

## LO: To research information for an information text

- Also known as Mediterranean forest, woodland or shrub
- Temperate biome
- Hot-dry summers/mild and rainy winters
- Occupy less than 5% of Earth's surface.
- Sometimes confused with desert biome (totally different)
- Tremendous diversity of habitats and species.
- Some of the most endangered regions on planet Earth.

### Physical Features

- Temperate (see definition) biome
- Hot-dry summers/mild and rainy winters
- Summer av. Temp = 100 degrees Fahrenheit (5 months)/winter = low 30 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Average temp 64 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Nearly all rainfall occurs in winter and spring rainy season
- Average rainfall = 10 – 17 inches per year. Way more than desert biome.
- Hot-dry summers = prone to fires
- Lightening causes fires
- Semi-arid land. Poor soil.

### Human Processes

- Some of the most endangered regions on planet Earth.
- Suffered tremendous degradation and habitat loss (human activity)
- Semi-arid. Poor soil = vulnerable to degradation by human activity.
- Human activity – logging, overgrazing, introduction of exotic species, and urbanisation.
- Many native species extinct or endangered.
- Native people used fire to clear brush and trees.
- European colonisers stopped use of fires.
- Now, fuel built up and when fires do come, they are devastating.

### Location

- Occur in world's five Mediterranean climate zones
- Found on the west coast of continents in the mid-latitudes.
- Main five – Mediterranean Basin, California, Central Chile, Southwest Australia, the Cape province of South Africa and the south-eastern tip of Vancouver, Canada.
- Occupy less than 5% of Earth's surface.
- Part of each continent.

### Diversity

- Tremendous diversity of habitats and species.
- Vegetation types – forests and woodlands, savannas, shrublands, and grasslands; mosaic (see definition) landscapes.
- Forests – broadleaf evergreen trees and coniferous forests
- Shrubland – dense thickets of evergreen sclerophyll shrubs and small trees called chaparral
- Harbours about 48,250 known vascular plants – 20% of world total.
- Exceptionally high numbers of rare and local endemic plants.
- Much of woody vegetation is sclerophyll
- Sclerophyll vegetation has small, dark leaves covered with a waxy outer layer.
- Waxy outer layer retains moisture in dry summer months.
- Many plants are pyrophyte (see definition)
- Native people used to use fire to clear brush and trees = plants adapted.
- Common animals – coyotes, mule deer, praying mantis and ladybugs
- Most animals are nocturnal.

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**Location**

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**Physical Features**

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**Human Processes**

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**Diversity**

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