

Key Words

Biome	A geographical area defined by its climate, plant and animal life and the activities of the people who live there.	Climate	The weather patterns in a place over a long period, such as seasonal rainfall, sunshine and temperatures.
Precipitation	This is any liquid or frozen water that forms in the atmosphere and falls back to the Earth. It comes in many forms, like rain, sleet, and snow.	Temperature	The measured level of heat or cold in the air.
Grassland	A large area covered with grasses.	Weather	The conditions in the atmosphere on a particular day, such as temperature, windiness, rainfall and cloud cover.
Desert	An area with very little rain, extreme heat and/or cold, where few forms of life can survive. Can be a hot or cold desert.	Drought	A period with very little or no rain.
Fauna	Animals native to an area, such as birds, reptiles and insects.	Flora	The plants native to an area, such as trees, flowers and grasses.
Tropical	The region on either side of the Equator, between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.	Tundra	Land where the soil beneath the surface is frozen all year and trees cannot survive the low temperatures and short growing season.
Vegetation belt	An area where similar types of plant life grow, adapted to the conditions there.	Environment	Conditions to which a plant, animal or person is adapted.

Key Ideas

- The interaction of weather and climate shape the biomes that cover every part of the Earth's surface. The different climate zones across the world have a huge range of weather and seasonal patterns. This leads to great variation in the biomes across the world.**
- There are seven climate zones: polar, sub-polar, temperate, tropical, sub-tropical, equatorial and sub-equatorial.
- There are six main biomes: tropical rainforest, woodlands, desert (hot & cold), tundra, savannah and grasslands.
- The way people live varies across the world depending on where they live and the climate of that area. This affects all aspects of human life.
- Tropical rainforest biomes** are hot and wet all year round. They are home to half of all the different types of plants and animals on the planet.
- Woodland biomes** are habitats where the main plants found are trees, but mosses, ferns and lichen can also be found. The climate is warm and mild, with more rain falling in the winter than the summer.
- Cold desert biomes** have long cold winters, with annual temperatures mostly below freezing. Polar areas are often windy, with very little precipitation. Permanent ice caps cover polar landscapes.



