometres. The Daintree rainforest is where the largest number of different animals and plants grow in the world.

## Wildlife

The Daintree rainforest is the home to countless Australian flora and fauna. It's where the largest number of plants and animals grow in the entire world. It is where 30% of the frog, reptile and marsupial species, and 90% of Australia's bat and butterfly species can be found. More than 12,000 species of insects reside in the Daintree rainforest.



Some of the world's most unique and bizarre looking animals live in the Daintree rainforest. Some of these are the tree kangaroo, Boyd's forest dragons and the southern cassowary. Tree kangaroos have adapted to spend their lives in the trees of the Daintree rainforest. Tree kangaroos are cathemeral, meaning they are active for short amounts of time both in the day or at night. After too much activity, they will tire out and have a nap! Boyd's forest dragons are active during the day, even remaining active when it rains. They have a body



temperature lower than any other rainforest lizard in this area so that they are not seen by pythons (pythons can see warm-blooded prey more easily). They are sit-and-wait predators, meaning they catch prey that they spy from their perches. Boyd's rainforest dragons eat mainly invertebrates, with earthworms making up most of their diet. Small fruits and vertebrates are also sometimes consumed.



The southern cassowary eats fallen fruits, including many types which are poisonous to humans. The bottom claw on each foot is very long and sharp. The birds will strike out with these when they are defending their home, or if they are defending themselves from other animals or humans.

### Layers of the Daintree Rainforest

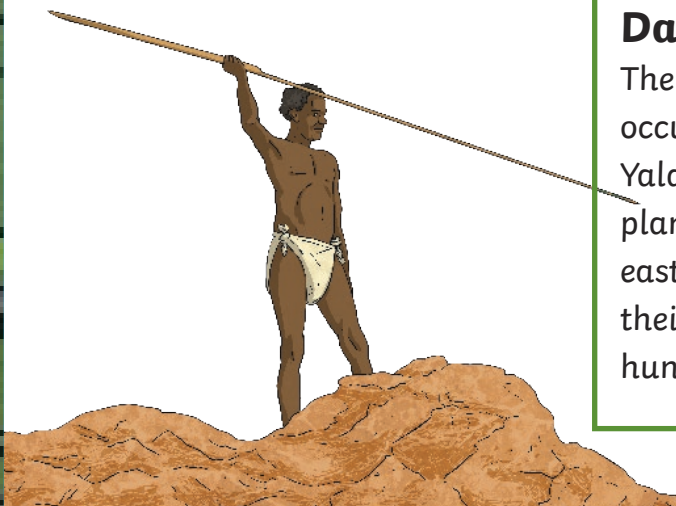
The ecosystem of the Daintree rainforest is one of the most complex on Earth. The canopy layer is where 90% of the insects and animals of the entire forest live. The canopy provides protection from predators and allows them to be closer to the warmth of the sunlight. The understorey of the rainforest is dark and cool because only between 2% and 15% of sunlight reaches this layer. Plants and animals which require little sunlight and a damp environment to survive thrive here. Wildlife such as ferns, palm trees, birds, geckos and lizards can be found in the understorey. The shrub layer consists primarily of shrubs, bushes and other small trees. The shrub layer is the greenest layer of the rainforest. The herb layer is under the shrub layer. Plants which grow here include ferns, grass and soft moss.

### Climate

The tropical regional location in Northern Queensland means the Daintree rainforest is hit with torrential rain when the monsoon trough arrives in the summer months. During April to October, the weather is more mild when the mountains, which sit close to the coast, trap in warm, humid air which has been pushed in by south-easterly breezes.

### Indigenous Australians and the Daintree Rainforest

The land that the Daintree rainforest occupies belongs to the eastern Kuku Yalanji Aboriginal tribe. Lots of different plants and animals provide food for the eastern Kuku Yulanji people. They use their knowledge of the weather cycle to hunt and gather food throughout the year.



# The Daintree Rainforest Questions

1. Where is the Daintree rainforest located?

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2. What aspects of its climate make it an ideal environment for wildlife to grow?

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3. List three animals found in the Daintree rainforest.

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4. Describe the climate of the Daintree rainforest during summer

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5. Match the words to their meaning.

invertebrates
understory
Kuku Yalanji
monsoon

a seasonal, strong wind
the owners of the Daintree forest
the darkest, coolest layer of the forest
the diet of the Boyd's dragon

6. Why is the understorey the darkest layer of the rainforest?

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7. What did the eastern Kuku Yalanji people use to help them hunt and gather food?

