

BIOGEOGRAPHY

Biogeography is a study of the biosphere and of human effects on plants and animals over the world. It also studies the human impact on the ecology and it is closely linked to ecology.

What a biosphere is? Here are two simple definitions explaining to you the biosphere. So check it out please☺:

- 1) It is a thin zone of air, soil and water that is capable of supporting life.
- 2) It is a thin mantle of life that covers the Earth.

Life in this zone depends on **the Sun's energy** and **The circulation of heat and Essential nutrients**.

The biosphere is divided into regions of different growth patterns that are called **biomes**. **The biome** is a large ecosystem characterized by similar vegetation, animals and climate. The factors influencing biomes are: light intensity, wind, soil type, amount of rainfall, temperature and nutrients..

The biomes are divided into two main groups: **terrestrial** and **aquatic** biomes.

The **aquatic** biomes can be fresh water biomes or salt water biomes.

The **terrestrial** biomes are divided into 6 types: **tundra, taiga, grassland, deciduous forest, desert and tropical rainforest**.

1) TUNDRA

This biome has the coldest climate of all biomes. It is a large treeless Arctic region just below the poles. The winters are long and summers are cool and short. The tundrish area is covered with a **permafrost**<a permanently frozen ground<

Plants: mosses, lichens and other small plants that can survive the extreme cold.

Animals: polar bears, reindeers, arctic foxes, arctic hares and various species of penguin.

The tundrish areas: f.g.Aalska, Yukan Territory, Baffin Island

2) TAIGA

The **coniferous forests** are found in this biome.

Animals: large deer, lynx, wolves, porcupines, hares or rabbits, several species of bear.

The winters are long, cold and snowy and summers are mild and short.

Plants: evergreen trees dominate the landscape.

The areas of taiga cover the upper portions of Europe, Russia, North America and the Andean foothills of southern South America.

3) DECIDIOUS FORESTS

This biome is marked by **deciduous trees** -the trees that shed their leaves annually.

Areas: the eastern half of North America, most of Europe, eastern China, Japan. In the southern hemisphere: in southern Australia, New Zeland, South America, South Africa.

Animals: squirrels, foxes, bear, mice, snakes, rabbits, lizards, deer..

GRASSLANDS

Grasslands are found in central parts of North America, in South America, Central America, in eastern and southern Africa and in Central Asia.

The grasslands in North America are called **praries** and grasslands in South America are called **pampas**.

Plants: north american grasslands are planted with oats, wheat, barley and corn.

Animals: bison, prairie dogs, coyotes

Savannhs are a type of grassland located in tropical or subtropical areas such as the Serengeti Plain of East Africa which supports buffalo, zebra, antelopes, elephants or lions.

4) TROPICAL RAINFOREST

This biome is characterized by rapid plant growth and occurs in equatorial areas where more than 500 cm of rain may fall per year. But even the tropical areas may include a dry season.

Plants: characterized by evergreen woody vegetation and many flowering trees

Animals: birds, monkeys, snakes, camels, lizards and a great number of insects.

Areas: the largest rainforests center is on the Amazon basin in Brasil, in southern Asia including the large archipelagos and the Congo basin in Africa.

5) DESERT

This is the hottest and driest biome receiving less than 25 cm of rain annually.

Plants: are well adapted to the dry conditions.f.g. **cactuses** store water in stems and leaves. Other plants like mesquite or creosote bushes have long root systems that tap water deep in the ground. **The acacia tree** is found here too.

Animals:insects, reptiles, birds, small mammals- many of them are active only at night.

Areas: The Great Basin in North America, Takla Makan of Eurazia and a sandy desert Sahara which is including the **sand dunes**.

Archipelago- is a group of islands or a sea with many islands

Oats- ovos

Wheat-pšenica

Barley- jačmeň