

Biomes and Climate

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Weather is short-term. Climate is the long-term average pattern underneath it. One rainy week in the desert does not make it a rainforest. A biome is a climate plus the community of plants and animals fitted to it.

Average temperature and average rainfall are the two main dials that set which biome a place becomes. Hot and wet gives you a rainforest. Hot and dry gives you a desert. Cold and dry, with ground frozen most of the year, gives you tundra. Most places fall somewhere in between.

An adaptation that fits one biome can fail badly in another. A polar bear's thick fur and fat keep it alive in the Arctic. In a desert, the same body would overheat. No adaptation is better everywhere, only fitted somewhere.

Activity 1: Sentence or Not?

Read each one out loud. Write S if it is a complete sentence. Write F if it is only part of a sentence. Then fix each F so it is a complete sentence.

☐

1. Climate is the long-term pattern.

☐

2. Hot and wet.

☐

3. Tundra has frozen ground.

☐

4. In a desert, the same body.

First fragment, rewritten:

Second fragment, rewritten:

Activity 2: Write the Topic Sentence

Read the details. Write one topic sentence that tells what all of them are about.

DETAILS

- rainforest: hot and wet
- desert: hot and dry
- tundra: cold and dry
- temperature + rainfall

Your topic sentence:

Activity 3: Sentence Scramble

These words are mixed up. Put them in order to make a sentence. Start with a capital letter and end with a period.

1. hot / rainforest / and / wet / you / gives / a

2. a / gives / hot / and / dry / you / desert

Science Mad Lib

Fold the page on the dashed line so the story is hidden. Write a word for each blank. Then unfold the page, copy your words into the story, and read it aloud.

1 _____
A name

2 _____
A noun

3 _____
A noun

4 _____
A noun

5 _____
A noun

FOLD HERE

THE STORY

_____ packed for a trip through three biomes. The rainforest was hot and
 1
 rainy, so they wore their _____. A sneaky _____ stole their
 2 3
 _____. The desert got hardly any rain at all. In the tundra, the ground
 4
 stayed frozen most of the year, and _____ wished they had packed
 1
 something warmer. Each biome has its own climate, with plants and animals
 adapted to live there. Next trip: _____.
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