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8. Using information from the text, draw a diagram of the layers of the Daintree rainforest.

# The Daintree Rainforest Answers

1. Where is the Daintree rainforest located?

**The Daintree rainforest is a tropical forest on the north east coast of Queensland, Australia.**

2. What aspects of its climate make it an ideal environment for wildlife to grow?

**It is always warm and humid and it rains regularly.**

3. List three animals found in the Daintree rainforest.

**The tree kangaroo, Boyd's forest dragons and the southern cassowary are three examples of animals found in the Daintree rainforest.**

4. Describe the climate of the Daintree rainforest during summer.

**During summer, the Daintree rainforest is wet and windy when it's hit with torrential rain when the monsoon trough arrives.**

5. Match the words to their meaning.

invertebrates	the owners of the Daintree forest
understorey	the diet of the Boyd's dragon
Kuku Yalanji	a seasonal, strong wind
monsoon	the darkest, coolest layer of the forest

6. Why is the understorey the darkest layer of the rainforest?

**The understorey is the darkest layer of the rainforest because only between 2% and 15% of sunlight reaches this layer.**

7. What did the eastern Kuku Yalanji people use to help them hunt and gather food?

**The eastern Kuku Yalanji people used their knowledge of the weather cycle to hunt and gather a variety of food throughout the year.**

8. Using information from the text, draw a detailed and labelled diagram of the layers of the Daintree rainforest

**Diagrams will vary.**



# The Daintree Rainforest

The Daintree rainforest is a tropical forest located on the north east coast of Queensland, Australia. It is the largest continuous area of tropical rainforest in Australia and measures 1200 square kilometres. The Daintree rainforest is where the largest number of different animals and plants grow in the world.

## History

Millions of years ago, Australia was continually warm and humid and it rained regularly. During this period of heat, humidity and rainfall, rainforests flourished



in areas such as Uluru. Gradually, Australia became dry and desolate. Because of this, there were fewer places in which rainforests were able to grow and survive. In the Daintree region however, the climate remained ideal. Therefore, the region became one of the last remaining refuges for rainforest wildlife. Within this sanctuary, many species of animals and plant life were able to live and thrive.

## Wildlife

The Daintree rainforest is the home to countless Australian flora and fauna. It's where the largest number of plants and animals grow in the entire world. It is where 30% of the frog, reptile and marsupial species, and 90% of Australia's bat and butterfly species can be found. More than 12,000 species of insects reside in the Daintree rainforest.

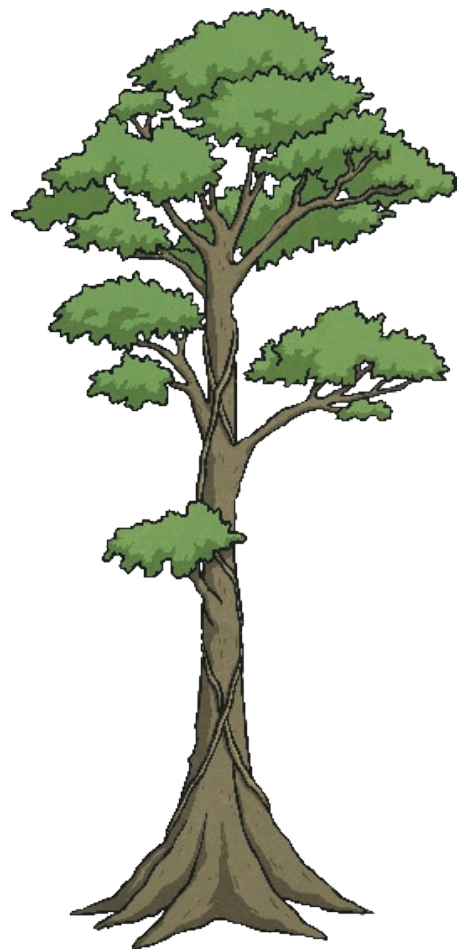
Some of the world's most unique and bizarre looking animals live in the Daintree rainforest. Some of these are the tree kangaroo, Boyd's forest dragons and the southern cassowary.



