



Tundra:

- It's cold - The tundra is the coldest of the biomes. The average temperature in the tundra is around -28 degrees Celsius. It gets much colder in the winter (-34°C) and warmer during its short summer (from 3°C to 12°C)
- Tundra is very dry, receiving 15 to 25cm of precipitation a year (mostly snow)
- Below the topsoil, the ground has a layer of permafrost, which never un-freezes.
- It's barren – the soil has few nutrients to support plants and animal life
- There are around 400 species of flowering plants and 48 different types of animals
- Arctic tundra is found in the polar and sub-polar climate regions, within the Arctic Circle
- Alpine tundra can be found high in mountainous areas around the world



Desert

- Many deserts are very hot in the daytime (averaging 38 degrees centigrade), but fall to an average of -4°C at night
- Deserts get less than 25cm of rain a year
- They can be found in every continent of the world, except Europe, and are located mostly to the north and south of the Equator.
- Some deserts support a wide variety of flora and fauna, all adapted to living in hot, dry conditions. The Sonoran desert (in south western USA) is home to 500 species of birds, 130 species of mammals, more than 100 species of reptiles and more than 2,500 plant species



Temperate deciduous forest

- These are found mainly to the north of the Equator in eastern United States, Canada, Europe, China, Japan and parts of Russia, but also in southern Australia and South America
- Summers are warm and moist (averaging around 17°C in the UK), with cool winters (4°C in the UK)
- Deciduous trees (those that lose their leaves in winter) are the main feature, with shrubs, ferns and ground cover making up the rest of the plants in the biome.
- Deciduous forests receive 75 to 150 cm of rain a year, with at least 120 days without frost
- There are a wide variety of plant and animal species in this biome, second only to tropical rainforests

