

Learn about Land Biomes for Preschool and Elementary Kids

Many places on Earth have similar amounts of rainfall, similar climates and similar animal habitats. These areas are called biomes.

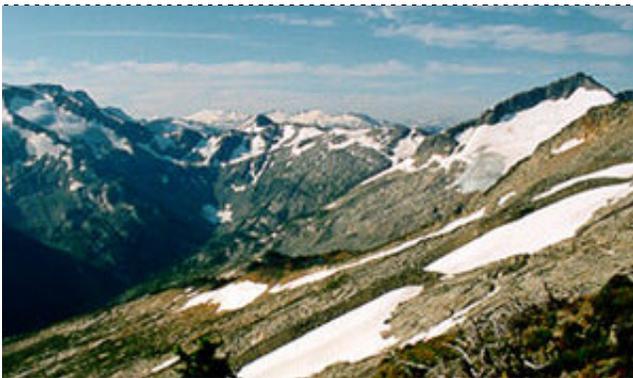
Climate is the kind of weather a place gets over a long time. Some places have warm climates. Others have cold climates. Some have wet climates. Some have dry climates.

A habitat is the kind of place a plant or animal can live. A polar bear could not live in a habitat that is very hot. A rainforest animal couldn't live in a desert habitat.

Introduction to Biomes



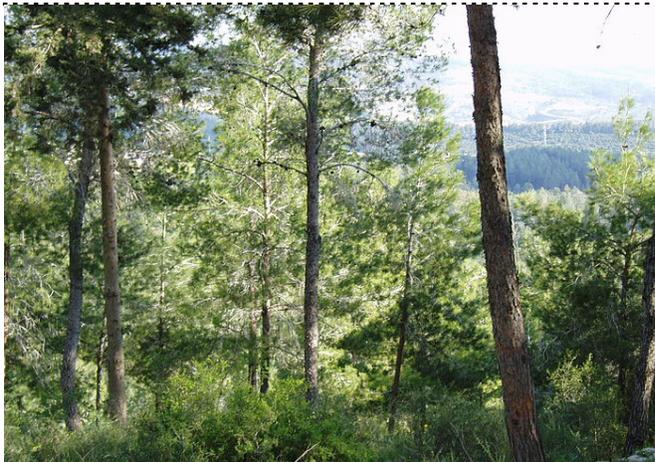
Deserts get very little rain. They are often very hot during the day and freezing at night. Few plants grow in the desert. The plants that do grow are often small. When it rains desert plants suck up a lot of water and store it to use later. The cactus is one type of desert plant.



Tundra areas are in the Arctic Circle and on mountain tops. They are very cold. The soil is often frozen, so few plants grow. Tundra animals often have a lot of fat and thick fur to keep them warm.



Grasslands have a lot of grass. There isn't enough rainfall for trees to grow. Tropical grasslands are hot all year long. Temperate grasslands have hot summers and cold winters. Grassland animals often burrow underground to stay out of the heat.



Deciduous forest biomes have lots of trees. Plenty of rain falls. In the fall, the leaves on deciduous trees turn red, yellow and brown before falling to the ground. They don't have any leaves during the winter. This helps them survive when there isn't enough sunlight. Animals in this biome often eat fruit or nuts from the trees. There are four seasons: winter, spring, summer and fall.



Coniferous forests have a lot of evergreen trees called conifers. Evergreen trees don't lose their leaves in winter. Their leaves are needles. Their seeds are pinecones.

This biome is often cold. Most water comes from melting snow. Winters are long and summers are short.



Rainforests get a lot of rain. Tropical rain forests are warm all year long. Temperate rainforests are cold in the winter. Rainforest trees are often very tall. Rainforests have more plants and animals than any other biome. The Amazon Rainforest is the largest in the world. It is in South America.

Draw a line to the correct biome on the right:

Receives plenty of rain

Grassland

Often has frozen soil

Deciduous forest

Receives very little rain

Coniferous forest

Lots of trees that lose their leaves in the fall

Tropical or temperate rainforest

Lots of grass and small plants

Tundra

Lots of evergreen trees

Desert

Layers of a Rainforest

Rainforests have four layers. The layers are the Emergent, Canopy, Understory and Forest Floor.