Tree kangaroos have adapted to spend their lives in the trees of the Daintree rainforest. Tree kangaroos are cathemeral, meaning they are active for short amounts of time both in the day or at night. After too much activity, they will tire out and have a nap! Boyd's forest dragons are active during the day, even remaining active when it rains. They have a body temperature lower than any other rainforest lizard in this area so that they are not seen by pythons (pythons can see warm-blooded prey more easily). They are sit-and-wait predators, meaning they catch prey that they spy from their perches. Boyd's rainforest dragons eat mainly invertebrates, with earthworms making up most of their diet. Small fruits and vertebrates are also sometimes consumed. The southern cassowary eats fallen fruits, including many types which are poisonous to humans. The bottom claw on each foot is very long and sharp. The birds will strike out with these when they are defending their home, or if they are defending themselves from other animals or humans.

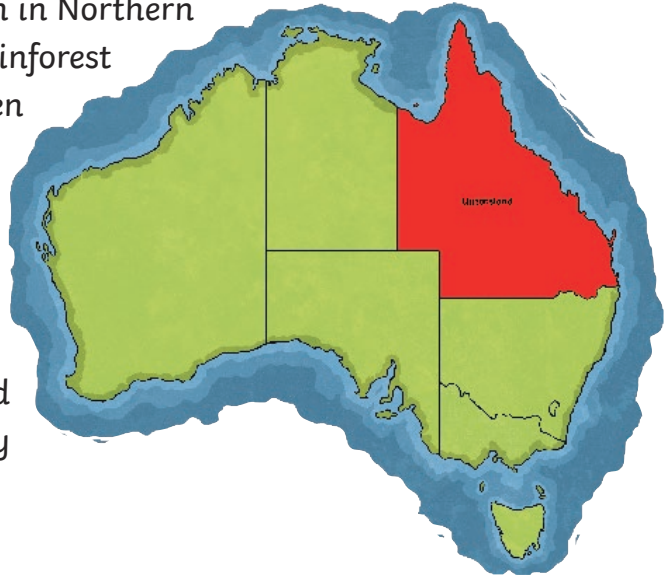
### Layers of the Daintree Rainforest

The ecosystem of the Daintree rainforest is one of the most complex on Earth. Its plant diversity and structural complexity is unique and unlike any other in Australia. The canopy layer is where 90% of the insects and animals of the entire forest live. The canopy provides protection from predators and allows them to be closer to the warmth of the sunlight. The understorey of the rainforest is dark and cool because only between 2% and 15% of sunlight reaches this layer. Plants and animals which require little sunlight and a damp environment to survive thrive here. Wildlife such as ferns, palm trees, birds, geckos and lizards can be found in the understorey. The shrub layer consists primarily of shrubs, bushes and other small trees. The shrub layer is the greenest layer of the rainforest. The herb layer is under the shrub layer. Plants which grow here include ferns, grass and soft moss.



