



Which terrestrial biomes are these?



Tropical rainforest biome



Temperate
deciduous forest
biome



Desert biome



Tundra biome



Grassland biome



Taiga biome



Savannah biome

Last time we learnt about the temperate grassland biome. One area this can be found is in North America along the famous Route 66.

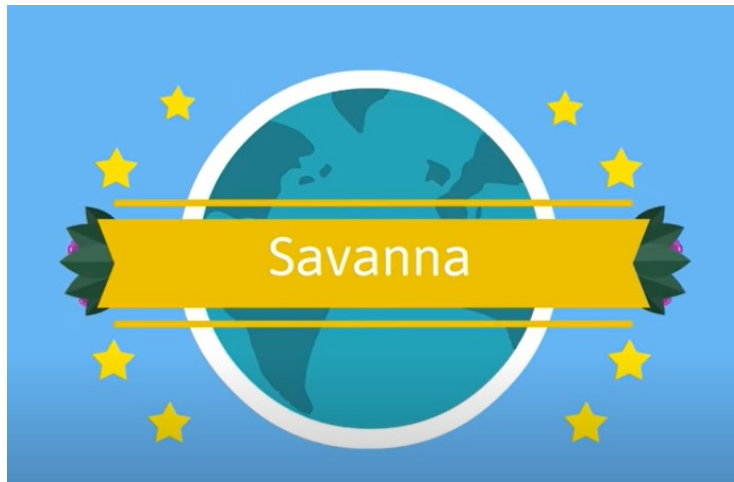
Read the email of your Route 66 trip to your partner.



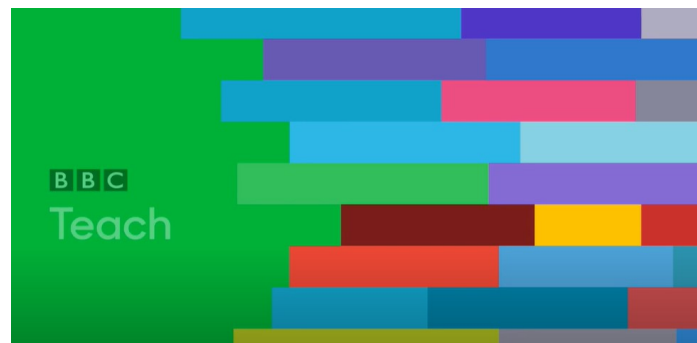
LO: To describe and explain a savannah/tropical grassland biome

- Organise information about the world's biomes
- Compare and contrast the biomes
- Investigate biomes by selecting relevant information



