

# FORM 3 GEOGRAPHY NOTE 9

## VEGETATION

**Vegetation** is what we call the different types of plants, which cover the surface of the land.

### *PRIMARY VEGETATION*

- They are plants that were growing on an area before people arrived.
- Primary vegetation is also known as **native or indigenous**.

### *SECONDARY VEGETATION*

- They are plants that are brought into a place by people.
  - Secondary vegetation is also known as **introduced or exotic**.
  - More than half of our plants in Tonga are introduced.
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- The natural vegetation patterns in Tonga have been changed by agriculture and forest clearing.
  - Most of our trees came from south East Asia and the Western Pacific.
  - Branches and twigs of trees, bushes and hard nuts such as coconuts float and wash onto the land and grow. Plants can also grow from seeds in bird droppings.
  - Winds spread tiny seeds and spores of ferns. Other plants were brought by our ancestors.

## **PLANT ASSOCIATIONS**

Plant association is the grouping of plant species, or a plant community, that recurs across the landscape.

They are groups of plants sharing a common environment that interact with each other, animal populations, and the physical environment.

### *2 Types of plant associations / community*

1. Inland Plant Association
2. Coastal Plant Association

### *INLAND PLANT ASSOCIATION*

- i. Subtropical rainforest
- ii. Fern and Grasslands

### *COASTAL PLANT ASSOCIATION*

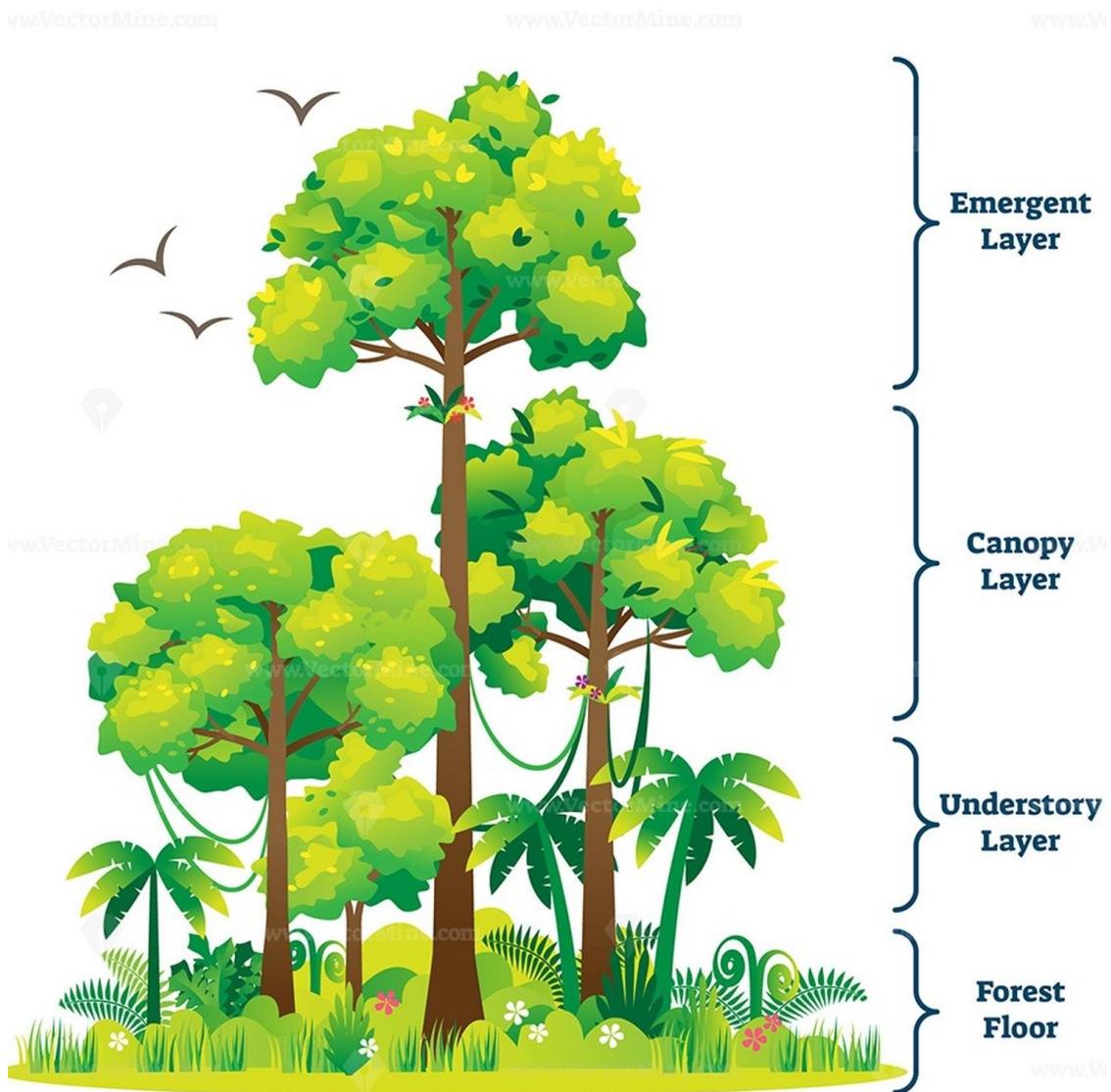
- i. Rocky vegetation
- ii. Beach vegetation
- iii. Mangrove / Mudflat

