

Biomes and vegetation belts

Human and physical geography



Quick Facts

- Biomes are areas of our planet with similar **climates, landscapes, animals and plants**.
- Plants and animals in a biome rely on each other to stay alive.
- What lives in each biome depends on how warm or cold it is, how dry or wet it is and how fertile the soil is.



Vocabulary



Biome	A very large community of plants and animals living together in a particular climate
Vegetation belt	An area with distinct plant types
Ecosystem	All of the living things in an area interacting with each other
Natural resource	Materials that are found in nature, may be used by people
Renewable resource	A material which is replaced naturally and can be used again
Raw materials	Natural materials that have not been processed
Climate change	a change in the average conditions — such as temperature and rainfall — in a region over a long period of time

Knowledge

The main types of biomes are :

Forest: This covers about a third of the land area of the world. There are three main types: Rainforests which create a rich habitat for plants and animals. Deciduous forests that are world wide, and coniferous forests (taiga) that are found in northern regions

Grassland: These are open landscapes which are used by animals for grazing and by people for farming. The savannah in Africa is famous for wildlife and game.

Desert: These are found in every continent of the world except Europe. The animals and plants found here adapt to cope with the harsh conditions.

Tundra: This is a very cold biome found especially in northern Canada and Russia. There is a short warm period which brings some plant life in the summer

There are also

Aquatic: These include freshwater biomes such as lakes, and saltwater biomes found in seas and oceans.

Ice:

The permanent ice sheet on land and sea that never melts.

Some resources like oil, gas and metal ores will eventually run out. Others such as food, crops and wood are renewable and therefore can be replaced. Wind and sunshine (solar power) are also examples of renewable resources. These resources are not distributed evenly across our world so we need to find ways of living in harmony with our planet.

Although different parts of the world may specialise in the production of certain resources, we also need to know how these resources are distributed throughout the world. Some areas are involved in farming, fishing or forestry whilst others process and make goods from these resources. Fair trade ensures that better prices and better conditions are given to the farmers and workers of the developing world.

