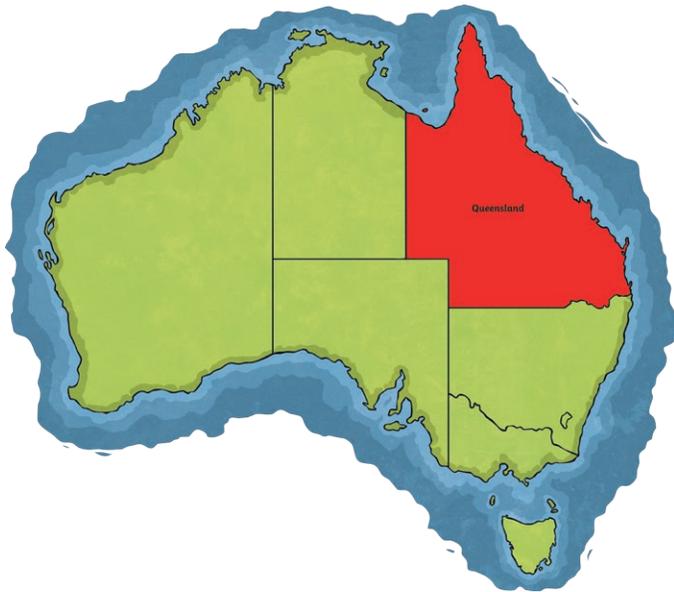


# The Daintree Rainforest



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

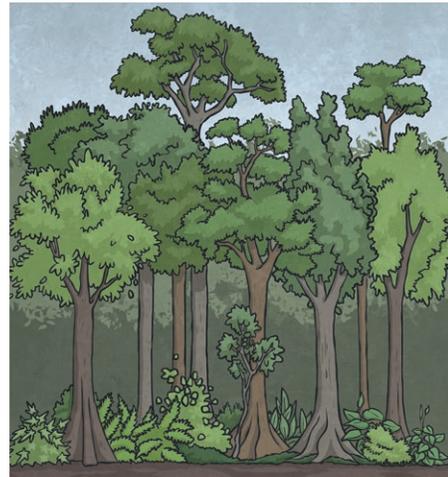
Some of the world's most strange animals live in the Daintree rainforest. Some of these are the tree kangaroo, Boyd's forest dragons and the southern cassowary. Tree kangaroos have adapted to spend their lives in the trees of the Daintree rainforest. Tree kangaroos are active for short amounts of time 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 Yalanji 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.**