

Chapter 6 Section 1 Notes

What is a Biome?

Biomes are regions that have distinctive climates and organisms

Biomes and Vegetation – biomes are described by vegetation because plants determine the other organisms that can live there.

Biomes and Climate

Temperature and Precipitation (these are the main factors that determine what type of plants grow in a biome)

- Biomes with higher temperatures and less precipitation tend to have shorter and less dense vegetation
 - Deserts are the driest biome
 - Tropical Rain Forests are the wettest biome
 - Tundras are the coldest biome

Latitude and Altitude

latitude is the distance north or south of the equator, measured in degrees

altitude is the height of an object above sea level

Climate becomes colder
as you move toward the poles
as you go up in altitude

Climate becomes warmer
as you move toward the equator
as you go down in altitude (toward sea level)

As you move from the equator toward the North Pole, you would be likely to see rainforests, then deserts, then taiga.

Tropical rain forests are located between 30° north latitude and 30° south latitude

Grasslands are located between 30° and 60° latitude

Taigas are located just below the Arctic Circle