



Primary Geography







Biomes

Name:

Class:

Knowledge organiser

The six major biomes

1	Tropical rainforest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot all year (25–30 °C) • Wet all year (2,000 mm of rainfall a year or more) • Dense forests with several layers of trees 	
2	Savanna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot all year (25–35 °C) • 500–1,000 mm of rainfall a year with a dry season (no rain) • Grasses, some shrubs and some trees that can cope with drought 	
3	Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very hot during the days in summer (35–40 °C) • Very low rainfall (250 mm a year or less) • Very few plants: only those that can survive without rainfall 	
4	Temperate deciduous forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four seasons: hot in summer (25 °C) and cool in winter (5 °C) • Rainfall all year (around 1,000 mm) • Deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves for winter) 	
5	Coniferous forest (taiga)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild summers (10–20 °C) but very cold winters (below 0 °C) • Low rainfall (500 mm a year or less), usually in summer • Evergreen trees (trees that keep their leaves throughout winter) 	
6	Tundra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cold winters (below –30 °C) and cool summers (around 10 °C) • Low rainfall (around 200 mm a year) • Very few plants: only those that can survive freezing temperatures and drought 	

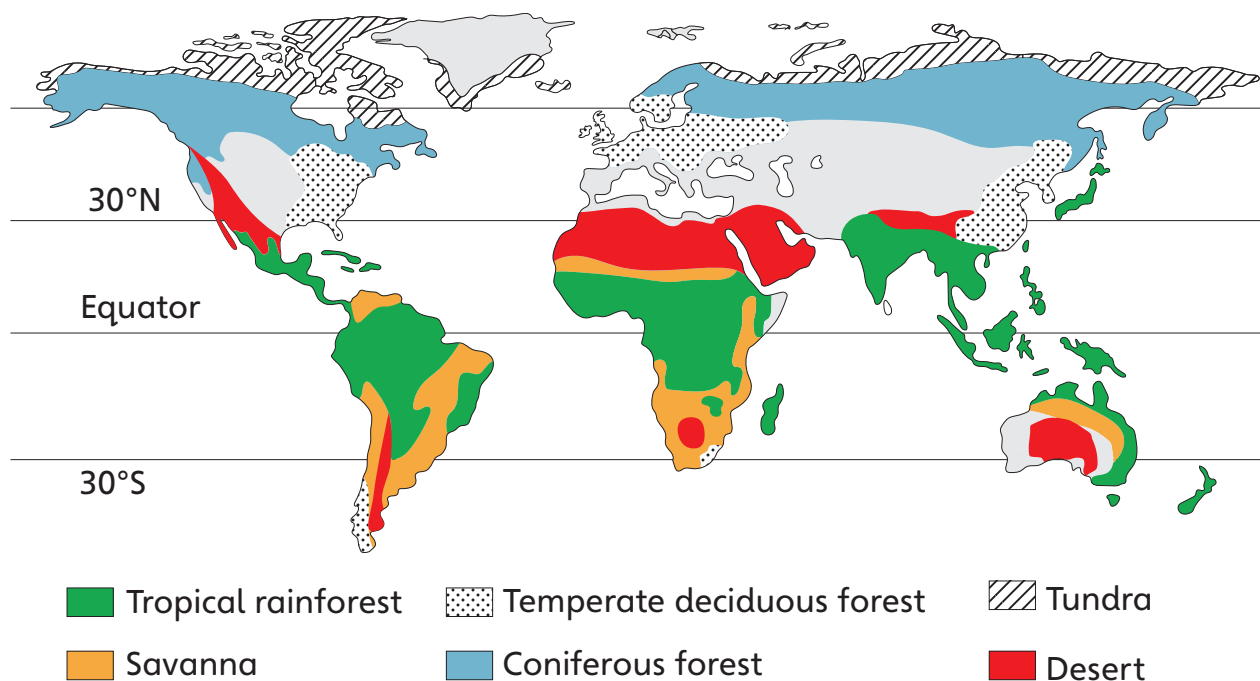
Vocabulary	
Adapted	Well suited to living in a particular biome
Biome	Very large region containing the same sort of climate, plants and animals
Climate	General or average weather conditions over a long period of time
Drought	Long period when there is much less rain than usual, leading to there not being enough water
Extinct	No longer alive as a species
Fossil fuels	Resources, such as coal, oil and natural gas, that contain a lot of carbon and release it when they are burnt
Greenhouse gases	Gases like water vapour, carbon dioxide and methane that trap heat in the atmosphere, warming it up
Permafrost	Layer of the ground under the surface that is permanently frozen
Wildfires	Fires that spread very quickly through forests and grasslands



drought



wildfire



A map showing where the six major biomes are across the world.

