

Biomes

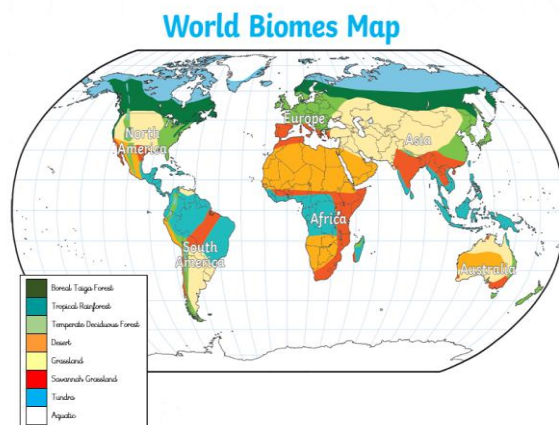
Key Vocabulary

Biome	Biomes are areas of the planet with similar climates, landscapes, animals and plants. The world is divided into lots of different biomes, and they are all different depending on their climate.
Climate	The average pattern of weather conditions over a longer period
Ecosystem	Group of living organisms interacting with their physical environment
Landscape	The physical features of a biome.
Forest	This covers about a third of the land area of the world. Including rainforests and deciduous forests. Coniferous forests (taiga) are found in northern regions.
Equator	Imaginary line halfway around the earth between the North and South Poles.

What are the physical features we talk about when we talk about biomes?

- Landscape (physical features)
- Climate
- Plants
- Animals
- Location

What are the major biomes?



- Boreal Taiga Forest
- Tropical Rainforest
- Temperate Deciduous Forest
- Desert
- Grassland
- Savanna
- Grassland
- Tundra
- Aquatic

What Biome do we live in?

We live in the **temperate deciduous biome**.

Location:

Central Europe, USA, China and Australia.

Climate:

It has four seasons and an average temperature of 10°C.

Landscape:

It has forests that change colour with the seasons.

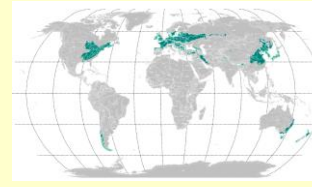
It has rivers, streams and lakes.

Plants:

It has broad-leafed trees, pine trees, shrubs and wildflowers.

Animals:

Deer and bears; bees and ladybirds; frogs and snakes; robins and sparrows.



What is it like in the Desert Biome?

There are hot, dry deserts and cold deserts.

In hot deserts, the temperature in the summer can reach 50°C but can drop to below freezing at night-time.

Rainfall in the desert is less than 25cm per year.

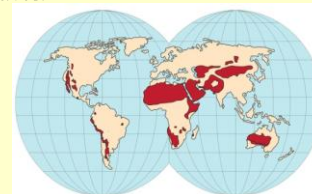
The largest hot desert is the Sahara in Africa.

The largest cold desert is Antarctica.

Deserts have two seasons - winter and summer.

The landscape of deserts includes

- sand dunes
- rocks
- canyons
- oases



Animals that are adapted to living in the desert are known as xerocoles. They have to adapt to a lack of water and extreme heat. Because of the extreme temperatures and lack of water, plants also have to adapt in the desert.

Their roots burrow deep underground or run very close to the surface to get water.

Succulent plants store water in their stems or leaves.

Some plants only open their leaves at night when it is cooler.



What is it like in the Savanna Biome?

Savannahs are usually an area between a forest and a grassland. This means that savannahs have trees, like in a forest but grasses cover the ground. The plants need to be able to survive the dry season.

Some store water and energy in their roots or trunks. Others have roots that go deep into the ground to reach water.

Many large herbivores live here in large herds. These include zebras, elephants, giraffes and gazelles.

Of course, where there are lots of herbivores, there must be predators including lions, hyenas and cheetahs.



How is the Savannah biome impacted by tourism, land use and population?

Land Use: Humans can have a positive impact on the Savanna. Indigenous People are nomadic farmers. This method of farming is mostly good for the environment. Grazing animals are not kept in just one area. They are moved from place to place, allowing vegetation to recover.

Tourism: The huge range of wildlife in savanna areas attracts many tourists on safari. This can support conservation programs and create protected areas for wildlife. Transport used by the tourists often damages vegetation and this both removes sources of food and scares the wildlife.

Poaching: Poaching is a major cause of population decline for African elephants, which are endangered. Between 2007 and 2014, poaching wiped out 30% of Africa's savanna elephants. Elephants are essential to the savanna, helping to maintain open woodlands and reduce tree densities. Without them, many other plants and animals would not survive.