

What are biomes and how are they distributed around the world?

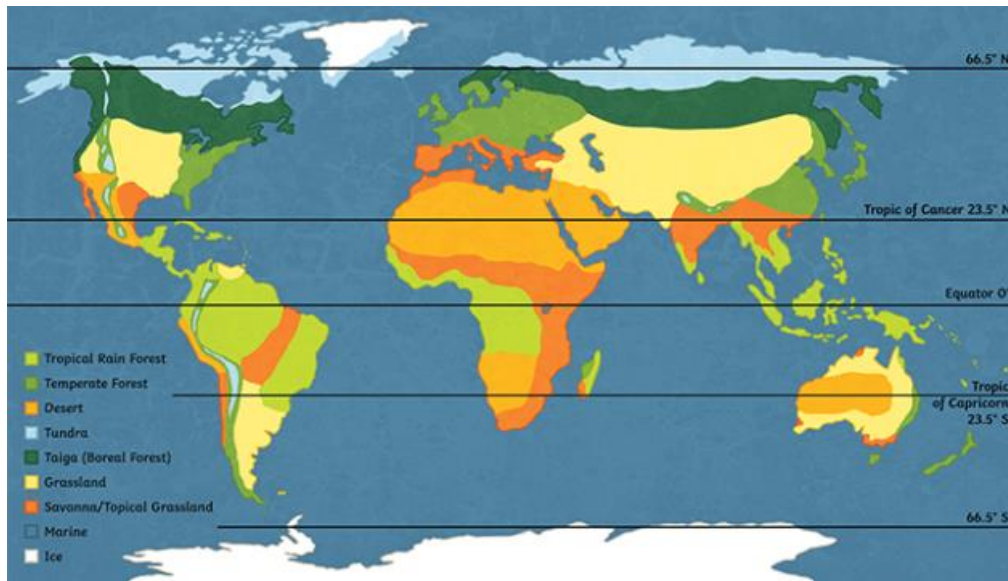
Biome

A large area characterized by its vegetation, soil, climate and wildlife.



Vegetation

All plant life.



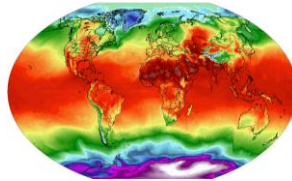
Vegetation belt

An area with distinct plant types, determined by climate, soil, drainage and elevation.



Climate

The long term pattern of weather in a particular area.



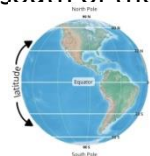
Equator

The equator is an imaginary line between the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.



Latitude

Latitude is a measurement on a globe or map of location north or south of the Equator.



Tundra

Tundra is a treeless region found in the Arctic and on the tops of mountains, where the climate is cold and windy, and rainfall is scant.

Forest

Any area of land dominated by trees. There are three main types: boreal (coniferous) forests also called Taiga, temperate (deciduous) forests and rainforests.

Grassland

Large open areas of grasses. There are tropical grasslands (Savannah) and temperate grasslands (prairie, steppes and pampas).

Desert

Characterised by an overall lack of water. Deserts cover 20% of the Earth's surface. They can be hot (Sahara) or cold (Gobi). Antarctica is the largest desert.

Aquatic

The largest biome, covering 75% of Earth's surface. There are two types: freshwater e.g. ponds, lakes, rivers and saltwater or marine e.g. oceans, estuaries, coral reefs.

Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn

The Tropic of Cancer is a circle of latitude located approximately 23.5 degrees north of the equator, and the Tropic of Capricorn is a circle of latitude located approximately 23.5 degrees south of the equator.

