



Biomes



What Are Biomes?

Biomes are naturally occurring areas on Earth which share similar landscapes and climates and are home to similar animals and plants. Other factors such as temperature, geology and soil are considered when defining a biome. The whole world is split into different biomes.

Lesson Sequence

Lesson 1: What Are Biomes? - Define and identify biomes and understand their characteristics.

Lesson 2 – How Do Latitude And Climate Create Biomes? – Understand the role of latitude and the equator.

Lesson 3 – What Makes Each Biome Unique? – Explore the features of specific biomes.

Lesson 4 – How Do Humans Use Natural Resources In Biomes? – Learn how biomes provide natural resources and the impact of human activity.

Lesson 5 – Mapping Biomes And Linking Features – Develop mapping skills by linking photos and maps to biome features.

Lesson 6 – How Do We Feel About Biomes? – Reflect on personal views about biomes and consider human impact (assessment lesson).

The Six Types Of Biomes

Aquatic

The aquatic biome is the largest type - it covers over 70% of Earth! This biome can be further divided into two main types: freshwater and saltwater.



Desert

Desert biomes cover around one-third of the Earth and are the driest type of biome. They can be hot or cold, depending on where on the planet they are. Plants and animals have adapted to live in these harsh conditions. Plants found in desert biomes include cacti and creosote bushes while animals that survive here include snakes and lizards.



Forest

Forest biomes cover approximately 30% of the planet and are home to a wide range of trees and plants. There are three main forest biomes: temperate, tropical and taiga. Animals such as moose, deer, bears and squirrels can all be found in forest biomes.



Grassland

Grassland biomes are areas which have enough rainfall for grasses to grow but not enough for forests to develop. Farming often takes place in grassland biomes because of the rich soil. The tropical grasslands in Africa are home to giraffes, zebras and lions.



Rainforest

Sadly, this biome covers less than 6% of Earth but produces nearly 33% of all of our oxygen. This type of biome is hot and wet all year long and is home to half of all the different types of animals and plants on the planet.



Tundra

The coldest of the biomes! Due to the low temperatures and dry conditions, these biomes are home to very few plants and animals. However, mosses and short grasses still grow here and Arctic foxes and reindeer make their homes in tundra biomes. This type of biome covers one-fifth of the planet.



Did You Know...?

The plants and animals which live in each type of biome have adapted to help them survive in that biome.

Key Vocabulary

- biome
- equator
- latitude
- climate
- ecosystem
- climate change
- deforestation
- natural resources