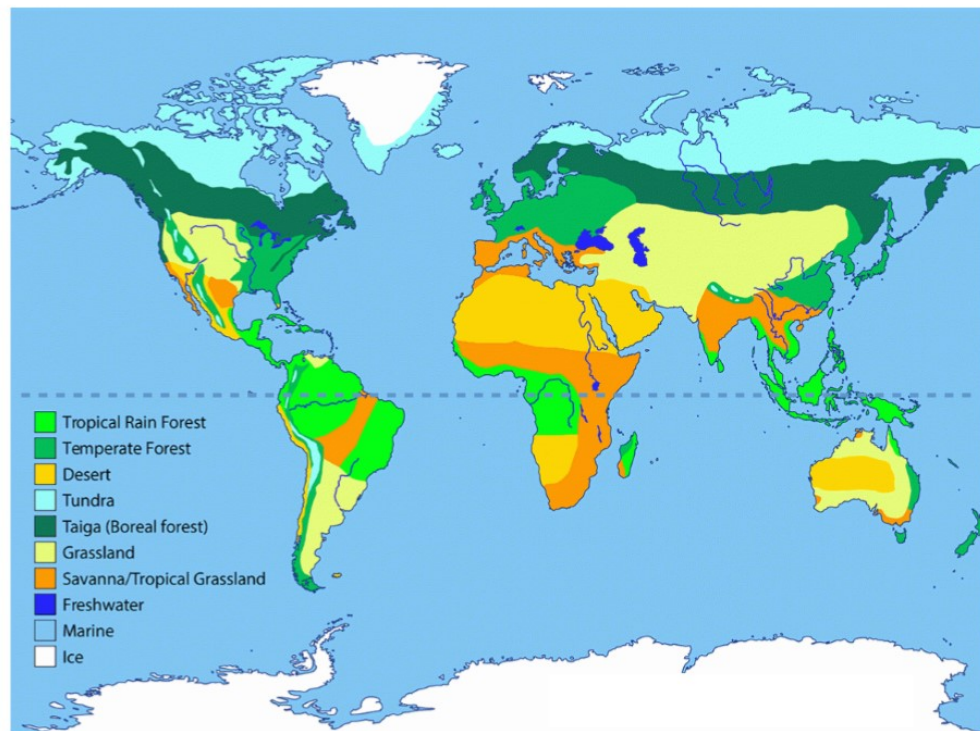


Watch these videos.
Share the
information with
your partner.



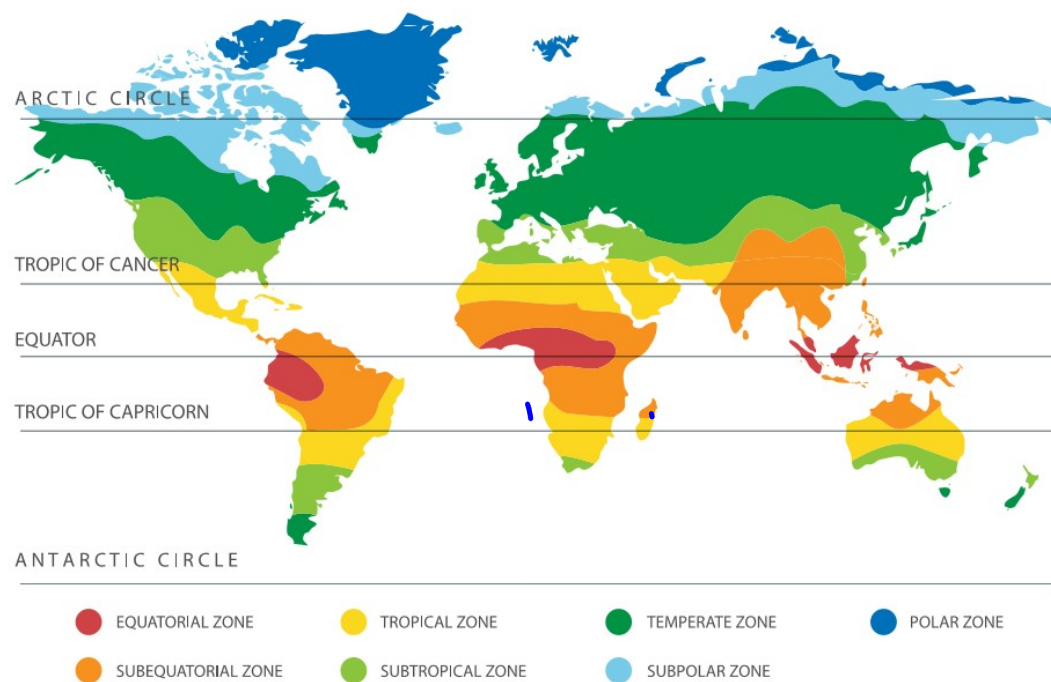
Compare the location of the savannah/tropical grassland to the temperate grassland. Which is closest to the equator? How might this affect their climate?

Location of Earth's biomes



Compare and contrast the climate zones of the savannah and temperate grassland biomes.

Location of Earth's climate zones



What do you think this topic-specific vocabulary means?

sporadic:

roaming:

grazing:

desertification:

abundant:

carnivorous:

predators:

- animals that hunt other animals
- wandering around
- meat-eating
- only in a few places
- grass-eating
- becoming like a desert
- more than enough

A savannah is a rolling grassland scattered with shrubs and isolated trees. The savannah biome is an area that has a very dry season and then a very wet season. (In British English it is spelled 'savannah' but in most other English-speaking countries it is spelled 'savanna'). Tourism is popular, especially in areas such as the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania.

