

L.O/To understand what biomes are and where they are located across the world.

What Are Ecosystems and Biomes?

An **ecosystem** is a system of plants and animals which are interconnected and working together.

Some ecosystems are found under a stone or in a pond and are very small, whereas others are very large and cover the majority of a continent.

An ecosystem covering a large area of a continent is called a **biome**.



Types of Biomes

alpine

Colder climates found at high altitudes in mountain ranges. Populated with coniferous trees such as firs and pines.

chaparral

Hot and dry like a desert, but has more rain and therefore more plants and animals, including yucca, trees and cacti, coyotes, deer, lizards and jack rabbits.

deciduous forest

Warm, wet and mild areas and dominated by deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the autumn).

desert

Deserts are dry; less than 25cm rain per year. They can be hot and sandy or cold and icy. Both hot and cold deserts can support life as long as it is well adapted, such as cacti and silver ants in hot deserts, and penguins in cold deserts.

Types of Biomes

desert scrub

Very dry areas of hot deserts populated with grasses, herbs and shrubs adapted to live in very arid areas.

grasslands

Areas where a variety of grasses grow. There are few other trees or plants apart from near to water sources. The grasslands are very hot places in summer. Some become extremely cold in the winter.

rainforest

Warm, wet and humid, rainforests are home to half of the world's species and are populated with dense vegetation and trees. Rainforest animals include sloths, howler monkeys and jaguars.

Types of Biomes

savanna

This is a mixture of grasslands and woodland. There are some trees but they are spread out enough to allow the sunlight to reach the ground and grasses in between. Animals that live here include zebras, giraffes and lions.

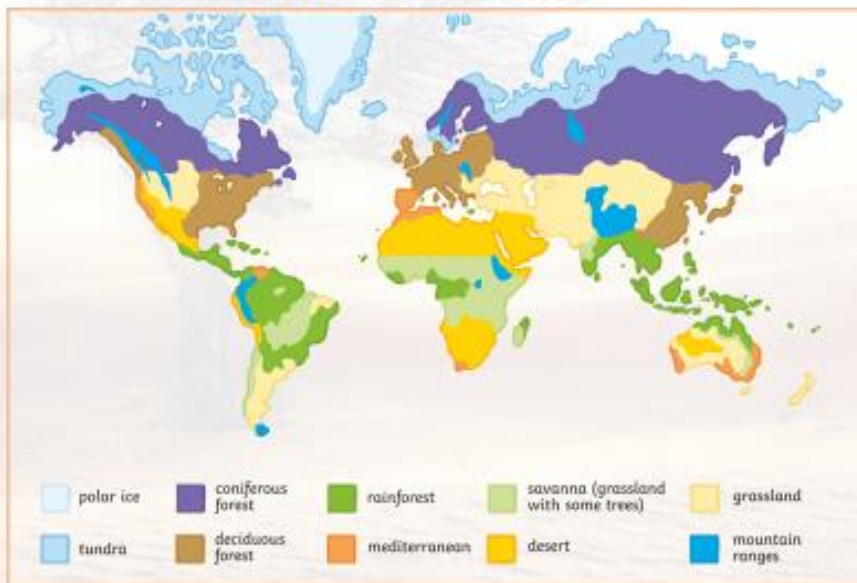
taiga

Very wet and cold, receiving plenty of snow during the winter. Coniferous trees are evergreen and remain green all year round. The soil is not very nutritious and therefore, the variety of vegetation is limited.

tundra

Cold, harsh and difficult for much vegetation to survive. Found at the top of mountains and the Poles. These areas are snow-covered and all life here is very hardy, including mosses, birds and mountain goats.

Biome Locations



Linking Biomes and Climates

Task – Use what you have read or watched to complete the table below. The first one has been done for you.

Area	What kind of biome is it ?	What is the climate in this biome?
North Africa	desert	Hot and sandy because its close to the equator
Northern Russia		
India		
Central Australia		
Eastern USA		
UK		