

Exploring Earth's Magnificent Biomes with Finn

Learning objective: To identify and describe the characteristics of different global biomes and understand how climate influences the living things found there.

Read the passage carefully, then answer the questions that follow. Pay close attention to how Finn describes the connection between the environment and the animals that live there.

Finn the dolphin has travelled across the globe, mapping the vast oceans and the diverse lands that border them. He explains that our planet is divided into biomes—large regions with distinct climates, plants, and animals. Near the equator, you will find the tropical rainforest, a biome teeming with life where the warm, humid climate allows vegetation to grow thick and tall. In contrast, the desert biome receives very little precipitation, forcing plants like cacti to store water to survive the scorching heat. Moving towards the poles, the tundra biome is defined by its freezing temperatures and icy landscape, where only the hardiest creatures can endure the bitter cold. Every biome acts as a complex ecosystem where every creature has evolved specific adaptations to suit its surroundings. Whether it is the thick fur of an arctic fox or the broad leaves of a rainforest tree, life finds a way to flourish in even the most challenging conditions. By understanding these biomes, we learn how vital the climate is to the survival of every living thing on Earth.

Word bank: biome · climate · equator · vegetation · adaptation · precipitation · ecosystem

1. Identify two specific biomes mentioned in the text and explain one feature that makes each one unique. (2 marks) (2 marks)

2. According to the text, why do plants in the desert biome need to store water? (2 marks) (2 marks)

3. Why might an animal from the tundra struggle to survive if it were moved to a tropical rainforest? (2 marks) (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, what can you infer about the relationship between climate and the types of plants that grow in a region? (2 marks) (2 marks)

5. Do you think humans have an impact on these biomes? Justify your opinion using examples or logic. (3 marks) (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration showing two different biomes side-by-side. On one side, show a desert with a cactus; on the other, show a polar tundra with snowy mountains. Include one animal adapted to each environment.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are a scientist discovering a brand new biome. Write a short paragraph describing its climate, the types of plants that grow there, and one amazing adaptation an animal might need to survive in your new environment. Explain why your chosen adaptation is essential.