

Inquiry question: How does the weather affect humans?

Geography unit: Vegetation belts and Climate zones

Strand: Physical Geography

What children will need to already know to access this unit:

There are seven continents and five oceans
 Different fruits and vegetables grow in different climates
 Climate is the general weather conditions that are typical of a place
 Where Egypt is
 How to use an atlas, map, globe.

Why is this unit being taught in this term and links to previous learning.

Links to the inquiry question
 Links to climate zones and available food – Year 1 and 2
 Links to what humans need in year 3
 Builds on location knowledge and map skills from year 1 onwards.
 Foundations for work on rainforests and land use in year 5 and 6
 Links to maths work – graphs
 Link to water cycle – Year 3 and 4
 The school biodome
 Science – how animals and plants are adapted to their environment.

Geographical skills and fieldwork (what the children will do)

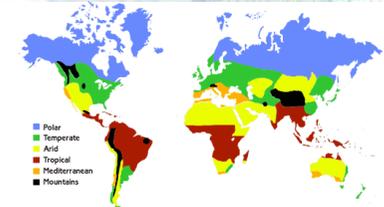
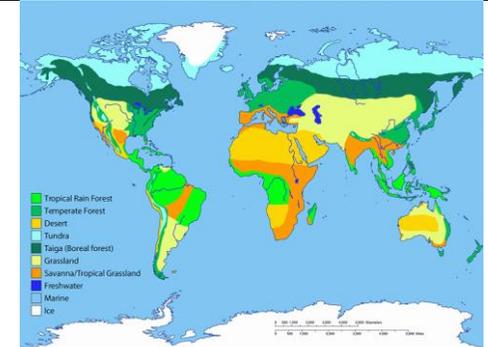
Use maps, globes and atlases to identify different biomes.
 What is interesting about the colours used to identify deserts, tundra, rainforest and grasslands?
 Label maps to show where biomes are
 Describe what the vegetation is like in each biome
 Describe the relationship between biomes and climate zones
 Research the annual rainfall in different biomes and record in graphs (maths link)

Key vocabulary/glossary of terms:

biome	a large naturally occurring community of flora and fauna occupying a major habitat
tundra	a vast, flat, treeless Arctic region of Europe, Asia, and North America in which the subsoil is permanently frozen
desert	a waterless, desolate area of land with little or no vegetation
rainforest	a luxuriant, dense forest rich in biodiversity, found typically in tropical areas with consistently heavy rainfall.
Temperate forest	a forest found between the tropical and boreal regions, located in the temperate zone
grassland	a large open area of country covered with grass
climate	the weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period
habitat	the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.
Climate zones	See Teacher notes below for definitions of the 6 zones
Vegetation belt	regions of the world that are home to certain plant species determined by the climate
Tropical region	regions of the Earth near the equator and between the Tropic of Cancer in the northern hemisphere and the Tropic of Capricorn in the southern hemisphere. This tropical region is also referred to as the tropical zone or the torrid zone
Boreal region	a vast expanse of coniferous forests, mires and lakes circling the northern hemisphere. Within the European Union, it includes most of Sweden and Finland, all of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania and much of the Baltic Sea
temperate	relating to or denoting a region or climate characterized by mild temperatures

What will children know by the end of this unit:

- That there are 5 biomes: tundra, desert, rainforest, temperate forest, grassland.
- Key features of each biome and climate zone
- The difference between a biome and a climate zone
- Key aspects/features of climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts.
- How the water cycle affects a biome
- The climate of Egypt



1. Tropical

Around the Equator we have **tropical** climates which are hot and humid, this is where you'll find the world's rainforests.

2. Arid

Then there are **arid** or dry climates – like you'd find in deserts.

3. Mediterranean

Next is **Mediterranean** with hot dry summers, and cooler wetter winters.

4. Temperate

Then there are **temperate** climates. That's what we have in the UK, where summers are mild and winters aren't too cold.

5. Continental

In areas that are a very long way from the sea, the climate is **continental** with long, cold winters and short, hot summers.

6. Polar

Finally, there's **polar** climates which experience long periods of extreme cold.