

People and the Biosphere

What global factors affect biome distribution and characteristics?

Question	Answers
Define the term 'biome'	- A large-scale ecosystem, such as the tropical rainforest.
Define the term 'distribution'	- Distribution means where something is found and any patterns in its location.
Study figure 1. Describe what climate graphs show.	- Climate graphs give us information about the temperature and precipitation levels of an area (bar chart and a line graph).
Study figure 1. Describe the distribution of the tropical rainforest.	- The tropical rainforest is found between 15 degrees North and 15 degrees South of the Equator in areas such as South America, West Africa and South East Asia. However, some rainforest can be found further away from the equator in areas like Madagascar and there is no tropical rainforest in east Africa, even though it is on the equator.
Study figure 1. Describe the distribution of the temperate forest.	-
Define the term 'characteristic'	- Specific features that allow us to identify how one thing differs from another.
Compare the characteristics of the desert and tundra biome.	- See the table on the back. Use connectives like – whereas, however, in comparison, in contrast, similarly, differences include...
Describe the characteristics of the tropical grassland (savanna) biome.	- See the table on the back
Identify the climate characteristics and vegetation type of the temperate grasslands.	- See the table on the back
Define the term 'deciduous'	- Vegetation that has leaves that fall off in the autumn and grow again in spring.
Define the term 'coniferous'	- Vegetation which has needles instead of leaves: most coniferous trees have cones and are evergreen.
Define the term 'precipitation'	- Water vapour condensed in the atmosphere which falls as rain, snow, sleet or hail.
Compare the characteristics of the temperate forest and the boreal (taiga) forest.	- See the table on the back. Use connectives like – whereas, however, in comparison, in contrast, similarly, differences include...

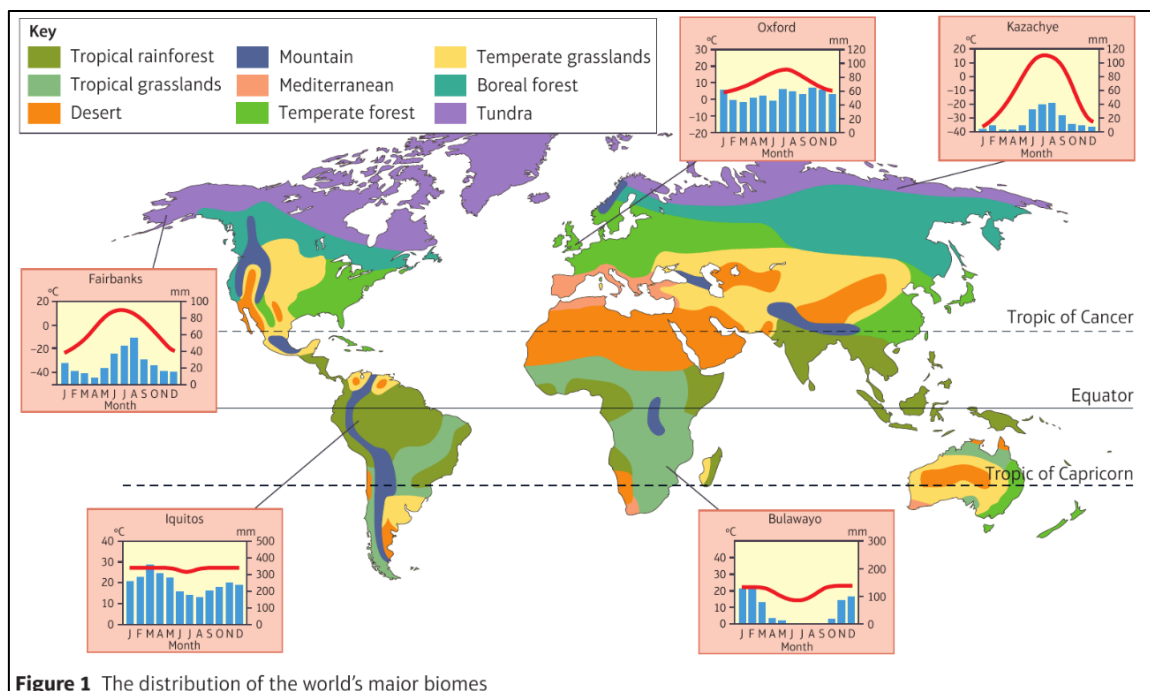


Table 1 Differences between biomes

Biome	Climate characteristics	Distinctive vegetation
Tropical rainforest	Hot all year (25–30°C). Wet all year (average annual precipitation 200–3000 mm)	Dense forests with several layers of trees, with other plants competing for light
Tropical grasslands (savanna)	Hot all year (25–35°C). 500–1000 mm of rainfall per year but always with a dry season	Tall grasses, with some drought-adapted shrubs and trees (e.g. baobab)
Deserts	Very hot all year (above 30°C) but with cool nights (large diurnal temperature range). Very low rainfall (less than 250 mm per year)	Plants are scarce and have water-storing features, spines instead of leaves and extensive root systems (e.g. cacti)
Temperate grasslands	Hot in summer (25°C), very cold in winter (as low as –40°C). 500–900 mm of rainfall per year, most in late spring and summer	Short grasses with very few trees and bushes
Temperate forest	Warm summers (around 18°C), cool winters (around 5°C). Precipitation all year (around 1000 mm)	Deciduous trees such as oak
Boreal forest	Mild summers (generally 10–20°C), very cold winters (well below 0°C). Low precipitation (less than 500 mm) mainly in summer	Coniferous trees such as pine
Tundra	Temperatures below 0°C for most of the year, and only reaching around 10°C in summer; Low precipitation, often less than 250 mm. Short daylight hours in winter	Very few plants can live here, mostly lichens and mosses. Trees are rare and stunted

Cornell Notes: Use page 248 – 249 of the Facebook to create notes / revision cards / CAF / mind maps on 7 biomes.

Title: Compare the characteristics and vegetation of biomes:

Key words:	Notes:
-------------------	---------------

Summary: