

Chapter 6 Section 2 Notes

Forest Biomes – most widespread & most diverse of all the biomes

Tropical Rain Forests – located near the equator where it is warm and wet

- receive 200 to 450 cm of rain per year
- high humidity
- thin soil
- have greatest species diversity
- lush tall plants that require a lot of water
- help regulate world climate and play vital roles in the nitrogen, oxygen, and carbon cycles
- 100 acres lost each minute

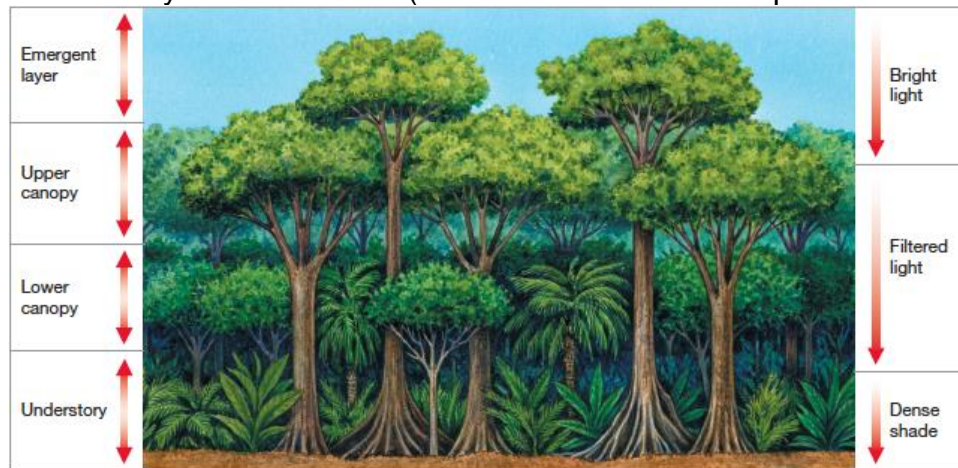
Layers of the Rainforest (see pict pg 149)

emergent layer – top layer; gets bright light

upper canopy – gets more filtered light

lower canopy – gets some filtered light

understory – dense shade (trees and shrubs are adapted to dense shade)



Temperate Rain Forests – places like the Pacific Northwest

- large amounts of rain, high humidity, moderate year-round temperatures
- Douglas fir and redwood trees

Temperate Deciduous Forests – about 40° N latitude

- trees drop their leaves in the fall
- extreme temperatures
- abundant precipitation
- rich, deep soils
- growing season of 4-6 months
- plants with adaptations such as rhizomes, to survive harsh winters

Taiga – located near the Arctic Circle

- relatively little rainfall and acidic soil
- cold temperatures
- broad band of coniferous forest
- conical shape is an adaptation for taiga survival
- birds migrate during winter
- animals change color to avoid predators