4 Learning review

Lesson	Lesson question	You will learn ...	Learning review
1	What are the Earth's biomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What a biome is • The names of six of the Earth's biomes • What these six biomes are like 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
2	Why are the biomes where they are?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why some parts of the Earth are hotter than others • Why some parts of the Earth are drier than others • Why deserts are so hot and dry 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
3	Why are biomes under threat?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why there is a climate emergency • Why some animals and plants are vulnerable to climate change • How biomes might change 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
4	What are the features of your favourite biome?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What your favourite biome is • Where your favourite biome is located • How animals or plants are adapted to your favourite biome 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
5	How can we persuade people to protect biomes?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good reasons for protecting biomes • Good reasons for protecting your favourite biome 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
6	Assessment: How much do you agree with the following statement? 'It is already too late to protect biomes from climate change.'		<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

Lesson 1

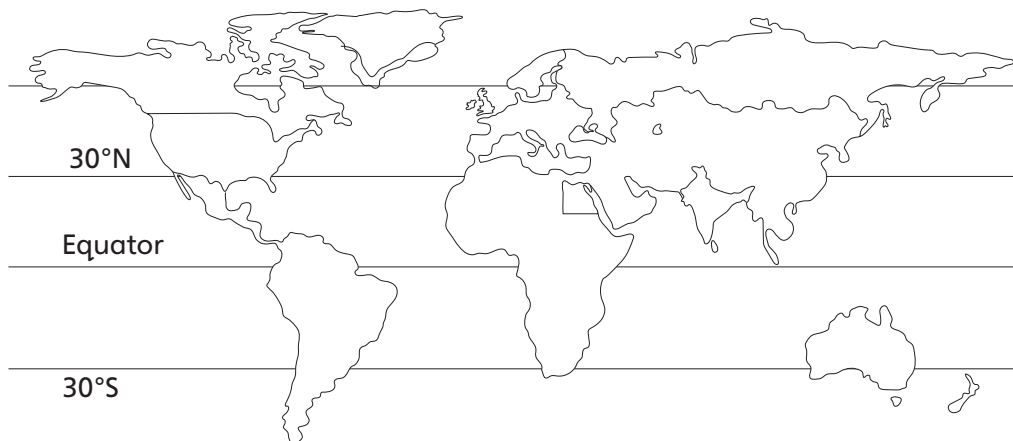
What are the Earth's biomes?

What are biomes?

A **biome** is a huge region with the same sort of **climate**, plants and animals. This map shows the Earth's biomes.



1. Colour in the biomes map using the map on p.3 as a guide. You can use different colours or different shading. Remember to colour in the key.





- Tropical rainforest
- Temperate deciduous forest
- Tundra
- Savanna
- Coniferous forest
- Desert



2. Find out what the biomes are in these places. Write your answers in the table. (*We've done the first one to get you started.*)

Place	Biome
The far north of Russia	Tundra
Egypt	
The middle of Australia	
The east of the USA	
UK	
India	
Along the Equator	

3. Use the list of six major biomes in the Knowledge organiser to identify each of them in this table. Write your answers in the table.

<p style="text-align: center;">Biome 1</p>  <p>Biome 1 is: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Biome 2</p>  <p>Biome 2 is: _____</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Biome 3</p> <p>This biome has thick forests with several layers of trees. Millions of species of plants and animals live here. It is hot all year, with temperatures usually between 25°C and 30°C, and never below 20°C. It usually rains every day, and there is 2,000 mm of rainfall or more each year.</p> <p>Biome 3 is: _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Biome 4</p> <p>Very few plants can survive in this biome because it is so cold for most of the year (well below 0°C). The summer is slightly warmer (around 10°C). It is also very dry: there is often less than 250 mm of rainfall each year. Days are very long in summer but very short in winter.</p> <p>Biome 4 is: _____</p>

Lesson 2

Why are the biomes where they are?




