

Exploring the World's Biomes

Learning objective: To understand what biomes are and identify the characteristics of different global environments.

Read the passage carefully. Use the information in the text to answer the questions that follow. Write your answers in full sentences.

Finn the dolphin loves exploring the world's oceans, but he is also fascinated by the different biomes on land. A biome is a large area of the Earth that shares the same climate and similar types of plants and animals.

In the tropical rainforest biome, it is hot and humid all year round. These forests are dense with towering trees and colorful birds. In contrast, the tundra is a frozen world. It is so cold that the ground remains frozen for much of the year, meaning only small, hardy plants can grow there.

Then there are the hot deserts, where water is scarce. Animals here have clever adaptations to survive the heat, such as camels that can go long periods without drinking. Whether it is a shimmering desert or a snowy mountain, every biome plays a vital role in keeping our planet healthy. Finn knows that protecting these diverse habitats is important for every living creature, from the smallest insect to the largest whale.

Word bank: biome · climate · adaptation · tropical · tundra · ecosystem

1. What is the definition of a biome according to the text? (1 mark)

2. Which biome is described as having ground that remains frozen for much of the year? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think the text describes the tundra and the rainforest as being 'in contrast' to one another? (2 marks)

4. How does the author show that desert animals are well-suited to their environment? (2 marks)

5. Do you think it is important to protect all biomes, even the ones that seem empty or cold? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (3 marks)

Draw: Divide your page in half. On one side, draw a lush, green tropical rainforest. On the other side, draw a freezing, snowy tundra. Label the plants and animals in each!



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an explorer. Which biome would you most like to visit and why? Write a short paragraph describing three things you would expect to see there.