



What are biomes and how does climate change affect them?

The Six Major Biomes

1	Tropical Rainforest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very steady temperature between 20°C and 25°C. Rains all year long. The trees are very tall and varied. Most of the plants are evergreen, not deciduous. 	
2	Temperate Deciduous Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature ranges from -30°C to 30°C. Goes through all four seasons. Range of trees, most lose their leaves in the autumn. Even rainfall throughout most of the year. 	
3	Coniferous forest (Taiga)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature ranges from -54°C to 30°C. Low average temperature. Most of the trees are evergreen. Largest land biome. 	
4	Tundra	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperature ranges from -34°C to 6°C. Coldest of all the biomes. Little rain, lots of frost. No trees grow, and only a few small plants. 	
5	Grasslands (Savanna)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dry season and a rainy season. Temperature ranges from -40°C to 40°C+. Mostly grass grows, occasional individual trees. 	
6	Desert	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temperatures over 50°C in the day, below freezing at night. Very few clouds and very little rain. Very few plants or animals. 	

Vocabulary	
biome	A large area of land with a particular climate, type of plants and animals.
Ecosystem	A community of living and non-living things that work together.
climate	The general weather conditions and patterns in an area.
deciduous	A tree that sheds its leaves in the autumn.
dormant	When a plant or animal is in a deep, long sleep.
equator	The imaginary line that runs around the middle of the earth.
fauna	The animals that normally live in a particular biome.
flora	The plants that normally grow in a particular biome.
latitude	Imaginary lines goes around the earth horizontally.
temperate	Mild weather, further away from the equator.
tropics	Any place on earth near the equator.
Deforestation	Cutting down trees.

Key questions / Learning points

- What is the difference between climate and weather?
- What are longitude and latitude and what is their geographical significance regarding climate and weather?
- What is a biome and how is it different to an ecosystem? Locate different biomes using four and six figure grid references.
- How do the Tundra and Taiga compare in terms of flora and fauna?
- What human / physical factors affect a biome?
- How does global warming impact biomes?