Quiz

- Which biome is at the Equator? Tick the correct answer.
 - tropical rainforest
 - desert
 - tundra
- Which biome is very hot and very dry? Tick the correct answer.
 - tundra
 - coniferous forest (taiga)
 - desert
- Which biome has cold winters but a lot of evergreen trees? Tick the correct answer.
 - coniferous forest (taiga)
 - temperate deciduous forest
 - tropical rainforest
- Which biome is so cold and dry that very few plants can live there? Tick the correct answer.
 - tundra
 - coniferous forest (taiga)
 - desert
- Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.
 - The UK is in the coniferous forest (taiga) biome. True False
 - The UK is in the temperate deciduous forest biome. True False
 - The UK is in the tropical rainforest biome. True False

Temperature

The main reason why biomes are where they are is the climate. Climates are different around the world and that's what makes biomes different.

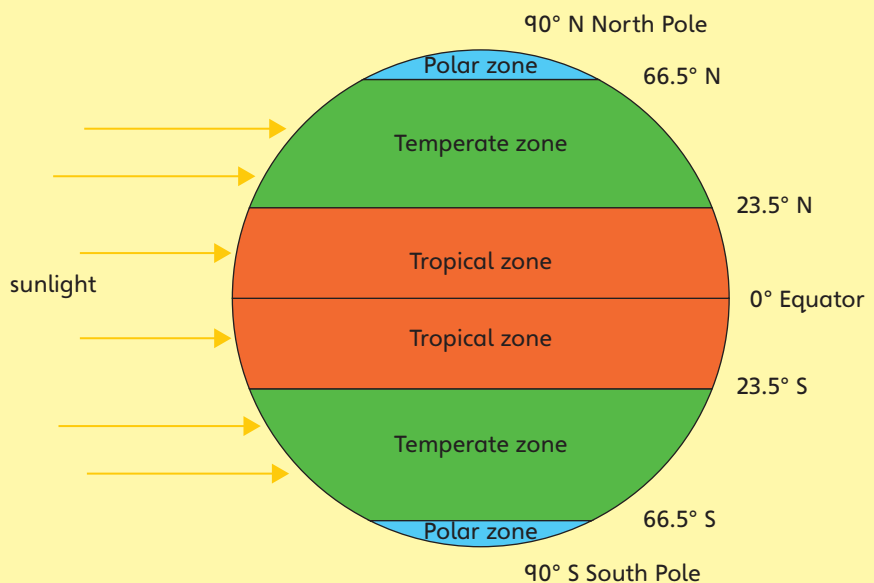
Temperature is very important for climate. Most of the Earth's heat comes from the Sun. Where the Sun's rays hit the Earth straight on, it is hottest. That is at a point called the Equator. Where the Sun's rays hit the Earth at the shallowest angle, it is coldest. That is at the North Pole and South Pole.

-  I. Use the information in the Knowledge organiser to order the six main biomes by summer temperature, starting with the hottest one. Write your answers in the table.

	Summer temperature	Biome
Hottest	35–40 °C	
	25–35 °C	
	25–30 °C	
	25 °C	
	10–20 °C	
Coldest	10 °C	

Latitude

The Equator is an imaginary line around the middle of the Earth, like a belt. It is a line of latitude, which means it goes around the Earth. There are other lines of latitude, all the way to the North and South Poles. We measure latitude in degrees. The Equator is at zero degrees of latitude (0°), and the number of degrees increases towards the Poles.



- The tropical zone is on both sides of the Equator. It is hot!
- The temperate zone is cooler because the Sun's rays are hitting the area from an angle.
- The polar zone is very cold. The Sun's rays here are very spread out.

Rainfall

When air gets warm, it rises up – like the air that lifts a hot air balloon. It carries water vapour up with it.

High up in the atmosphere, it is cold. The water vapour gets colder as it goes up and that makes it form clouds. Water droplets become heavier as they join together, and fall from the clouds as rain.

This is what happens at the Equator. The very hot air rises up, carrying more water vapour. Huge clouds form and there is a lot of rain.

That is why the tropical rainforest is warm all year and has so much rain. The clouds also block some of the Sun's rays. That keeps it from being as hot as where skies are clear, like in deserts.

