Mapping the World's Biomes with Finn the Dolphin

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate the key characteristics of different global biomes and understand how climate affects vegetation.

Finn the Dolphin has travelled across the globe and wants you to help him document the world's biomes. Follow the drawing prompt to create your own biome map and use the word bank to label your work correctly.

Draw: Draw a large map of the world. In the centre, draw a dotted line representing the Equator. Divide the map into three distinct zones: 1) A Tropical Rainforest zone near the Equator featuring dense, tall trees and colourful birds. 2) A Desert zone with sand dunes and cacti. 3) A Tundra zone at the top of your map featuring snow-capped mountains and low-growing shrubs. Use a natural, illustrative style. Include a small drawing of Finn the Dolphin swimming in the ocean nearby.

Label words: Equator · Tropical Rainforest · Desert · Tundra · Temperate Deciduous Forest · Grassland

Steps:

1. Explain why the Equator is generally home to tropical rainforests rather than deserts. Consider the role of sunlight.

2. Label your drawing to show where the Equator is located. Why is this line important for defining biomes?

3. Describe one way an animal might adapt to living in a Desert biome.

4. Draw a small icon representing a Tundra biome in the corner of your page. What is the main characteristic of the vegetation here?

5. List two factors that determine which biome exists in a specific part of the world.