

Temperate deciduous forest biome



Quick summary



Temperate deciduous, also known as temperate broad-leaf forests, are forests dominated by trees that lose their leaves each year. They are found in areas with warm, moist summers and cool winters. In England, the term 'Forest' (capital F) refers to an area where the King/Queen has the right to keep deer and to make Forest Laws, so the term 'woodlands' is used instead.



Vocabulary

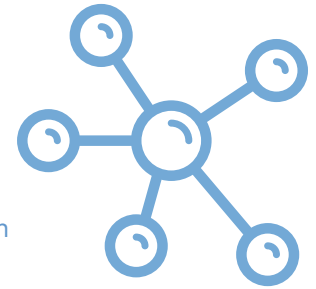
temperate: neither very hot or cold

deciduous: losing its leaves in autumn

shrubs: small bushes near the floor of a rainforest

timber: wood from trees

emissions: things, such as gases, released into the atmosphere



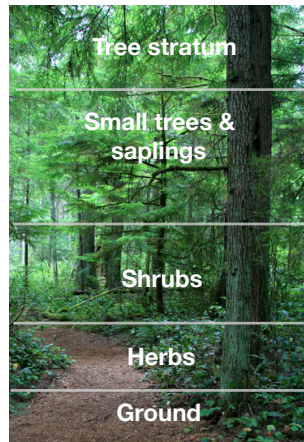
Location



Most temperate deciduous forests are located in the eastern United States, Canada, Europe, China, Japan and parts of Russia. The UK has many deciduous forests.



Physical features



Oak, ash, beech, birch

Hawthorn, hazel, holly, rowan

Rhododendron

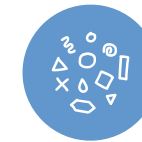
Ferns, grasses, herbs

Mosses, lichens



Human processes

Temperate forests are very important to people as they provide enjoyment as well as many resources, including food, timber and oxygen for us to breathe. A threat to this biome is acid rain as it damages the leaves of trees, and can cause them to die. Acid rain is caused by industrial pollution and vehicle emissions. Another threat is that trees are cut down for timber and land is cleared for agriculture. Groups like the Woodland Trust are working to protect this biome in the UK.



Diversity

UK woodlands are home to a diverse range of mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, dragonflies, damselflies, beetles, bees, moths and spiders. Some are endangered, such as the dormouse and nightingale.



Location



Physical features



Human features



Diversity



Physical processes



Human processes



Techniques

Taiga biome



Quick summary

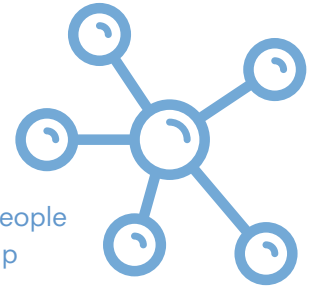


Taiga, also known as *coniferous* or *boreal* forest, is the largest **terrestrial** biome on Earth. The origin of the name 'taiga' is Russian and means land of the little sticks. The Taiga biome is popular with tourists for activities such as cycling, hiking and canoeing.

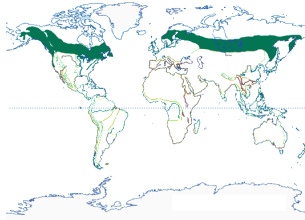


Vocabulary

terrestrial: on land
situated: positioned
favourable: helpful
uninhabited: not lived in by people
nutrients: substances that help living things grow
migrate: travel to another area
hibernate: lie dormant (asleep) through winter



Location



The taiga biome is the largest terrestrial biome. It is **situated** south of the arctic tundra biome. In North America, it covers most of Canada and Alaska; in Europe, it covers most of Sweden, Finland, Norway and Estonia, some of the Scottish Highlands and some areas of Iceland; in Asia, it covers most of Russia and areas of northern Kazakhstan, northern Mongolia and northern Japan.



Physical features

This biome has short, wet summers and long, cold winters. Precipitation is moderate in the taiga with snow in winter and rain in summer. For six months of the year, the temperature is below 0°C. Plants can only grow during the summer when temperatures are **favourable**. This growing season only lasts about three months.



Human processes

Although two major cities, Toronto and Moscow, are located in the taiga biome, most of it is **uninhabited**. The taiga forests are endangered due to logging and mining by humans. When trees are cut down in the taiga, it takes a long time for new trees to grow because of the short growing season.



Diversity

There is little variety in terms of plants. The majority of trees are conifers, which is why the taiga is referred to as the coniferous forest. Conifers are evergreen and don't drop their leaves in autumn. This means there are few **nutrients** in the soil, which is why there is not much variety in the vegetation. Many animals of the taiga **migrate** to warmer areas or **hibernate** during the long, cold winters. Others have special adaptations including thick fur or feathers and the ability to change colour according to the season. Although there are not many animals in the taiga, there are millions of insects. Birds migrate there to feed off them.



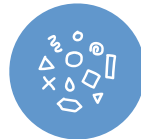
Location



Physical features



Human features



Diversity



Physical processes



Human processes



Techniques