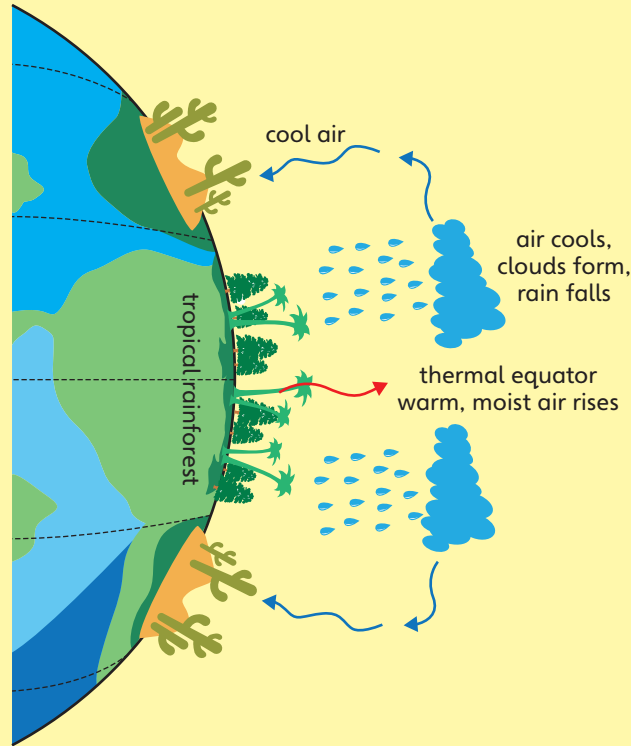


2. Use the information in the Knowledge organiser to order the six main biomes by quantity of rainfall, starting with the wettest one. Write your answers in the table.

	Annual rainfall	Biome
Wettest	2,000 mm or more	
	Around 1,000 mm	
	500–1,000 mm	
	500 mm or less	
	250 mm or less	
Driest	Around 200 mm	

Why are deserts so dry and hot?

After the water vapour in warm air becomes clouds and rain, the dry air becomes colder and starts to fall. The falling air has no clouds, so there is no rain and nothing to get in the way of the Sun's rays. No rain and hot temperatures make a desert.



3. Fill in the blanks to complete these sentences.

Desert biomes are found north and south of the

_____ . This is because hot air _____

at the Equator and, by the time it comes down again, it has lost

all its water _____ . That means desert biomes

have very low levels of _____ . Because there are

no clouds, the Sun makes the _____ in deserts very

high during the day.

temperatures rises Equator vapour rainfall

Lesson 3

Why are biomes under threat?



Quiz

1. What is the Equator? Tick the correct answer.

- a. a biome
- b. a line of latitude
- c. a Pole

2. Match each biome to its average summer temperature and average annual rainfall. Draw lines between them.

Summer temperature
35–40 °C
25–35 °C
25–30 °C
20–25 °C
10–20 °C
10 °C

Biome
Tropical rainforest
Coniferous forest (taiga)
Tundra
Savanna
Desert
Temperate deciduous forest

Annual rainfall
2,000 mm +
1,000 mm
500–1,000 mm
Less than 500 mm
250 mm or less
150–250 mm

3. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.

- a. Dry air has no clouds, so deserts are very hot in the day.
- b. Rising air with lots of water vapour makes clouds and rain.
- c. In the tropical rainforest biome, sinking air creates clear skies and no rain.

True False

True False

True False

Why is there a climate emergency?

Human activities often release gases such as carbon dioxide and methane: **greenhouse gases**. These greenhouse gases trap heat in the atmosphere so it warms up. Humans have added so much extra greenhouse gas to the atmosphere that the Earth's temperature has increased by more than 1°C over the last 200 years.

Temperature differences create different climates, so when temperatures change, climates change too. This change is called the climate emergency. It is an emergency because of the bad effects for life on the Earth in the future. For example, heatwaves of 40°C might become common in Europe. Millions of people could not have enough water to drink.



- I. Look at the following list of the impacts of climate warming.
 - A. All over the world, the temperature has increased.
 - B. Water expands when it gets warmer, so the level of the sea is rising.
 - C. There is less snow in the northern hemisphere (the half of the globe nearer to the North Pole).
 - D. Less of the sea in the Arctic is frozen.
 - E. Plants are flowering earlier in spring.
 - F. Glaciers around the world are getting smaller each year.
 - G. The **permafrost** of the tundra is melting.
 - H. Flooded homes are a consequence of a warming climate.

a. Which statement in the list explains why people are having to move away from coastal areas? Write its letter here:




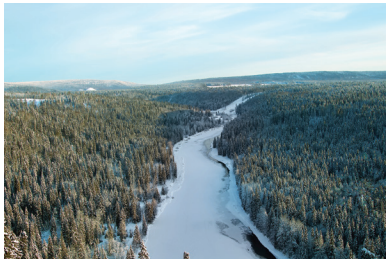
b. Which statement in the list does this picture show? Write its letter here:




Why are some animals and plants vulnerable to climate change?