Emergent Layer

The tallest trees emerge or stick out over the top of the forest. There is plenty of sunlight. Trees often have large leaves. Monkeys, butterflies, and birds live in this layer.

Canopy

The canopy is thick with trees. Animals in the canopy eat fruits and seeds. They often don't go down to the forest floor to avoid predators. Some animals in this layer are squirrel monkeys, toucans, snakes, sloths and treefrogs.

Understory

The understory doesn't get much sunlight. Many plants have very big leaves. Jaguars, leopards, treefrogs, bats, monkeys, iguanas, snakes and leaf-cutter ants live in this layer.

Forest Floor

The forest floor is dark. Few plants grow. Large anteaters live here.

Types of Grasslands

There are different types of grasslands in different parts of the world. Some grassland animals graze or eat grass.

Savanna

The savanna is in Africa. Some savanna animals are elephants, giraffes, zebras and lions.

Prairies

Prairies are in North America. Some prairie animals are prairie dogs, badgers, bison, rabbits, burrowing owls, coyotes, deer, eagles, ground squirrels, rattlesnakes and foxes.

Steppe

The steppe is found in Europe and Asia. Foxes, rabbits, mice, antelopes, horses and coyotes.

Pampas

The pampas are in South America. Some animals are deer, armadillos, foxes, hares and falcons.



Other Biome Animals

These are some animals that are found in the other four land biomes.

Deciduous Forest Deer, squirrels, foxes, mice, owls and bears are some of the many animals that live in this biome. Animals in this biome often eat fruits and nuts from the trees. Many animals hibernate (sleep all winter) or migrate (move to warmer places) to survive winter.

Coniferous Forest Bears, foxes and moose are some coniferous forest animals. Many animals in this biome hibernate or sleep all winter. Others migrate or move to warmer places.

Tundra Some tundra animals are arctic foxes, arctic hares, caribou, musk oxen, polar bears, arctic squirrels, wolves, snowy owls, tundra swans and snow geese. Tundra animals often have a lot of fat and thick fur to keep them warm.

Desert Some desert animals are the cactus wren, camels, fennec fox, gila monster, some types of lizards, vulture rattlesnakes and roadrunners. Many desert animals are nocturnal. They sleep all day and look for food at night.



Match the rainforest layer to the correct part of the picture:



Match the Grassland to the Correct Continent or Continents:

Pampas

North America

Steppe

Africa

Prairie

South America

Savanna

Europe and Asia

Which biome fits each description? Circle the correct answer:

Description	Answer
They are often very hot during the day and freezing at night. Plants must store water.	Desert Tundra Rainforest
Get a lot of rain. The largest one is in South America. They can be tropical or temperate.	Coniferous forest Rainforest Tundra
Gets plenty of rain and trees lose their leaves. Animals often eat fruit or nuts from the trees.	Coniferous forest Rainforest Deciduous forest
Most water comes from melting snow. Winters are long and summers are short.	Deciduous forest Coniferous forest Tundra
These areas are in the Arctic Circle and on mountain tops. They are very cold. The soil is often frozen, so few plants grow.	Coniferous forest Tundra Grassland
There isn't enough rainfall for trees to grow. They can be tropical or temperate.	Tundra Grassland Deciduous forest

Which feature do animals need to survive in each biome? Circle the answer:

Many animals are nocturnal. They sleep all day and look for food at night.	Desert Deciduous forest Rainforest
Many animals hibernate or migrate in wintertime.	Desert Coniferous forest Rainforest
These animals often have a lot of fat and thick fur to keep them warm.	Tundra Grassland Deciduous forest
Animals in this biome often eat fruit and nuts from the trees. They hibernate or migrate in winter.	Desert Deciduous forest Grassland
It is so hot; many animals in this biome live in underground burrows. Many grazing animals live here.	Deciduous forest Grassland Desert
Many animals in this biome live in trees. Different animals are often found in different layers.	Deciduous forest Coniferous forest Rainforest

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