

Levels of Forests September 21, 2016



Level: Upper Canopy

- formed by leaves and branches of tallest trees
- Up to 35% of precipitation falling on a forest is intercepted by the canopy.
- Animals: Different birds, squirrels, tent caterpillars

Level: Middle level or Understory

- home to smaller trees and larger shrubs
- provides shelter for birds and small mammals to travel.
- Animals: many insects, squirrels, woodpeckers

Level: Herb, Underbrush or Shrubbery Layer

- Ferns, wildflowers and other soft stem plants, tree seedlings
- Animals: butterflies, dragonflies, mice, weasels, porcupine, deer, skunks, rabbits, wasps

Level: Forest Floor

- includes the ground cover and soil
- ground cover includes leaf litter, mushrooms, insects, salamanders, toads, moss, and flowers
- soil is the storehouse for growth, thin layers of organic and mineral materials covering bedrock, worms, tree roots, spiders, millipedes, centipedes