Biomes depend on the climate, so climate change means biome change.

The animals and plants of biomes are often **adapted** to live in their biomes. If the climate changes rapidly, they might not be able to survive there.

	<p>It is cold in the tundra so animals there, like the Arctic fox, have thick fur and small ears. The Arctic fox has white fur in winter so it is camouflaged against the snow. It has a fluffy tail that it wraps around itself to stay warm in winter.</p>
	<p>It rains almost every day in the tropical rainforest, so trees there do not need to have long roots to search for water deep in the soil. They certainly do not need to store water: during some parts of the year, the whole forest might be flooded.</p>
	<p>The types of mosquito that carry the disease malaria need to live in higher temperatures. That is why malaria is common in warmer regions of the world – where it kills around 400,000 people every year – but is not found in cooler regions.</p>
	<p>Coniferous trees have lots of adaptations that mean they can survive very low temperatures, which would kill deciduous trees. For example, needle-like leaves are less vulnerable to snow. However, they do not absorb as much light so coniferous trees are far more slow-growing.</p>

- 
2. Cross out the incorrect words to complete these sentences.
- If the tundra became warmer, it would be **good** / **bad** for Arctic foxes because they would be too hot and they would not be camouflaged against the snow.
 - If the tropical rainforest became drier, many trees would **die** / **flourish** because they are not adapted for dry conditions.
 - If temperatures became warmer in northern Europe, the mosquitos that carry malaria **could** / **could not** spread there.
 - If temperatures became warmer in the coniferous forest biome, deciduous trees could **replace** / **help** the conifers because they grow more quickly.

How might biomes change?

A warming climate has big impacts on biomes. Here are three examples.

Warming tundra

In the tundra, a warmer climate will melt more of the permafrost. Unfortunately, this releases more greenhouse gases that were frozen in the soil. More plants will be able to grow in the tundra and the lichens that reindeer eat will be crowded out. **Wildfires** will become more common.

Drying tropical rainforest

Climate change is reducing rainfall in tropical rainforest biomes. Trees are dying as they cannot cope with **drought**, and forest fires are more common. As the rainforests dry out, they will become more like savanna, with dry bushes and grasses.

Desertifying the savanna

Climate change is reducing rainfall in the savanna biome, too. Droughts are getting more common and lasting longer. This means areas of savanna are turning into deserts. This is called desertification.



Desertification in northern Africa



3. Climate change means biome change. Fill in in the blanks to complete these sentences. The first one has been done for you, as an example of how a sentence should be completed.

- a. Tundra will become more like coniferous forests.
- b. Some tropical rainforests will become more like

_____.

- c. Some savannas will become more like

_____.

- d. Some temperate deciduous forests will become more like

_____.

Unit progress check in

1. Choose one phrase to complete each of the following sentences. Cross out the incorrect options.

Trees in **coniferous forests** / **deciduous forests** / **rainforests** grow densely, in several layers.

Trees in **coniferous forests** / **deciduous forests** / **rainforests** have tough, needle-like leaves.

Trees in **coniferous forests** / **deciduous forests** / **rainforests** lose their leaves for winter.

2. Write one term to complete this sentence.

‘The UK is in the _____ biome.’

3. Put these three biomes in order of summer temperature, starting with the hottest. Write 1, 2, or 3 next to each.

Temperate deciduous forest _____

Savanna _____

Tundra _____

4. Put these three biomes in order of annual rainfall, starting with the wettest. Write 1, 2, or 3 next to each.

Tropical rainforest _____

Desert _____

Coniferous forest _____

5. What is causing the climate emergency? Tick the correct answer.

a. ocean tides

b. human activity

c. plant growth

6. Describe one impact of the climate emergency.

Lesson 4

What are the features of your favourite biome?



Quiz

- Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.
 - Humans are causing the climate emergency by releasing greenhouse gases. True False
 - Trees are causing the climate emergency by storing carbon dioxide. True False
 - The oceans are causing the climate emergency by getting warmer. True False
- Which **one** of the following is an impact of climate warming? Tick the correct answer.
 - The permafrost of the tundra is melting.
 - Glaciers around the world are getting bigger each year.
 - More of the sea in the Arctic is frozen over each year.
- Describe one way in which the Arctic fox is adapted to the very cold winters of the tundra. Write your answer.

- Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.
 - Trees in the tropical rainforest are adapted for drought. True False
 - Some parts of savanna biomes might become more like tropical rainforests as climates become drier. True False
 - Tundra will become more like coniferous forests as climates warm. True False

Your favourite biome

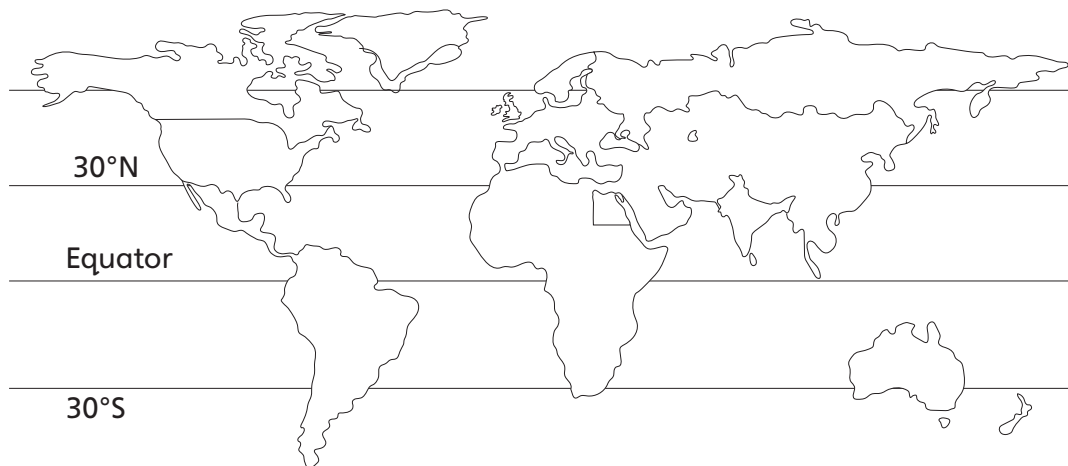


1. You have learnt about six biomes in this unit. Which is your favourite one – one that you would like to learn more about? Why is that? Write your answers.

My favourite biome is: _____

This is because: _____

2. Where is your biome found in the world? Colour or shade it on this map and write its name in the key.



- | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tropical rainforest | <input type="checkbox"/> Temperate deciduous forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Tundra |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Savanna | <input type="checkbox"/> Coniferous forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Desert |





3. Fill in the blanks and cross out the incorrect words to complete these sentences about your favourite biome. You could look back at the Knowledge organiser to help you.

My favourite biome is: _____

Every year, this biome has _____ mm of rainfall.

Its climate is **very rainy** / **quite rainy** / **not very rainy** / **dry**.

The summer temperature in the biome is: _____ °C.

Its climate is **very hot** / **hot** / **warm** / **cool** / **cold**.

How are polar bears adapted to their tundra biome?

These labels show how polar bears are adapted to their climate.

Their ears are small as big ears lose heat very quickly.

White fur acts as a camouflage in snow and ice.

Greasy fur dries quickly after swimming.




Their tails are short as long tails could get frostbite.

Thick fur keeps the bears warm.

A fatty layer under their fur also keeps them warm.

Wide paws are good for walking on ice and swimming.

-  4. Find out about the adaptations of an animal or a plant from your favourite biome. Draw it and label its adaptations.



How well will polar bears cope with a changing climate?

As climate warms up in the tundra and polar biomes, polar bears are in trouble. They are not adapted to living in warmer winters.

- Polar bears' white fur is not good camouflage when there is no snow or ice.
- Their thick fur and fatty layers mean they can get too hot in warmer temperatures.
- They are used to hunting on the ice. They cannot catch their food in areas with no ice.

How will your favourite biome change?



5. How will your favourite biome change as climate change continues?
Cross out the incorrect words to complete these sentences.

My favourite biome is: _____

- Because of climate change, temperatures in this biome are **increasing** / **decreasing**.
- Its climate is becoming **extremely hot** / **very hot** / **hot** / **warm** / **cool**.
- Because of climate change, rainfall in this biome is **decreasing** / **increasing**.
- Its climate is becoming **quite rainy** / **not very rainy** / **dry** / **very dry**.

