



# Biomes: Earth's Amazing Habitats and Their Life

KS2 GEOGRAPHY

KS3 SCIENCE

Ages 10-14 ⌚ 4 min read

## What Is a Biome?

A **biome** is a large region of Earth with its own special climate, plants, and animals. Think of the planet as being divided into giant zones, each with very different weather and living things. **Climate** means the average weather patterns in a place—things like temperature and rainfall.

Think of it like: different rooms in a massive house. The kitchen is hot and steamy, the freezer is icy cold, and the garden is mild and wet. Each room has completely different conditions and different things living in it.

Scientists have identified **five main biomes** on Earth, though some experts split them into more.

## The Five Main Biomes

**Tropical Rainforests** are found near the equator and are the wettest, hottest biomes. They have enormous rainfall every year and are home to half of all the world's animal and plant species. Jaguars, poison dart frogs, and thousands of bird species live here.

**Deserts** are very dry places where it rarely rains. Animals like camels, rattlesnakes, and scorpions have adapted to survive with very little water. Plants like cacti store water inside themselves to survive.

**Temperate Forests** have four seasons and moderate rainfall. They include places like most of Europe and North America. Deer, squirrels, bears, and deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves) live here.

**Grasslands** or **savannas** have vast open areas with grass and few trees. Huge herds of zebras, wildebeest, and lions live on the African savanna. These biomes have a dry season and a wet season.

**Tundra** is the coldest biome, found near the Arctic. It's frozen most of the year with very short summers. Polar bears, Arctic foxes, and mosses grow here instead of trees.

Think of it like: your body dressing for the weather. In a rainforest you'd wear light, breathable clothes. In the tundra you'd need thick coats, hats, and gloves. Animals evolved special features to match their biome instead.

## **How Plants and Animals Fit Their Biomes**

Every plant and animal is **adapted** (specially shaped or behaving) to survive in their biome. Cacti have thick skins to stop water loss in deserts. Polar bears have thick fur to stay warm in the tundra. Rainforest animals are often brightly coloured because light is scarce under the thick trees.

Understanding biomes helps us protect Earth's incredible diversity and see why different places need different conservation efforts.