

**Background Information**

**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. There is no exact number when it comes to types of biomes, but many people believe the terrestrial biomes can be grouped into the following main groups: **desert, forest, grassland, rainforest, tundra.** Biomes can also be aquatic – relating to bodies of water. What lives in each biome depends on the following:

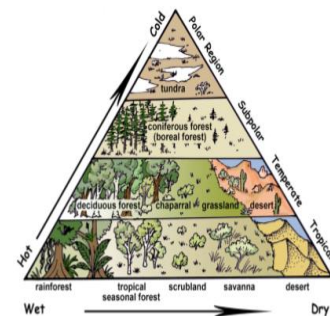
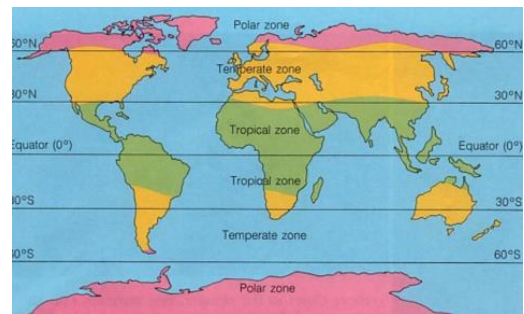
- How warm or cold it is
- How dry or wet it is
- How fertile the soil is

Vocabulary	Definition
<b>Biome</b>	geographical area defined by its climate, plant and animal life and the activities of the people who live there
<b>Climate</b>	weather patterns in a place over a long period, such as seasonal rainfall, sunshine and temperatures
<b>Deciduous (forests)</b>	forests which have 4 distinct seasons, with trees that drop their leaves in autumn
<b>Desert</b>	area with very little rain, extreme heat and/or cold, where few forms of life can survive
<b>Distribution</b>	where something is located
<b>Fertile</b>	Capable of producing vegetation
<b>Grassland</b>	large area covered with grasses
<b>Taiga</b>	the world's biggest biome
<b>Temperate</b>	a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures.
<b>Terrestrial</b>	relating to dry land on earth
<b>Tundra</b>	from the Finnish 'tunturia', which means barren or treeless land. Trees do not grow in the tundra because the ground is permanently frozen

**What should I already know?**

- Different regions of the world have different climates, as well as distinctive plants and animals specific to that biome.
- Climate is critical because it determines the types of plants and animals – the ecosystem – that can survive in a biome. For example, polar bears can't survive in the Sahara Desert.
- The equator is an 'invisible' line which separates the North and South Hemisphere.

**Key Maps and Diagrams**



**Characteristics**

The animals in a biome depend upon plants for food. The plants in a biome often also depend upon the animals for spreading pollen and seeds so that new plants can grow, so both plants and animals rely on each other to stay alive.