Lesson 5

How can we persuade people to protect biomes?



Quiz

1. What biome did you choose as your favourite one? Tick the correct answer.

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Tundra | <input type="checkbox"/> | d. Tropical rainforest | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Coniferous forest (taiga) | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Savanna | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Deciduous temperate forest | <input type="checkbox"/> | f. Desert | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Identify **one** continent that has your biome in it.

Tick the correct answer.

- | | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| a. Antarctica | <input type="checkbox"/> | e. Europe | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Africa | <input type="checkbox"/> | f. North America | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Asia | <input type="checkbox"/> | g. South America | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| d. Australasia | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

3. Read the statements below. Tick 'True' or 'False' for each one.

- | | | | | |
|---|------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|
| a. Polar bears have thick fur that keeps them warm in the tundra winters. | True | <input type="checkbox"/> | False | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b. Polar bears would have more to eat if there was no ice on which to hunt. | True | <input type="checkbox"/> | False | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c. Polar bears are very well adapted for life in the coniferous forest biome. | True | <input type="checkbox"/> | False | <input type="checkbox"/> |

4. Give an example of another animal's or plant's adaptations and name its biome. Write your answer.

Reasons for protecting biomes

- Biomes store carbon for us: in trees, in peat bogs, in ocean kelp (seaweed) forests, for example.
- Forest biomes clean our air and our water.
- Plants in biomes create the oxygen we need to breathe.
- Changes in the biomes means more animal and plant species will become **extinct**.
- Many of our medicines come from plants. If more plant species become extinct, we will lose the possibility of creating new medicines from them.



- I. a. Which one of the statements in the list above do you think is the most convincing reason to protect biomes? Underline it.
- b. Why do you find this reason the most convincing? Write your answer.

What can we do to protect biomes from climate change?

The climate emergency is caused by humans producing too much greenhouse gas. Humans are also destroying and damaging biomes directly, for example by cutting down rainforests in order to make farmland. Three important things we can do, therefore, are:

1. leave **fossil fuels** in the ground – burning oil, coal and gas is the main reason that we produce too much greenhouse gas
2. protect biomes from being damaged by human activity, for example, by setting up forest reserves
3. help repair biomes that have been damaged, for example, by planting more trees.



2. Look at the photos below.



Photo A



Photo B



Photo C

a. Which one of the photos above shows a way of protecting a biome from being damaged by human activity: A, B or C? Write your answer.

b. Which one of the photos shows a way of repairing a biome that humans have already damaged: A, B or C? Write your answer.

c. Which one of the photos shows an alternative to using fossil fuels: A, B or C? Write your answer.



3. Plan a speech you could make to persuade people to help you protect your favourite biome, using the following prompts. Write your answers.

a. Why the biome is interesting or special:

b. Why biomes are important to us all:

c. How the biome is threatened by climate change:

d. What you want people to do to help defend the biome:

Lesson 6

Unit check out



How much do you agree with the following statement? 'It is already too late to protect biomes from climate change.' Write your answer.

Key words		
adapted	drought	greenhouse gases
biome	extinct	permafrost
climate	fossil fuels	wildfires

Title: How much do you agree with the following statement? 'It is already too late to protect biomes from climate change.'	<hr/> <hr/>
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is a biome?• What is climate change?	<hr/> <hr/>
Paragraph 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why is climate change a threat to biomes?• Give an example of a species that is vulnerable to climate change.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

<p>Paragraph 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Give an example of a biome. Describe its climate and vegetation.• Explain why biomes are important.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Paragraph 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In what ways have biomes already changed? (For example, consider glaciers, permafrost and ice sheets.)	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Extension Paragraph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What is needed for biomes to be protected?• How can we achieve this protection?• How can we reduce climate change?• How can we repair biomes that have been damaged already?	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
<p>Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• State whether you think it is already too late to protect biomes.• If you think it is too late, explain why using evidence from earlier in your writing.• If you think it is not too late, explain what needs to happen and how this could be achieved.	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

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Primary Geography

Biomes

Pearson Primary Geography is a proven, intelligently sequenced curriculum that helps every child learn, and remember more. These units will help you become a successful Geographer.

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- Clear, levelled texts and images to follow teaching material
- Retrieval Practice 'Quizzes' every lesson to build retention
- Mid Unit check-ins - for formative assessment
- End of Unit summative tasks

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