

Biomes : Geography : Year 5/6

	Learning Objective	Overview	Assessment Questions	Resources
Lesson 1	To understand what biomes are, and where the main biomes are located.	In this first lesson, children will explore the locations of some of the world's main biomes, and find out about their distinctive characteristics, including their climates and the unique plants and animals that inhabit each of them. In their independent activities, children will identify the world's biomes on a map and use their knowledge of each one's characteristics to write facts and answer questions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children explain what a biome is? • Do children understand that climate affects life in different biomes? • Can children use maps to locate, identify and discuss different biomes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Worksheet 1A/1B/1C • Biomes Information Sheet • Large sheets of paper (FSD? activity only) • Challenge Cards (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 2	To identify key similarities and differences between tropical rainforests and temperate forests.	After finding out why forest biomes are important for the Earth's climate and biodiversity, children will focus on the characteristics of tropical rainforests and temperate forests, looking at their location, climate, vegetation, animals and human impact. In their independent activities, children compare and contrast the two forest biomes using Venn diagrams, sentence starters and creating quizzes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do children understand why forests are important for the Earth's climate and biodiversity? • Can children list some key characteristics of tropical rainforests and temperate forests? • Do children know the main similarities and differences between these two forest biomes? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Forest Biome Cards • Venn Diagram • Worksheet 2A/2B • Tropical Rainforest Information Sheet • Temperate Forest Information Sheet • Quiz Maker Instruction Card (FSD? activity only) • Quiz Template (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 3	To learn about the location, climate, plants, animals and people in the taiga biome.	In this lesson, children will focus on the taiga biome. As a class, they will explore the location of this biome using maps, find out about the weather using climate graphs, and learn how some of the animals and people who live there have adapted to survive. In their independent activities, children will use their knowledge and skills to create and interpret their own climate graphs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children describe the location of the taiga biome? • Can children create and/or interpret a climate graph for the taiga biome? • Do children know how the plants, animals and people in this biome have adapted to the environment? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Worksheet 3A/3B/3C • A3 paper (FSD? activity only) • Explorer Report Instruction Card (FSD? activity only) • Blank World Map Cards (FSD? activity only) • Climate Graph Cards (FSD? activity only) • Photo Cards (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 4	To understand how animals and plants adapt to survive in desert environments.	The desert biome is the focus of this lesson. After recapping on the location and general characteristics of deserts, children will briefly look at the different types of deserts across the world. First as a class, and then through their independent activities, children will explore how both animals and plants have adapted to survive in this harsh environment. In the alternative activity, children are challenged to use what they have learnt about adaptation to 'design' a new desert animal.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children explain the characteristics of a desert biome? • Do children know that there are different types of desert? • Do children understand how some plants and animals have adapted to live in this biome? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Worksheet 4A/4B/4C • Adaptation Cards A/B/C • Photo Cards • Designing for the Desert Sheet (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 5	To learn about grasslands and the Great Migration.	In this lesson, children will first find out about, and compare and contrast, the two types of grasslands: tropical and temperate, before focusing on the events of, and the reasoning behind, the Great Migration of animals in East Africa. In their independent activities, children will use given information to read or create maps and answer a variety of questions about this incredible natural phenomenon.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do children know the main characteristics of the grasslands biome? • Can children explain the main differences between temperate and tropical grasslands? • Do children understand why many animals in this biome migrate? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Worksheet 5A/5B/5C • Instructions Sheet • The Great Migration Sheet • Discussion Cards (FSD? activity only)

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Lesson 6	To understand the key characteristics of the tundra biome and the impact of climate change.	<p>This lesson focuses on the coldest biome - the tundra. As a class, children will first look at the general characteristics of this biome, including the climate, and the plant and animal life, and how they are adapted to survive in these harsh conditions, before moving on to the impact that climate change is having on this biome, and consequently, the Earth. In their independent activities, children are tasked with creating posters, leaflets and presentations which explain and highlight the effect of climate change on the tundra, as well as what we can do to help protect this biome.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children describe some of the key characteristics of the tundra biome? • Do children know how plants and animals have adapted to live in this environment? • Do children understand the threat to the tundra biome from climate change? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Information Sheet 6A/6B • Blank paper for posters/leaflets • Prompt Cards • Tundra Wildlife Cards (FSD? activity only) • Research Question Cards (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 7	To consolidate understanding of, and compare and contrast, the major biomes of the world.	<p>In this final lesson, children will first recap on their understanding of the seven main biomes that have been explored in the previous lessons. They are asked to identify biomes given their characteristics, and discuss how the biomes are similar to and different from one another. In their independent activities, they are challenged to apply their knowledge and work in groups to create either a diorama of, or a podcast about, their chosen biome.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can children correctly identify different biomes based on given information? • Can children talk about ways in which different biomes are similar and different? • Can children use their knowledge and understanding to create a diorama of, or podcast about, a chosen biome? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slides • Diorama Challenge Cards A-F • Shoeboxes (or similar sized cardboard box), scissors, glue, tape, coloured paper/card, craft materials, etc. • Podcast Help Sheet A/B (FSD? activity only) • Recording equipment (FSD? activity only)



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KS2 Geography Curriculum Objectives

- describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts, rivers, mountains, volcanoes and earthquakes, and the water cycle
- use maps, atlases, globes and digital/computer mapping to locate countries and describe features studied

Vocabulary

biome, ecosystem, biodiversity, habitat, climate, weather, seasons, precipitation, tropical, temperate, taiga, boreal, desert, grasslands, savannah, prairie, tundra, adaptation, nocturnal, vegetation, seasons, deciduous, evergreen, drought, equator, tropics, Tropic of Cancer, Tropic of Capricorn, Arctic Circle, carbon dioxide, global warming, transpiration, food chain, emergent layer, canopy, understorey, forest floor, deforestation, reforestation, urbanisation, nature reserves, northern hemisphere, coniferous, permafrost, indigenous, logging, mining, migrate, migratory

Teacher notes