

Ecosystems

Level J/K



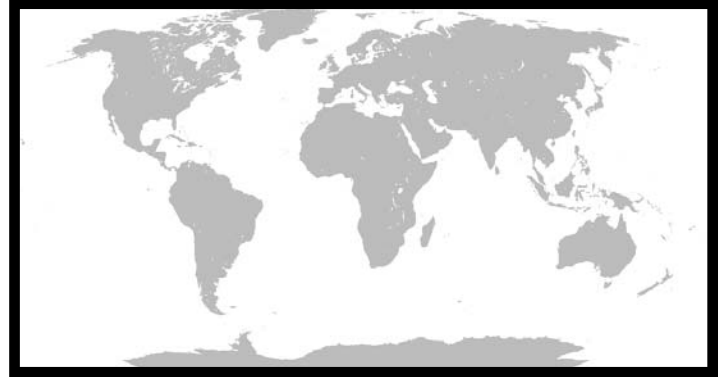
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Ecosystems include all living

organisms in a

specific area.

These systems



have plants and animals that interact

with their environment. The different

types of ecosystems are called biomes.

Biomes are large areas on Earth that

is determined by climate, plants and

geography. You can spin a globe and find

different biomes all over the world.

Search the globe and see what you can find. I found Russia! The **taiga biome** is in Russia. It is the world's largest land biome. Taiga has little sunlight, large amounts of snowfall and cold temperatures.



Coniferous trees can survive the cold, low light environment. Gray wolves live in the taiga. They have thick fur to keep warm and long legs and large paws to travel through thick snow.

Search the globe and see what you can find. I found Greenland! The **tundra biome** is in Greenland. It is the coldest

biome. The tundra is a treeless area found in the Arctic and on top of mountains. The



climate is cold, windy and snow-covered.

Plants like moss and shrubs grow in the tundra. Polar bears live in the tundra.

They have thick fur to keep warm.

Search the globe and see what you can find. I found Africa! The **savanna biome** is in Africa. It is also known as the



grasslands. The savanna has tall grass with a warm, wet climate. There are few trees, but many wildflowers growing in this biome. Prairie dogs live in the savanna. They eat mostly grass and burrow in ground for protection.

Search the globe and see what you can find. I found Mexico! The **desert biome** is in Mexico. The desert in Mexico is hot and dry in the day and cold at night. Land is



covered in rock and sand. The cactus plant grows in the desert. It saves water in dry and hot environments. Cactus pygmy owls live in the desert. They make nests inside cacti and hunt at night.

Search the globe and see what you can find. I found South America! The **rainforest biome** is in South America.

The rainforest is warm, wet and has many plants and animals. Spider monkeys live in the



rainforest. They live high in trees and use their tails to hang from branches.

Search the globe and see what you can find. I found the Pacific Ocean! The **marine biome** is in the Pacific Ocean.

This is a water biome.

It is the world's largest biome!

Seaweed grows in



the marine biome. It can float on water or attach to rocks and other solid objects.

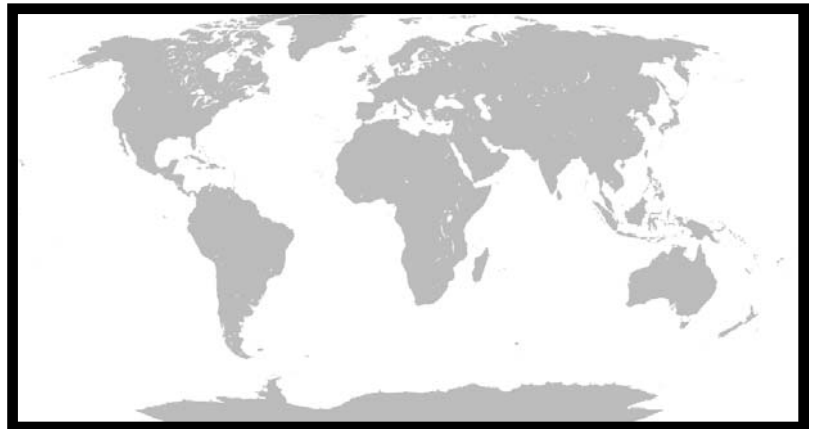
Fish live in the marine biome. They have gills that help them breathe and fins to help them move underwater.

The world has many large ecosystems, but it has many small ecosystems as well.

You can find an ecosystem in your own neighborhood. Lakes, rivers, streams

and ponds are all ecosystems.

Many plants and animals



live in your neighborhood. Search for an ecosystem. See what plants and animals you can find!

yes



Ecosystems

no



spin 	cold 	ecosystem 	plant 	animal 	biome 	climate
find 	warm 	globe 	Russia 	taiga biome 	coniferous 	tree
	wet 	Greenland 	tundra biome 	snow 	Africa 	savanna biome
	hot 	wildflower 	Mexico 	desert biome 	sand 	cactus
	dry 	South America 	rainforest biome 	Pacific Ocean 	marine biome 	seaweed

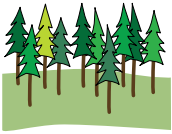
Glossary



ecosystem - area on Earth where plants and animals live together



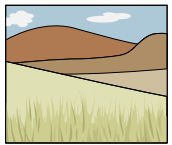
biome - defined by climate, plants and geography



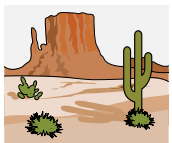
taiga biome - largest land biome with many forests of coniferous trees



tundra biome - coldest, treeless biome in the Arctic and on top of mountains



savanna biome - warm and wet biome with areas of tall grass



desert biome - hot and dry biome with areas of rock and sand.



rainforest biome - warm and wet biome with the most diverse types of plants

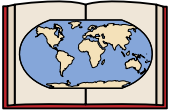


marine biome - water biome

Other words to know:



climate (page 1) - weather conditions in an area



geography (page 1) - study of Earth



burrow - hole or tunnel dug by a small animal

Index for Photographs

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