

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the factors which determine the climate of a biome?

The factors that determine the climate and hence type of biome are temperature and precipitation.

2. What is a climatograph?

A climatograph tells you the temperature and amount of precipitation over a time period of one year.

3. Using your climatographs and the information provided below, match your climatograph with the correct biome:

- Biome A = Temperate Deciduous Forest (Temp. Rain Forest)
- Biome B = Tropical Rain Forest
- Biome C = Chaparral (Grassland or Temperate Deciduous Forest)
- Biome D = Tundra
- Biome E = Desert (Chaparral)

GENERIC DESCRIPTIONS OF VARIOUS BIOMES

Temperate Deciduous Forest

Precipitation tends to be distributed fairly evenly throughout the year, although this biome can experience large changes in temperature depending on the season.

Tropical Rain Forest

Usually experiences two distinct seasons – a rainy and a dry season – while remaining warm throughout the year.

Desert

Annual precipitation is low and scattered unevenly throughout year. Most are considered “hot deserts” although a few different “cold deserts” exist around the world.

Taiga

Located usually in the north, the taiga are large conifer (evergreen) forests. Seasons in the taiga are divided into a shorter, wetter, warmer summer; and a longer, colder, drier winter.

Grassland

A biome composed of mostly grasses and low-lying vegetation, the grasslands are known for their large swings in temperature (very hot in the summer, cold in the winter), along with moderate precipitation.

Tundra

Cold year-around, the soil of the tundra rarely thaws to a great extent. Winters are bitterly cold, and summers are cool. Precipitation is low year-around.

Savanna

The warm cousin of a [temperate] grassland, the savannas are also known for low lying vegetation and grasses. Warm to hot year around, the savanna experiences a concentrated period of rain followed by a long period of drought.

Temperate Rain Forest

The cooler (temperature-wise) cousin of the tropical rain forest. The temperate rain forest experiences lower temperatures, while experiencing higher levels of precipitation.

Chaparral

Often referred to as “scrub land,” the chaparral is usually a dry place to live. While summers can be very hot (leading to fires and droughts), winters are usually milder, although still dry.



