

Exploring the World's Biomes with Finn

Learning objective: To identify and describe the characteristics of different global biomes and understand how climate influences them.

Read the passage below carefully, then answer the questions that follow in full sentences.

Finn the dolphin loves to travel the world's oceans, but he is equally fascinated by the land. He explains that our Earth is divided into large areas called biomes. A biome is a large community of plants and animals that have adapted to a specific climate. The most important factors that determine a biome are temperature and precipitation. Near the equator, you will find the tropical rainforest, which is hot and wet all year round, allowing plants to grow in abundance. In contrast, the tundra biome, found near the Arctic, is freezing and dry. Here, the ground stays frozen for much of the year, meaning only hardy plants like mosses can survive. Then there is the desert, which experiences very little rainfall, forcing creatures to be experts at conserving water. Whether it is a dense forest or a vast, sandy landscape, every biome has a unique balance that keeps its inhabitants thriving. By understanding these regions, we learn how vital it is to protect the delicate ecosystems that make our planet so diverse and wonderful for all living things.

Word bank: biome · ecosystem · precipitation · temperature · equator · tundra · savanna

1. According to the text, what are the two most important factors that determine what kind of biome a region will be? (2 marks)

2. What type of vegetation is found in the tundra, and why does the climate limit what can grow there? (2 marks)

3. Based on the description of the tropical rainforest, why do you think it is home to so many different types of plants? (2 marks)

4. Why must animals living in a desert be 'experts at conserving water'? (2 marks)

5. Finn says it is 'vital to protect the delicate ecosystems'. Do you agree with him? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw two different biomes side-by-side. On one side, show a tropical rainforest with colourful birds and tall trees. On the other side, show a desert with a cactus and a small lizard, clearly showing the contrast in their environments.



Extension challenge: Choose one biome mentioned in the text. Research two animals that live there and write a short paragraph explaining one physical feature they have that helps them survive in that specific climate.