

Chapter 22 Section 4

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biome - a group of land ecosystems with similar climates and organisms

Six major biomes - the rain forest, desert, grassland, deciduous forest, boreal forest, and tundra.

It is mostly the climate - temperature and precipitation in an area that determines its biome

Temperate Rain Forest - a rain forest that has moderate temperatures

Tropical Rain Forest - located close to the equator and humid all year long. receives more than 300 cm of rain per year.

Canopy - leafy roof formed by tall trees in the rain forest

understory - a second layer of shorter trees and vines. grow well in the shade.

Desert Biome - an area that receives less than 25 centimeters of rain per year.

Grassland Biome - grassy plains or prairies

grassland - an area that is populated mostly by grasses and other non woody plants.

most receive 25 - 75 cm of rain per year.
grasslands located closer to the equator are known as savannas.

Savanna - receives as much as 120 centimeters of rain each year. Some small trees and scattered shrubs grow.

Deciduous Forest Biomes - receive at least 50cm of rain each year.

deciduous trees - shed their leaves and grow new ones each year.

Boreal Forest Biomes - exist in colder climates also called the Taiga.

Coniferous trees - trees that produce their seeds in cones and have leaves shaped like needles.

Tundra Biome -

Tundra - an extremely cold and dry biome.

permafrost - most of the soil in a tundra is frozen all year long. It is called permafrost.

Freshwater Ecosystems - include streams, river, ponds and lakes.

Marine Ecosystems - oceans - include estuaries, intertidal zones, neritic zones, and the open ocean.

estuary - is where the fresh water of a river meets the salt water of the ocean.

intertidal zone - the area between the highest high tide and the lowest low tide.

neritic zone - the edge of the continent that extends into the ocean for a short distance, like a shelf. Below the low tide line.

Open ocean - light penetrates only a few hundred meters deep.