

# Ecosystems and Biomes

<b>abiotic factors</b>	nonliving things in an environment (rocks, soil, water, light)
<b>biotic factors</b>	living things in an environment (plants, animals, fungi, microorganisms)
<b>community</b>	all the different populations found in an ecosystem
<b>ecosystems</b>	all the biotic and abiotic factors in an environment (small or large)
<b>habitat</b>	home for an organism
<b>populations</b>	all the members of a single species
<b>biome</b>	a major ecosystem found on Earth (has its own climate, soil, plants, animals)
<b>deciduous forest</b>	cold winters & warm summers; rainfall year round; fertile soil; (broad leaved trees that lose leaves in fall) (variety of animals)
<b>desert</b>	extreme temperatures - hot days & cool nights; very little rainfall; sandy or rocky soil (succulent plants) (lizards & scorpions)
<b>grassland</b>	some, but not much rainfall; (main plant is grass) (grazing animals)
<b>prairie</b>	grassland with mild climates; hot dry summers make it prone to burning; rich fertile soil
<b>savannah</b>	grassland with warm climate year round, shrubs & few trees; poor soil
<b>taiga</b>	largest biome in world; long cold winters & mild summers; poor soil; many lakes; (cool coniferous [evergreen] trees) (home to large furry animals)
<b>tropical rain forest</b>	hot and humid {warm and wet year round}; much rainfall; poor soil (tall large leaved trees with little light on ground) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•canopy: tree top layer; much light; many animals like birds</li> <li>•understory: hot and damp; animals travel here for food</li> <li>•forest floor: dark, poor, damp soil; lots of bugs and snakes</li> </ul>
<b>tundra</b>	cold and dry; permafrost (ground frozen year round); long icy winters, short cool summers; no trees; (plants include wildflowers, mosses, grasses) (hibernating animals & mammals with fat layers)
<b>wetlands</b>	roots grow below water; salt marshes & swamps (rich in organisms)
<b>estuary</b>	ecosystem where rivers & oceans meet (rich in organisms)
<b>freshwater ecosystems</b>	flowing water: ex. streams & rivers still water: ex. lakes & ponds
<b>ocean ecosystems</b>	saltwater content fairly constant throughout; main producer - algae