







# Biomes



An **ecosystem** is a system of plants and animals which are interconnected and working together. An ecosystem covering a large area of a continent is called a **biome**. There are several different biomes - Aquatic, Desert, Forest, Grassland, Rainforest, Tundra, Alpine, Chaparral, Deciduous Forest, Savannah and Taiga.

## Key Knowledge

<b>Alpine Biome</b>	Alpine Rose and Marmot 	Alpine biomes are found on the great mountain ranges around the world including the Andes, Alps and Rocky Mountains. Alpine biomes are usually at an altitude of around 10,000 feet high or more.
<b>Desert Biome</b>		Deserts are dry with less than 25cm rain per year. They can be hot and sandy or cold and icy. There are four types of deserts: subtropical deserts, coastal deserts, cold winter deserts and polar deserts.
<b>Deciduous Forest Biome</b>		A deciduous forest is a biome dominated by deciduous trees which lose their leaves seasonally. The Earth has temperate deciduous forests, and tropical and subtropical deciduous forests.
<b>Grasslands Biome</b>		Grasslands are areas where a variety of grasses grow. There are not many other trees or plants apart from near to water sources. The grasslands are very hot places in summer. In the USA, they are called Prairies. In Africa, they are called Savannahs. In South America, they are called Pampas. In some parts of Europe and Asia, they are called Steppes.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>Alpine rose</b>	it lives in the Swiss Alps and grows at high altitude
<b>Alpine marmot</b>	a large ground-dwelling squirrel like animal
<b>altitude</b>	the height of a point in relation to sea or ground level
<b>avalanche</b>	a mass of snow, ice, and rocks falling rapidly down a mountainside
<b>biome</b>	an ecosystem covering a large area of a continent
<b>Boreal owl</b>	a small owl rarely seen by humans
<b>coniferous</b>	relating to trees or shrubs bearing cones and evergreen leaves
<b>ecosystem</b>	a system of plants and animals which are interconnected
<b>equator</b>	an imaginary line drawn around the middle of the earth an equal distance from the North Pole and the South Pole
<b>evaporation</b>	the process of liquid changing to gas, especially by heating
<b>subtropical</b>	south of the Tropics
<b>temperate</b>	neither very hot or very cold
<b>Tropic of Cancer</b>	most northerly circle of latitude on Earth at which the Sun can be directly overhead
<b>Tropic of Capricorn</b>	most southerly circle of latitude on Earth at which the Sun can be directly overhead
<b>tropical</b>	the area between the two tropics