Exploring the World's Biomes with Finn the Dolphin

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

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below. Think about how the climate in each area affects the plants and animals that live there.

Finn the dolphin loves to travel across the globe to visit different biomes. A biome is a large area of the world defined by its unique climate, soil, and types of vegetation. Finn often swims near tropical rainforests, which are hot and humid all year round. These areas have high levels of precipitation, allowing giant trees to create a dense canopy that shelters diverse wildlife. In contrast, when Finn travels to the arid desert regions, he finds a very different world. Deserts receive very little rain, meaning plants must have special adaptations, such as storing water in their stems, to survive the extreme temperatures. Further towards the poles, Finn encounters the tundra. This biome is known for its freezing, long winters and short summers, where the ground remains permanently frozen. Finally, the temperate deciduous forests, common in the UK, experience distinct seasons where trees lose their leaves in autumn to save energy. Every biome is a complex ecosystem where every living thing plays a vital role in keeping the balance of nature. Whether it is the damp rainforest or the chilly tundra, every environment is perfectly suited to the creatures that call it home.

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

1. Identify two specific features that define a biome according to the text. (2 marks)

2. What does the text suggest plants in the desert must do to survive the climate? (2 marks)

3. Why might trees in a temperate deciduous forest lose their leaves in autumn? (2 marks)

4. Based on the description of the tundra, why would it be difficult for a tropical rainforest plant to grow there? (3 marks)

5. If you were to choose one biome to live in, which would it be and why? Use evidence from the text to justify your choice. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration showing a tropical rainforest on one side and a frozen tundra on the other. Include one animal adaptation for each environment.

Extension challenge: Research one animal not mentioned in the text. Write a short paragraph explaining which biome it lives in and how its body is adapted to that specific environment.