Earth's Biomes: Where Plants and Animals Live

KS3 Ages 11-14 ⏰ 3 min read

What is a Biome?

A **biome** is a huge area of Earth that has its own climate, plants, and animals. Think of it like a neighbourhood where everyone and everything is adapted to live the same way. The weather, soil, and amount of sunshine all shape what can survive there.

Think of it like different rooms in a house. Each room has different temperature, furniture, and who lives there. A tropical rainforest room is hot and wet, while an arctic room is frozen and icy.

The Major Biomes

Tropical Rainforests are found near the **Equator** in places like Brazil, Indonesia, and Central Africa. They're hot, wet, and packed with more plant and animal species than anywhere else. It rains almost every day!

Deserts are extremely dry places found across Africa, Australia, and the Middle East. Very little rain falls here, so only tough plants like cacti and hardy animals like camels survive.

Grasslands (also called savannas) have grasses and scattered trees, found in Africa, South America, and Australia. Huge herds of zebras, wildebeest, and lions live here.

Temperate forests are found in North America, Europe, and Asia. They have four seasons with moderate temperatures. Animals here include deer, squirrels, and bears.

Coniferous forests (or **boreal forests**) are in northern Canada, Russia, and Scandinavia. It's cold, and pine and spruce trees dominate. Moose, wolves, and bears live here.

Tundra is the coldest biome, found in the Arctic near the North Pole. It's frozen most of the year, with few plants. Only hardy animals like polar bears and Arctic foxes survive here.

Think of it like different countries having different national sports. Some love football (grasslands are active and busy), others love ice hockey (tundra is frozen and harsh).

How Biomes Connect

Biomes don't have sharp borders—they blend into each other. As you travel from the **Equator** towards the poles, you gradually move through different biomes. This is because temperature and rainfall change slowly.

Understanding biomes helps us protect nature and prepare for **climate change**. Each biome is unique and worth preserving.