

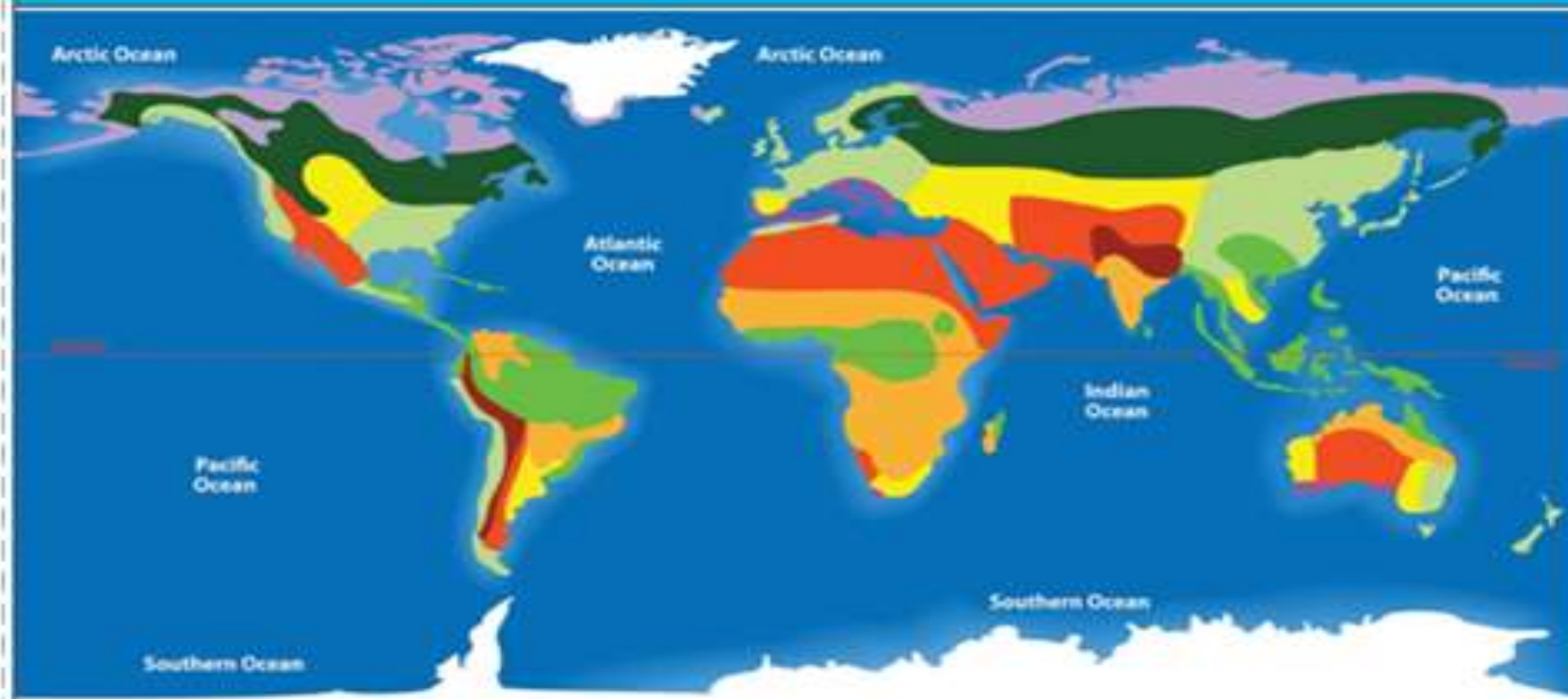
What is a biome?

A biome is a natural area of plants and animals. The world is divided into lots of different biomes and they are all different depending on their climate.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

- Earth is divided into major ecosystems called biomes.
- Identify and name different physical aspects of biomes.
- Analyse the human impact on biomes. E.g. pollution and regeneration.

Biomes



- Polar Desert
- Tundra
- Boreal forest
- Tropical Rainforest
- Deciduous forest
- Grassland
- Savannah
- Desert
- Chaparral

Vocabulary

WORD

Definition

biomes A large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat, e.g. forest or tundra.

climate The weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.

coniferous Evergreen trees that retain their leaves throughout the year.

deciduous Broad-leaved trees, such as oak and ash, which lose their leaves in the autumn and regrow them in spring.

ecosystems A community of plants and animals and their non-living environment.

permafrost Ground that has remained frozen at or below 0°C for at least two years (usually between 25 and 100cm down).

polar An area of land surrounding the North and South Poles.

regeneration To clean up or attempt to remove substances which are harmful to the environment.

temperate Relating to or denoting a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures.

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.

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.

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.

deciduous forest

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

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.