



Name

Period

Date

SECTION
15.3

BIOMES
Reinforcement

KEY CONCEPT Biomes are land-based, global communities of organisms.

A biome is a major community of organisms, usually characterized by the climate conditions and plant communities that live there. Earth has six major biomes. These broad biome types can be subdivided into even more specific zones. Climate conditions of the Earth's biomes include

- Tropical rain forest—warm temperatures and abundant rainfall occur all year long
- Tropical **grassland**—warm temperature throughout the year, with specific rainy and dry seasons
- Temperate grassland—dry and warm during the summer, most precipitation falls as snow during the winter
- **Desert**—very dry climate all year long
- Temperate **deciduous** forest—hot temperatures in the summer and cold temperatures in the winter; precipitation occurs evenly across the year
- Temperate rain forest—one long wet season and a relatively dry summer
- **Taiga**—long, cold winters and short, warm and humid summers
- **Tundra**—subzero temperatures during the long winter, and little precipitation falls across the year

Chaparral is a minor biome that is characterized by hot, dry summers and cool, moist winters. Most plants found in this biome are small-leaved evergreen shrubs.

Polar caps and mountains are not considered biomes. Polar caps, which are found at the poles at the top and bottom of Earth are ice-covered areas that have no soil and no specific plant community. Mountains are not considered biomes because climate conditions change on a mountain as elevation increases.

CHAPTER 15
The Biosphere

1. What is a biome?

2. List eight biomes that occur on Earth.

3. Why aren't ice caps or mountains considered biomes?

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