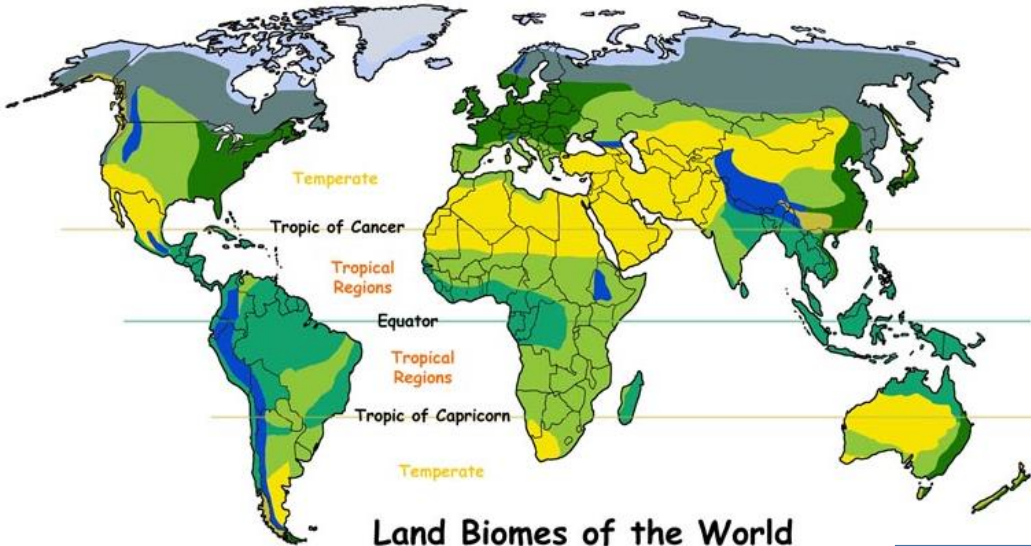


What are biomes and how does climate change affect them?



Lines of latitude and biomes

lines of latitude



the Equator

Lines of latitude are imaginary lines that circle Earth's surface, running east and west parallel to the Equator. **Biomes** further away from the Equator (at higher latitudes) are generally cooler and drier. Closer to the Equator, biomes are generally warmer and wetter.

Key Vocabulary

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| biome | a large area of land with a particular climate, type of plants and animals. |
| ecosystem | is smaller than a biome. A community of living organisms and non-living things that interact within an area. |
| climate | the general weather conditions and patterns in an area. |
| lines of longitude | run between the North Pole and the South Pole and are used to measure distances from the prime meridian. |
| fauna | the animals that normally live in a particular biome. |
| flora | the plants that normally grow in a particular biome. |
| temperate | a region with mild temperatures (further from the Equator). |
| tropical regions | regions of the Earth surrounding the equator. |
| muskeg | a swamp or boggy area of land. |

The taiga biome



- Taiga has a subarctic climate
- A long cold winter - average temp is -20°
- Short, mild summer
- Taigas are thick forests
- Flora: coniferous trees (spruce, pine, and fir)
- Mosses, lichens and mushrooms
- Many animals have thick fur
- Some animals develop seasonal camouflage

How does climate change affect the taiga biome?



thawing permafrost muskegs form forest fires

The tundra biome



- The coldest biome
- Average winter temperature is -34°C
- Little precipitation
- Covered with snow for much of the year
- Poor nutrients
- Short growing seasons
- No deep rooted plants
- Flora: shrubs, sedges, mosses and some flowers
- Fauna raise young quickly in the summer
- Mammals with thick coats and hollow hair.
- Some animals hibernate or migrate