Year 7

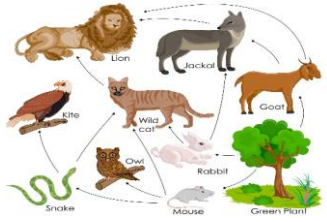
Biogeography

What is an Ecosystem?

An ecosystem is a system in which organisms interact with each other and with their environment.

Ecosystem's Components

Abiotic	These are **non-living**, such as air, water, heat and rock.	
Biotic	These are **living**, such as plants, insects, and animals.	
	Flora	**Plant life** occurring in a particular region or time.
	Fauna	**Animal life** of any particular region or time.



Food Web and Chains

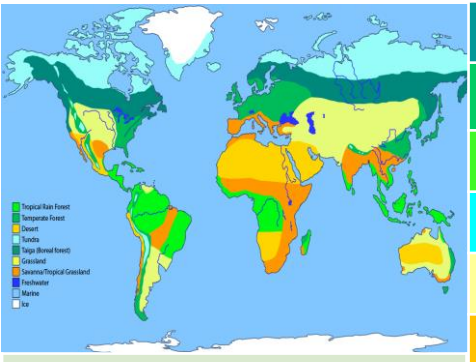
Simple **food chains** are useful in explaining the basic principles behind ecosystems.
Food webs consist of a network of many food chains interconnected together.

Biome's climate and plants

Biome	Location	Temperature	Rainfall	Flora	Fauna
Tropical rainforest	Centred along the Equator.	Hot all year (25-30°C)	Very high (over 200mm/year)	Tall trees forming a canopy; wide variety of species.	Greatest range of different animal species. Most live in canopy layer
Tropical grasslands	Between latitudes 5°- 30° north & south of Equator.	Warm all year (20-30°C)	Wet + dry season (500-1500mm/year)	Grasslands with widely spaced trees.	Large hoofed herbivores and carnivores dominate.
Hot desert	Found along the tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.	Hot by day (over 30°C) Cold by night	Very low (below 300mm/year)	Lack of plants and few species; adapted to drought.	Many animals are small and nocturnal: except for the camel.
Temperate forest	Between latitudes 40°- 60° north of Equator.	Warm summers + mild winters (5-20°C)	Variable rainfall (500-1500m /year)	Mainly deciduous trees; a variety of species.	Animals adapt to colder and warmer climates. Some migrate.
Tundra	Far Latitudes of 65° north and south of Equator	Cold winter + cool summers (below 10°C)	Low rainfall (below 500mm/ year)	Small plants grow close to the ground and only in summer.	Low number of species. Most animals found along coast.
Coral Reefs	Found within 30° north – south of Equator in tropical waters.	Warm water all year round with temperatures of 18°C	Wet + dry seasons. Rainfall varies greatly due to location.	Small range of plant life which includes algae and sea grasses that shelters reef animals.	Dominated by polyps and a diverse range of fish species.

Biomes

A biome is a **large geographical area of distinctive plant and animal groups**, which are adapted to that particular environment. The climate and geography of a region determines what type of biome can exist in that region.

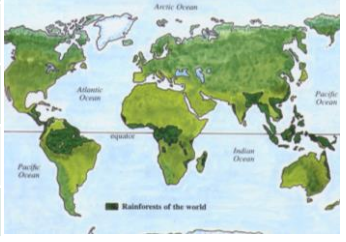


- Coniferous forest
- Deciduous forest
- Tropical rainforests
- Tundra
- Temperate grasslands
- Tropical grasslands
- Hot deserts.

The **most productive biomes** – which have the greatest biomass- grow in climates that are **hot and wet**.

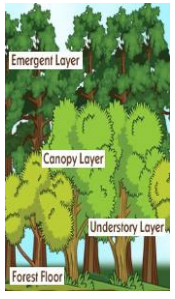
Tropical Rainforest Biome

Tropical rainforest cover about **2 per cent** of the Earth's surface yet they are home to **over half of the world's plant and animals**.



Distribution of Tropical Rainforests

Tropical rainforests are **centred along the Equator** between the Tropic of Cancer and Capricorn. Rainforests can be found in South America, central Africa and South-East Asia. **The Amazon** is the world's largest rainforest and takes up the majority of northern South America, encompassing countries such as Brazil and Peru.

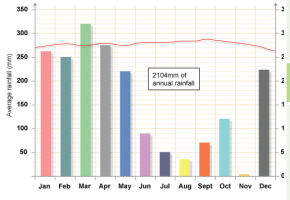


Layers of the Rainforest

Emergent	Highest layer with trees reaching **50 metres.**
Canopy	80% of life is found here as It receives **most of the sunlight and rainfall.**
U-Canopy	Consists of trees that reach **20 metres high.**
Shrub Layer	Lowest layer with **small trees** that have adapted to living in the **shade.**

Climate of Tropical Rainforests

- Evening temperatures rarely fall below **22°C.**
- Due to the **presence of clouds**, temperatures rarely rise above **32°C**.
- Most afternoons have heavy showers.
- At night with no clouds insulating, temperature drops.



Adaptations to the rainforest

Orangutans	Large arms to swing & support in the tree canopy.
Drip Tips	Allows heavy rain to **run off leaves easily**.
Lianas & Vines	**Climbs** trees to reach sunlight at canopy.

What are the causes of deforestation?

Logging

- Most widely reported cause of destructions to biodiversity.
- Timber is harvested to create **items** such as furniture and paper.
- ***I***ndigenous tribes communities destroyed.

Agriculture

- Large scale **'slash and burn'** of land for ranches and palm oil.
- Increases **carbon emission**.
- **soil erosion** increasing due to the large areas of **exposed land.**
- Increase in **palm oil** is making the **soil infertile**.

Mineral Extraction

- **Precious metals** are found in the rainforest.
- Areas **mined** can experience **soil and water pollution**.
- **Indigenous people** are moved from their land due to roads being built.

Tourism

- **Tourism** is resulting in the building of hotels in extremely **fragile areas**.
- Tourism has **exposed animals** to human **diseases.**

Energy Development

- The **high rainfall** creates ideal conditions for **hydro-electric power (HEP).**
- Dams are used for creating energy in this developing country, however, both people and environment have suffered.

Road Building

- **Roads** are needed to bring supplies and **provide access** to new mining areas, settlements and energy projects.