

Biomes

The term **biome** refers to a geographic region that has a distinct climate. A biome contains characteristic types of plants and animals adapted to the region and its climate.

For example, a desert is a biome characterized by hot temperatures, cool nights, low rainfall, and plant and animal life adapted to a limited water supply. There are eight major biomes and habitats that include: desert, grassland, savannah, tropical forest, coniferous forest, tundra, freshwater, and saltwater.

Definitions:

Desert: - A biome characterized by hot daytime temperatures, cool nights, low rainfall, and plant and animal life adapted to a limited water supply.

Grassland: - A biome found in the dry temperate interiors of continents. This biome is characterized by rich soil, moderate rainfall, a hot, dry climate, thick grasses, and herds of grazing animals.

Savannah: - A biome found in tropical or subtropical regions and characterized by scrubland, trees, grazing mammals, and a seasonal cycle of rainy and dry seasons.

Tropical forest: - A biome that is found near the equator and is characterized by large amounts of rainfall and a consistently hot climate.

Coniferous forest: - A biome found in cold climates in northern coniferous (evergreen) forests. This biome is characterized by long, harsh winters, damp ground, and fog.

Tundra: - A biome found near the polar ice caps. The tundra biome is characterized by constant low temperatures and permafrost. The land is wet and swampy in the summer and frozen in the winter.

Taiga: - A biome found in the northern hemisphere. Taiga is the largest continental biome. It experiences long, cold winters; short, mild summers; and low precipitation. It is also characterized by coniferous forests. Taiga covers most of Canada and Serbia and is completely absent from the southern hemisphere.

Freshwater: - A biome found in rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, swamps, and marshes. It is rich in plant and animal life that live both in and near the water.

Saltwater: - A biome found in the Earth's oceans and seas. Organisms in this environment are adapted to living in salt water.