

# Ecosystems

terrestrial  
biome

## Terrestrial Biomes

What are the characteristics of Earth's land environments?

A **biome** is a large area of Earth's surface that contains similar ecosystems and climate characteristics. For example, **tropical rainforests** are warm regions with heavy rainfall, lush plant growth, and many different plant and animal species. Average rainfall is about 225 cm per year, though some tropical rainforests receive almost twice that much.

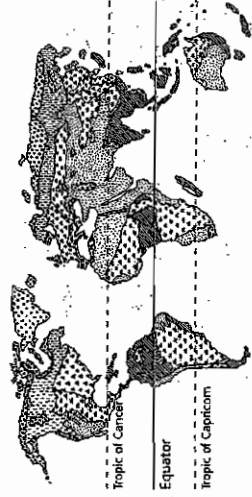
**Deciduous Forests** grow in climates with annual warm and cold seasons. They are dominated by trees that lose their leaves in winter, including oak, maple, and hickory trees. Average yearly rainfall ranges from 75-150 cm.

**Taiga** is coniferous forest that contains primarily fir, spruce, pine, cedar, and hemlock trees. Most precipitation is snowfall, which averages 30-40 cm annually.

**Grasslands** receive about 25-75 cm of rainfall every year. Grasslands are hot and dry in summer and cold and wet during the winter. Plant life is dominated by grasses and also includes wildflowers and small shrubs that can survive drought and heat.

**Deserts** receive very little rain, averaging less than 25 cm each year. Temperatures can be very hot during the day and very cold at night. Desert soil is not very fertile and cannot support rich plant life. Much of the soil is bare.

**Tundra** is cold and snowy, with very few trees and a layer of permanently frozen soil called **permafrost**. Only the top layer of soil thaws out during warmer months. Average precipitation is less than 25 cm a year.



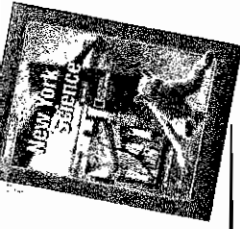
Some of Earth's Biomes  
 Tropical rainforest  
 Deciduous forest  
 Desert  
 Grassland  
 Taiga  
 Tundra  
 Earth's biomes

What is a biome?

Our goal is to identify land biomes. to find their similarities and differences.

Standard NYC science 5.2a

read pages 316 to 323 of your textbook  
 NY science - Grade 6 / chapter 11 section 2



Compare and contrast tundra organisms and desert organisms

Tell about one type of terrestrial biome

Which 2 types of biomes are the driest?

Why will the soil of a rain forest make poor farm land?