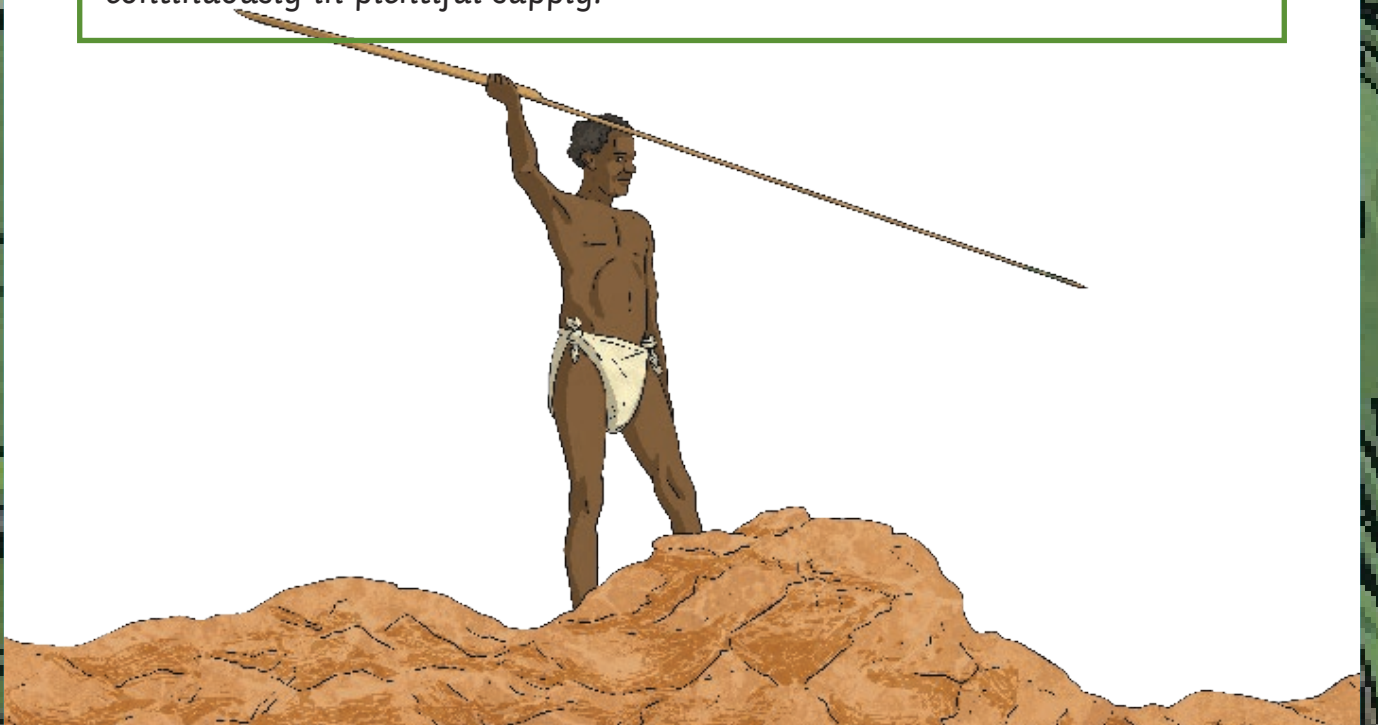
## Climate

Due to its tropical regional location in Northern Queensland, the Daintree rainforest is hit with torrential rain when the monsoon trough arrives in the summer months. During April to October, the weather is increasingly mild when the mountains, which sit close to the coast, trap in warm, humid air which has been pushed in by south-easterly breezes.



## Indigenous Australians and the Daintree Rainforest

The land that the Daintree rainforest occupies belongs to the eastern Kuku Yalanji Aboriginal tribe. Countless different plants and animals provide food for the eastern Kuku Yalanji people. They have an extensive understanding of the weather cycle and how it affects plants and animals. They utilise this knowledge to hunt and gather a variety of food throughout the year. They hunt and gather food in a way that means that the animals and plants are continuously in plentiful supply.



# The Daintree Rainforest Questions

1. Where is the Daintree rainforest located?

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2. Why were there fewer places in which rainforests were able to grow and survive in Australia?

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3. Describe the diet of the Boyd's forest dragon.

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4. Why is the climate mild during April to October?

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5. Write a synonym for the words below.

continuous \_\_\_\_\_

thrive \_\_\_\_\_

desolate \_\_\_\_\_

predator \_\_\_\_\_

6. Describe two benefits of living in the canopy layer of the rainforest.

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7. What did the eastern Kuku Yalanji people use to help them hunt and gather food?

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# The Daintree Rainforest Questions

8. Using information from the text, draw a detailed and labelled diagram of the layers of the Daintree rainforest, including examples of plants and animals.





# The Daintree Rainforest Answers

1. Where is the Daintree rainforest located?

**The Daintree rainforest is a tropical forest on the north east coast of Queensland, Australia.**

2. Why were there fewer places in which rainforests were able to grow and survive in Australia?

**Gradually, Australia became dry and desolate. Because of this, there were fewer places in which rainforests were able to grow and survive.**

3. Describe the diet of the Boyd's forest dragon.

**Boyd's forest dragons eat primarily invertebrates, with earthworms making up the majority of their diet. Small fruits and vertebrates are also occasionally consumed.**

4. Why is the climate mild during April to October?

**The climate is mild during April to October because the mountains trap in warm, humid air which has been pushed in by south-easterly breezes.**

5. Write a synonym for the words below.

<b>continuous</b>	<b>constant, unending, endless</b>
<b>thrive</b>	<b>flourish, bloom, increase</b>
<b>desolate</b>	<b>barren, dismal, dead, bleak</b>
<b>predator</b>	<b>killer, hunter, slayer</b>

6. Describe two benefits of living in the canopy layer of the rainforest.

**Two benefits of living in the canopy layer of the forest are it provides protection from predators and allows them to be closer to the warmth of the sunlight.**

7. Find and write the part of the text which tells you how the eastern Kuku Yalanji people hunted and gathered food.

**The eastern Kuku Yalanji people had an extensive understanding of the weather cycle of their land and how it affected plants and animals. They utilised this knowledge to hunt and gather a variety of food throughout the year.**

8. Using information from the text, draw a diagram of the layers of the Daintree rainforest, including examples of plants and animals.

**Diagrams will vary.**