

CHAPTER 5

In the last unit, you discovered **how** organisms live. Now you are going to start looking at **where** these organisms live! There are many areas in the world that have a similar...

Temperature
Amount of rainfall

Kind of soil
Habitat

There are so many of these areas, that scientists have placed them into groups called...

Biomes

("by-omz")

There are several different biomes around the world:

Grassland biome

Deciduous forest biome ("dee-sid-u-us")

Tropical rain forest biome

Coniferous forest biome ("con-if-er-us")

Tundra biome

Desert biome

and Aquatic biome

Remember... each of these biomes have habitats that allow organism to survive in them. Population of organisms that live in the desert could not live on a mountain, or under the sea, or in a forest...

For example, have you ever seen a picture of a penguin searching for nuts and berries in a forest?

Of course not!

Penguins have a thick layer of fat that keeps them warm since they live around the south pole of the earth where it is really cold! Also, You wouldn't find them in a forest since they do not eat nuts and berries... they eat fish!



Let's start looking at the first two biomes...

GRASSLANDS and DECIDUOUS FORESTS

The grassland biome is full of... yes! You guessed it...

Grasses

You can't find many trees in a grassland. Why? Because there is not enough rain to keep trees alive in this biome! There is plenty of rain for a tree to grow during the wet season. But there is not enough rain to keep it alive during the dry season.

Grasses do not need as much rain as trees do. So, even during the dry season in this biome, these organisms can survive.

There are two types of grasslands:

**Tropical
grasslands**
and
**Temperate
grasslands**



Tropical Grasslands are hot all year long. These grasslands have a large amount of rain during their wet season. This area receives 10-20 inches of rain per year.

Temperate grasslands have hot summers and cold winters. It usually freezes during the winters in temperate grasslands. This grassland does not receive as much rain as tropical grasslands.

Most of the animals that live on a grassland are used to dry seasons. Water can be hard to find during the dry season. Animals look for Water in lakes, ponds and streams.

In the grassland biome, many animals **burrow** (a fancy word for "dig") underground to make their homes. Prairie dogs and groundhogs are examples of animals that make their home under the ground. Animals that make their homes underground are protected from other animals and the weather.

Grazing animals can also be found on the grassland. These are animals that do not burrow, but eat the grasses in this habitat. Cows and buffalo are examples of grazing animals.



The soil in the grassland biome is very **fertile**. This means there are plenty of nutrients in the soil. This makes it very easy for plants to survive!

It is too bad that there is not enough rain throughout the year, or you would find a lot more trees in this biome.

Now... on to our next biome:

The Deciduous forest

I would guess that many of you have seen a deciduous tree. How? Because a deciduous tree...

...loses its leaves in the fall!

This biome is named the "deciduous forest" because most of the land in this area is filled with deciduous trees! The deciduous forest biome has all four seasons – summer, spring, fall and winter. A deciduous forest also gets a lot of rain!

Up to 60 inches a year!

With so many leaves falling onto the ground, the soil of a deciduous forest has a lot of nutrients! This kind of soil is very good for growing food! Like the grassland, this soil is very fertile.

What kinds of animals do you find in this biome?

Many of the animals in this biome eat the fruits and nuts from the trees of the forest. Deer, squirrels and mice are usually found in this biome. Other animals like frogs and snakes can also be found here!

During the winter, it gets cold and icy. Some animals **hibernate** during this time. This means they sleep through the winter. Since they are asleep, they do not need many resources to survive! This is very helpful when most of the land is covered in snow at this time, and much of the food cannot be easily found.



Frogs usually hibernate during this time... so do some snakes, bears and other animals!

Circle the hidden words from below:

O D L I N B T V O R D E D D O
C T E E M S O E W P M N T J N
S F R C E Y U K T D A R R R W
A C C R I U F R B L S H B N C
J L O S U D O I S S D I W K A
N F W B E P U S B T N B O C V
M K W S I M A O P C A E R V A
I A Y C D R O W U K L R R C U
T J A Q G H H I U S S N U J L
E L I T R E F D H R X A B U A
T E M P E R A T E Y A T S O L
R W B I O M E F N U R E P Y U
W A A T L J F O Y X G J A J W
K M K Q Q M Q K B G L W E Q J
G X F R N T S E B H S I G Y L

BIOME

DECIDUOUS

GRASSLAND

TROPICAL

FERTILE

TEMPERATE

BURROW

FOREST

HIBERNATE

Match the words in the first column to the best available answer in the second column.

_____ Biomes

1) to sleep through the winter

_____ Grassland biome

2) having plenty of nutrients in the soil

_____ Tropical
grasslands

3) grasslands which are hot all year long

_____ Temperate
grasslands

4) a biome that has good soil for many
different kinds of grasses and few trees

_____ Burrow

5) areas of the world that have the same
temperature/amount of rainfall/kind of
soil and habitats

_____ Fertile

6) to dig

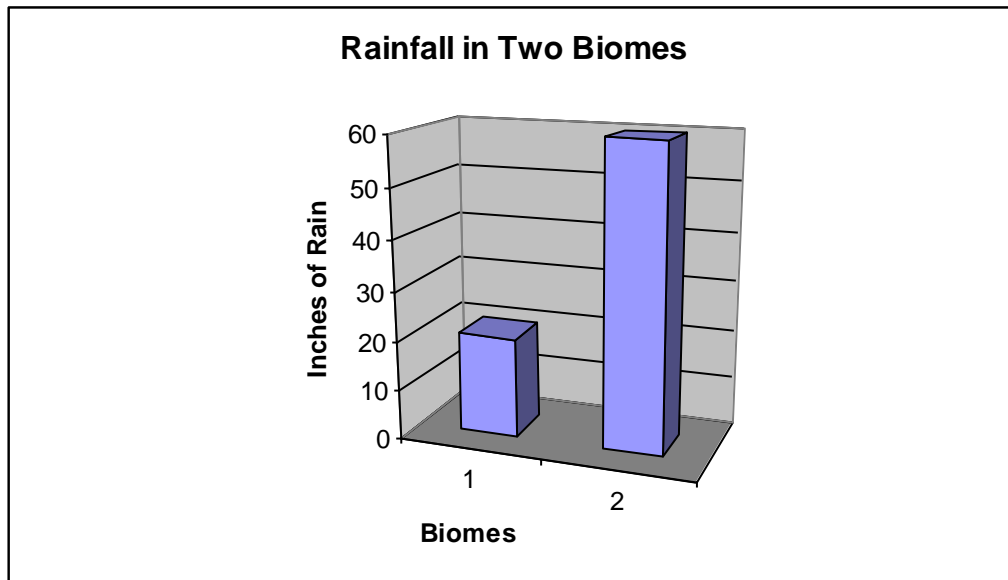
_____ Deciduous
forest biome

7) a biome that is filled with trees that lose
their leaves in the fall and have four
separate seasons

_____ Hibernate

8) grasslands which have hot summers and
cold winters

While studying the rainfall in the deciduous forest and grassland biomes, Colton forgot to label his graph. He knows that the two biomes can be found in your reading from today. Can you help him?



Which biome on this graph should be labeled?

Biome #1 _____

and

Biome #2 _____

Why do you think your answers are correct?