

# Biomes

<b>Biome</b>	A very large community of plants and animals living together in a certain kind of climate. A biome can contain several ecosystems.
<b>Climate</b>	The usual (average) patterns of weather (including temperature and rainfall) in an area of the Earth's surface over a long period of time.
<b>Climate Change</b>	Any significant long-term change in the expected patterns of average weather of a region (or the whole Earth) over a significant period of time.
<b>Climate Zones</b>	Divisions of the Earth's climates into general climate zones according to average temperatures and average rainfall.
<b>Ecosystem</b>	All of the living things (plants, animals and organisms) in a given area, interacting with each other and also with their non-living environments (e.g. climate, soil) An ecosystem may be small (e.g. underneath a stone) or very large (e.g. a whole rainforest).
<b>Vegetation Belt</b>	An area with distinct plant types, determined by climate, soil, drainage and elevation.



A biome is a large region of Earth that has a certain climate and certain types of living things. Major biomes include tundra, forests, grasslands, and deserts.

The plants and animals of each biome have traits that help them to survive in their particular biome. Plants and animals that live within smaller areas of a biome also depend on each other for survival. These smaller areas are called ecosystems. Each biome has many ecosystems.

# Types of Biomes

## Aquatic

This is the largest biome out there, covering nearly 75% of our planet and can be divided into two main categories: freshwater and saltwater.

## Forest

Forest biomes are home to a variety of trees and other plants. They cover about 30% of our Earth's surface and are extremely important to our ecosystem as they store carbon and provide many materials that we use.

## Grassland

The majority of this biome is made up of a variety of grasses with very few trees or large plants. The two main types of grasslands found are 'tall-grass' (humid and wet), and 'short-grass' (dry). This biome is very popular for farming due to the rich soil.

## Desert

These biomes cover about one fifth of our planet and are extremely dry areas. Depending on their location, they can be either hot or cold. Plants and animals have evolved over time to adapt to the harsh environment.

## Rainforest

Home to a variety of tropical plants and animals and found in regions that are warm all year round.

Unfortunately, rainforests now cover less than 6% of our planet but still produce about 40% of our oxygen.

## Tundra

This is the coldest biome and therefore has little plant and animal variety. Tundra biomes cover approximately one fifth of the Earth's surface.

# Locating Biomes