## INLAND PLANT ASSOCIATION

### SUBTROPICAL RAINFOREST

- The Subtropical Rainforest is a thick forest area with big trees growing at different levels.

# RAINFOREST LAYERS



### FERNS AND GRASSLANDS

They are found on high volcanic islands and in volcanic soil on Éua.

## COASTAL PLANT ASSOCIATION

### ROCKY VEGETATION

Vegetation that grows on rocks beside the ocean.

### *Adaptation features of a rocky vegetation*

- Small, succulent leaves. For example, ngingie.
- Thick, shiny leaves. For example, ngahu.
- Fleshy and hairy leaves. For example, touhuni.
- Tough leaves and buttress roots. For example, fa, paongo.
- Found on the Eastern and Southern sides of raised coral islands and on edges of the volcanic islands.
- Other examples of plants growing here are fau, lekileki, feta'anu, limu.



### BEACH VEGETATION

Vegetation that grows on the beach.

**Adaptation Features of a beach vegetation is similar to that of the rocky vegetation.**



### MANGROVE / MUDFLATS

Vegetation that grow between low and high tide.

They usually grown on mud or sand.

*Adaptation features of mangroves*

- Strong roots
- Stilt, buttress roots for breathing
- Small thick leaves
- Deposition of wax

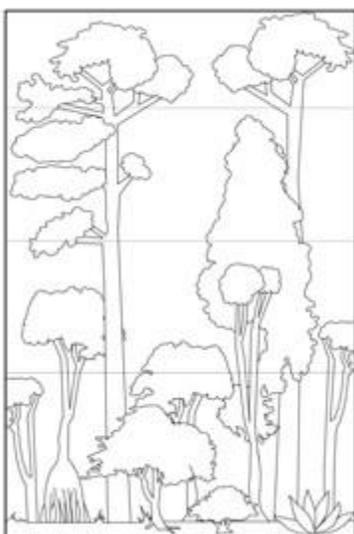


- The **importance of each adaptive feature** of vegetation in the coastal area is so that they are able to **withstand salt, dry, strong winds and thin rocky soil.**

**ACTIVITY 1:** Use your notes provided to answer the questions below.

1. In your own words define the word vegetation.
2. Describe what primary vegetation is.
3. Describe what secondary vegetation is.
4. As you know and have seen that trees are being cut down for many reasons. Provide some reasons for cutting down these trees.
5. Cutting down trees is called deforestation. Describe an effect or problem that it will cause for the environment.

**ACTIVITY 2:** Use the diagrams below to answer the questions that follow.

1. State the name of this inland plant association.
2. Name each layer into the diagram



1. Name this type of coastal vegetation.
2. Describe an adaptive feature of vegetation in this area.
3. Provide an example of a plant that grows here.



1. Name this type of coastal vegetation.
2. Describe an adaptive feature of vegetation in this area.
3. Provide an example of a plant that grows here.



1. Name this type of coastal vegetation.
2. Describe an adaptive feature of this plant in this area.