- Describe a savannah.
- How many seasons does it have? What are they?
- Why do you think tourism is popular?

Grasslands are wide expanses of land filled with low-growing plants such as grasses and wildflowers. The amount of precipitation is not enough to grow tall trees and produce a forest. Across the world, 25 per cent of land is in the grassland biome.

Compare and contrast a savannah and a temperate grassland.



The largest part of the savannah biome is located in **Africa**. The Serengeti plains of Tanzania in Africa are probably the best known African savannah. Other areas are found in **North America** and the North and East of **South America** (Brazil).

- Where is the largest part of the savannah biome found?
- Which is the best known?
- What other areas is it found?



Location



Grasslands are found north of the Tropic of Cancer and south of the Tropic of Capricorn. They are known by different names in different parts of the world: steppes in **Asia**; prairies in **North America**; pampas, llanos and cerrados in **South America**; and rangelands in **Australia**.

Compare and contrast the savannah and temperate grassland.



Physical features

The savannah is warm all year long. It is mostly made up of grass but there are sporadic trees.

Although there are various types of soil in the savannah biome, it is not suitable for farming. Water holes provide drinking water for roaming animals.

- What is the general temperature?
- What type of vegetation is there?
- Describe the soil.
- How do animals get fluids?



Physical features

The soil in the grasslands is deep and dark. It is also very fertile and so it is good farm land. In northern areas, the grass stays short because these areas have cold winters and dry, hot summers. In southern climates, the grass grows tall because these areas have warmer weather and periods of very wet weather.

Compare and contrast the savannah and temperate grassland.



Human processes

Savannah areas are popular with nomads, e.g. the Maasai tribe of Kenya. This method of farming can be beneficial to the environment. Grazing animals are moved from place to place, allowing vegetation to recover. However, desertification can result from poorly managed farming in the savannah. Areas of desert are created by the destruction of natural vegetation. Causes of desertification include: removal of vegetation cover by overgrazing and uncontrolled wood collection for fuel.

Which people are savannah areas popular with?

Describe nomad farming.

Why can it be beneficial?

What is a negative human impact?

What human processes can cause this?



Human processes

Most of the world's food is grown in areas that were once grasslands.

Compare and contrast the savannah and temperate grassland.



Diversity

Because of the availability of grass in the savannah, there are many herbivores, such as elephants, zebras, gazelles and buffalo, who take advantage of this abundant food supply. Herbivores have developed traits, such as being fast, large or tall, which help them escape carnivorous predators, e.g. lions. The savannah biome has a long dry season so plants there have adapted to this climate.

- Why are herbivores common in the savannah?
- What traits have herbivores developed?
- Why have they developed these traits?
- What have plants adapted to? How do you think they have adapted?



Diversity

There are many grasses and flowers in all areas of grassland. The **Asian steppes** are home to the the Saiga antelope, Przewalski's horse, the Bactrian camel, the Goitered gazelle and the Ustyard ural – a wild sheep. In the **North American prairies**, the animals are bison, antelope, birds, gophers, prairie dogs, coyotes and insects. In the **South American pampas**, the animals are foxes, skunks, small herds of guanaco, viscachas and bush dogs. In the **Australian rangelands** there are bison, elk, pronghorn and deer.

Compare and contrast the savannah and temperate grassland.

You have been studying biomes and are becoming quite the experts. So much so that you have been invited to the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference.

You have been asked to join a discussion about savannah and temperate grassland biomes.



In groups of 4, discuss these questions. See the question sheet.

Can you add your own questions?

Once you have, one person will ask questions to the panel of 3.
Anyone can answer, add to or challenge what someone says.

When you are ready, record your panel discussion.

If you would like, make this sign to go in the background of your video.



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