

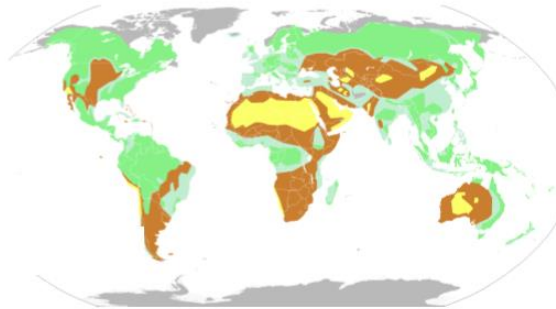
Key Vocabulary

biome	A very large community of plants and animals living together in a certain kind of climate. A biome can contain a number of ecosystems.
climate	The usual (average) patterns of weather (including temperature and rainfall) in an area of the Earth's surface over a long period of time.
climate change	Any significant long-term change in the expected patterns of average weather of a region (or the whole Earth) over a significant period of time.
climate zones	Divisions of the Earth's climates into general climate zones according to average temperatures and average rainfall.
ecosystem	All of the living things (plants, animals and organisms) in a given area, interacting with each other and also with their non-living environments (e.g. climate, soil,...) An ecosystem may be small (e.g. underneath a stone) or very large (e.g. a whole rainforest).
vegetation belt	An area with distinct plant types, determined by climate, soil, drainage and elevation.

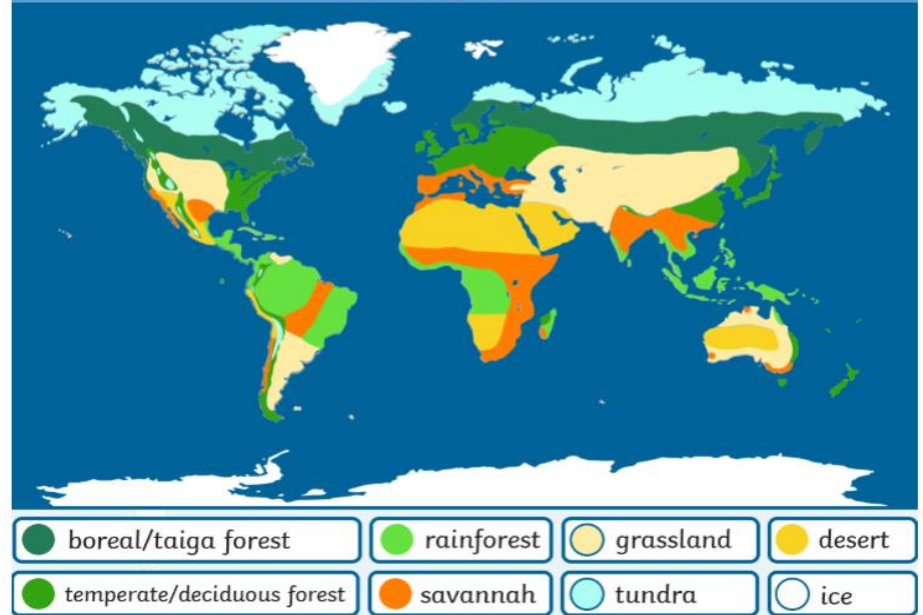
Vegetation Belts

There are five major vegetation belts:

- forest
- grassland
- tundra
- desert
- ice sheet



Biomes



Climate Zones

