



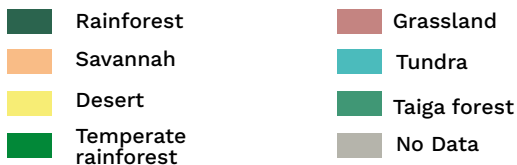
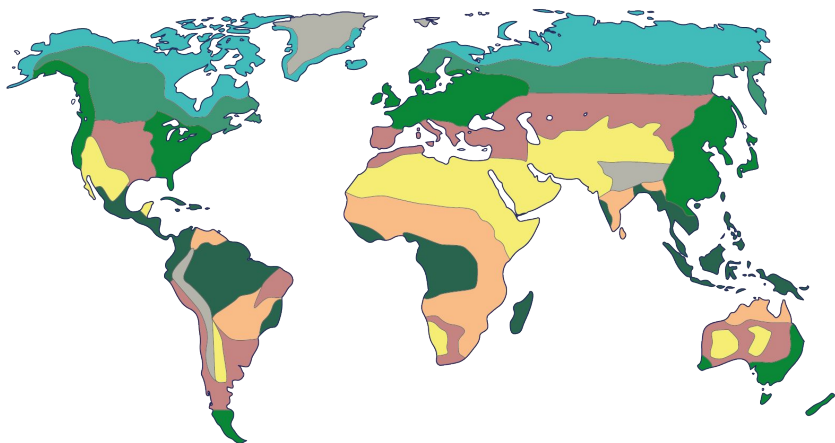
## Biome Bonanza

This activity will teach your students about some of the different **terrestrial biomes** of the world. Preserving and restoring our degraded habitats is important and the first step towards making a difference is to **learn** about them.

### Preparation

We recommend you talk to your students first about the different kinds of biomes you may find on the planet by going through the handout list together. We also encourage you to do a quick read online of the relevant biomes, as provided below. Additionally, you must print out enough copies of the blank map in the handout so that each student has a copy. We also recommend setting out color pencils that they can use to color in the map.

They can then have some fun **colouring** in the **world map of biomes** by number.





## Biome definitions

**Grasslands** are very open areas with grass and low lying bushes. They are normally found between deserts and forests. Grasslands are similar to savannahs, but they are drier and are home to grazing herbivores like buffalos and horses.

**Savannahs** are grassy, open areas with very few trees. They only have two seasons: a dry season and a rainy one! Savannahs can be found in many places around the world and they are home to animals like elephants and lions.



**Deserts** are places where there is hardly any rain. Usually this means they are hot and very dry, like the Sahara Desert, but the Arctic also counts as a desert as it receives very little rain or snow. Usually, however, deserts tend to be composed of sandy dunes and are home to animals such as lizards, snakes and camels. To grow in deserts, plants (such as cacti) have had to adapt to the dry conditions.



**Tropical rainforests** are very humid and warm places. They receive lots of rainfall and you can find them in the tropics. Tropical rainforests are home to thousands of species of plants and animals, such as monkeys, butterflies, tropical birds and super long vines.



**Temperate forests** are found further away from the tropics and are cooler and drier than rainforests. They have four seasons and animals in this biome need to cope with both hot summers and cold winters. To survive through the winter, some animals hibernate (like bears) and others may migrate to warmer countries (like many forest birds)!



**Taiga/boreal forests** are the coldest and driest of the forest biomes. They are found even further from the tropics and winters there can last up to six months! Taigas are home to few animal species, but bears, wolves and even reindeers often live there. Trees in this biome generally have needle leaves instead of flat leaves.



**Tundra** is an extremely cold and dry biome. Most tundra is found very far north or south. These areas have a very long winter and a very short summer. Relatively few species live in the tundra, but they are home to some animal species like polar bears and arctic foxes.





## Post-activity

After the activity is finished we recommend spending some time discussing with the class **why** it's important to **learn** about biomes and why it's important that we **protect** them from human activities that may be **damaging** them. Keeping biomes **healthy** and **intact** ensures the **safety** of the plants and animals that call them home.

This is important because Earth isn't just for humans, we share this planet with millions of other species that are vital to our **survival!** Many biomes help filter water, reduce flooding or droughts, suck up carbon from the air, regulate the climate, etc. All these things are **beneficial** for humans. By learning about them and protecting them we can ensure they are able to thrive.

We welcome feedback and would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this activity. Feel free to send an email to [schools@climatescience.org](mailto:schools@climatescience.org) and we'll be sure to get back to you soon :)