

Climate Zones

Geography KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

ESSENTIAL CLIMATE ZONES VOCABULARY

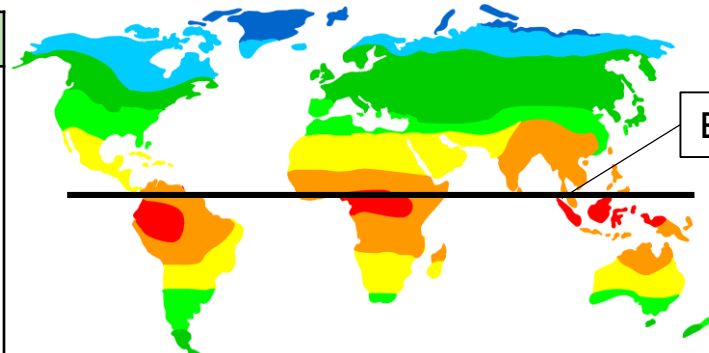
climate	The average weather conditions over a long period of time
temperature	How hot or cold something is.
drought	A long period of low rainfall, leading to a shortage of water.
vegetation belt	Smaller regions where vegetation grows
equator	Imaginary line halfway around the Earth between the North and South poles
longitude	Imaginary lines which go around the Earth from East to West
latitude	Imaginary lines which go around the Earth from North to South
hemisphere	Half of the earth (northern or southern)
flora	Word to refer to plants
fauna	Word to refer to animals
biome	A large ecosystem which relies on climate
rainforest	A dense rainforest found in tropical areas with consistent heavy rainfall.
vegetation	Plants considered collectively, particularly those in a particular area.
ecosystem	A community of plants and animals and their non-living environment.
precipitation	Rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls or condenses on the ground.

Climate Zones and Biomes

Climate zones describe the temperature and precipitation in a certain area. Biomes are areas of similar vegetation in a certain area. The climate of an area determines which biomes will be present. There are many different biomes, but these are believed to be the main land-based ones.

Biodiversity

In some biomes, such as the rainforest, there is a large range of flora and fauna. In areas with harsh conditions, there will be fewer living things.



Equator

Climate Zones

	Equatorial zone
	Tropical zone
	Arid zone
	Mediterranean zone
	Temperate zone
	Subpolar zone
	Polar zone

Climate Zones

The closer an area is to the equator, the hotter it will be. Areas at the top and the bottom of the planet are the coldest.

Desert



Deserts are extremely dry areas and, depending on where they are, can either be very hot or very cold. Plants and animals that live there have to adapt to harsh environments. They are mostly found in the arid climate zones.

Temperate, Deciduous Forests

These forests have trees which lose their leaves during the winter and grow them again during the spring and summer. They are found in parts of Europe and North America (among other places) where the climate is temperate.

Tundra

The tundra is the coldest biome and has very few plants and animals. In the tundra, the subsoil is permanently frozen, which means that roots cannot stretch down into the ground,



Boreal / Taiga Forests

Taiga forests are mainly coniferous, which keep their leaves all year around. They are in places that are cold for most of the year, such as the temperate/ subpolar area.

Grassland

Most of the grassland areas are made up of different grasses and a few trees and large plants. There are two main types of grasslands: Tall, wet grasslands and short, dry grasslands. These areas are good for farming and are found in the Mediterranean/ arid climate zones.



MAKING LINKS TO PREVIOUS LEARNING GOLDEN VOCABULARY

Water Cycle

There are different types and levels of **precipitation** in different zones.

Rainforest

The rainforest is home to a wide range of tropical plants and animals. Rainforests are found in regions that are warm all year round, such as the equatorial and tropical zones.