

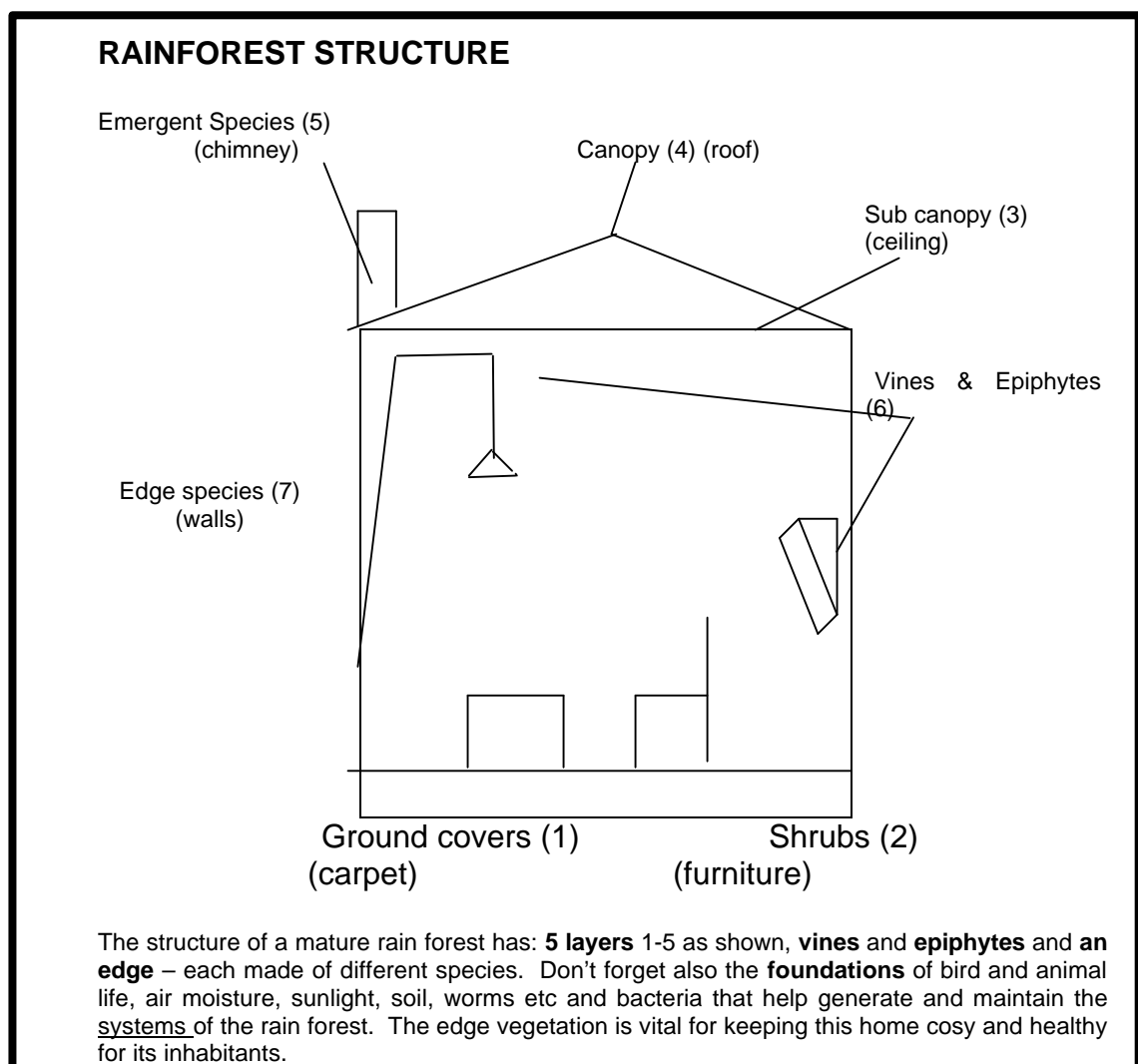
## WAITAKERE RAINFOREST – A HOME

New Zealand is special because it is one of the few areas in the world where rainforest exists outside the tropics. Some bush areas in Waitakere are recovering after being logged, while other areas remain with their original **density**, **diversity** and **structure**, hallmarks of rainforest both here and in the tropics.

See the illustration here, which likens the structure of a rainforest to a home (which of course it is).

The diagram will help you to understand the bush you see. Regenerating bush takes a while to develop this structure – but a healthy ‘edge’ is an essential component to healthy regrowth of the rainforest no matter what stage of development it is in.

Can you name any of the species that make up each part of this structure?  
(See below.)



Examine your bush – are all the seven elements there and healthy?

Remember the New Zealand bush is naturally very dense – if you can walk through without bumping or squeezing between plants, or if there is sunlight showing on the ground, then something is missing! Take a look. Think – what might have caused or be causing this?

