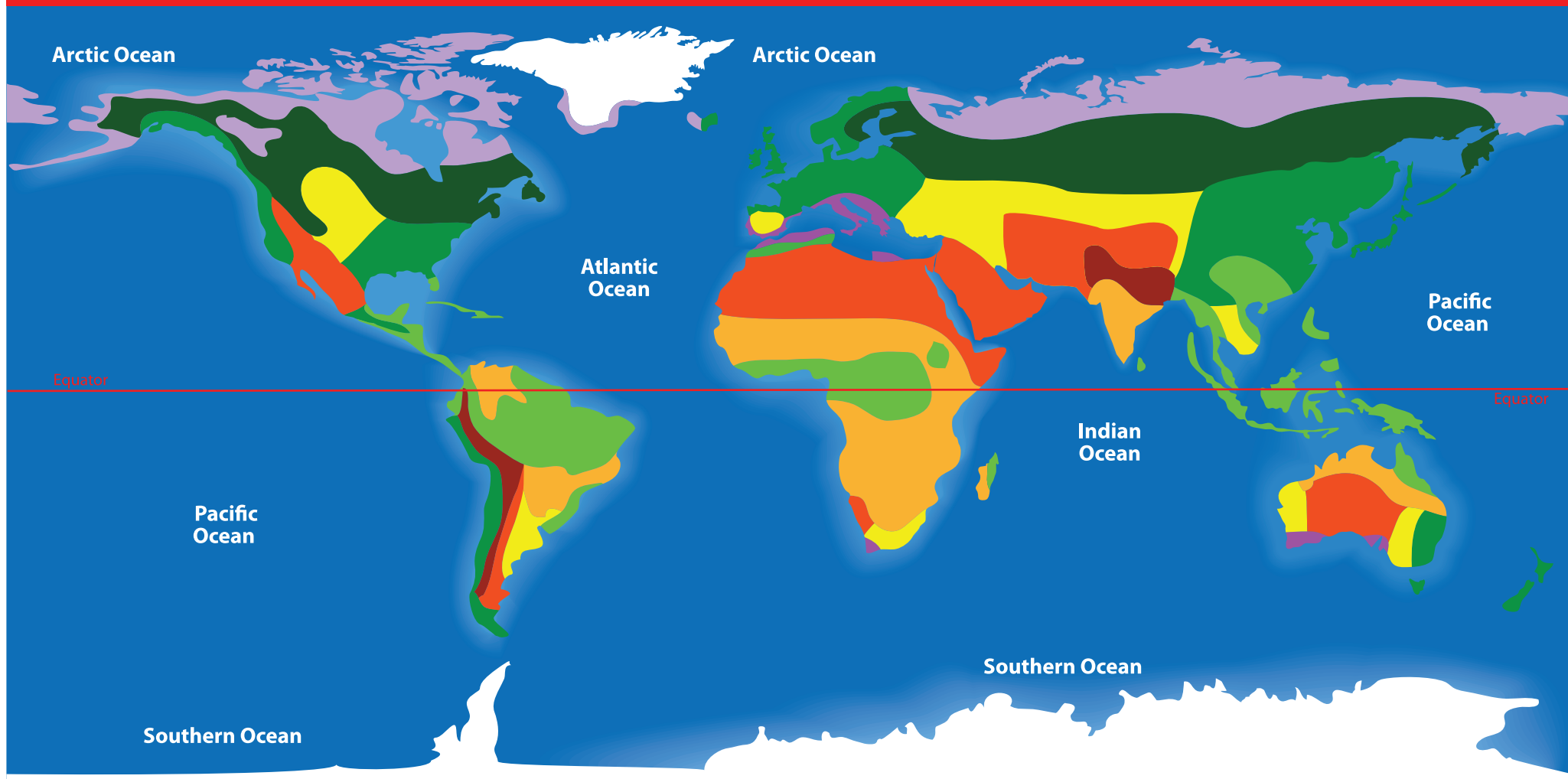












Biomes of the World

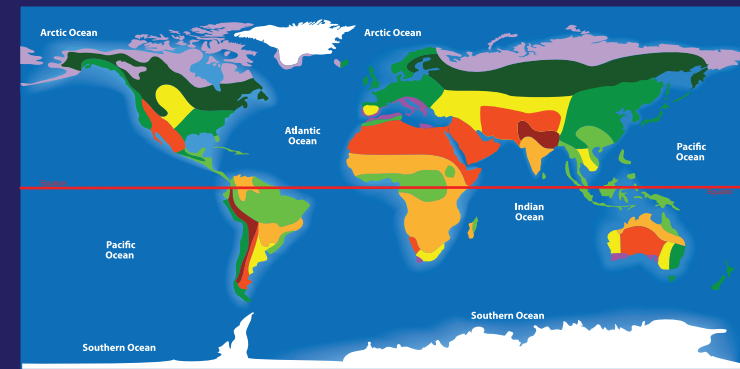


The main terrestrial biomes in the world



- | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
|  | Ice sheet and polar desert |  | Mixed and deciduous forest |  | Savanna |
|  | Tundra |  | Tropical rainforest |  | Desert |
|  | Taiga |  | Steppe |  | Mediterranean vegetation |
|  | Montane (alpine tundra and montane forest) | | | | |

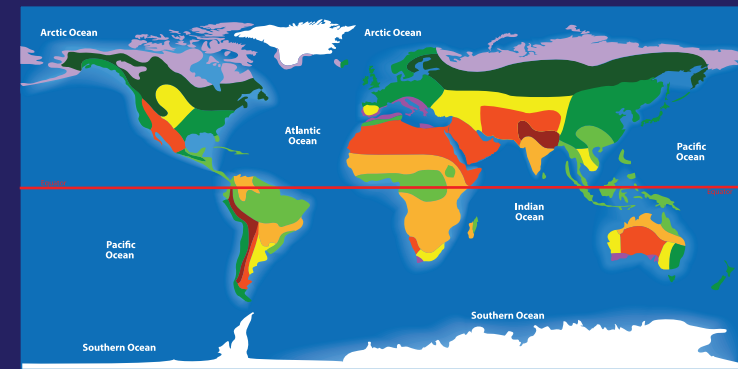
■ Ice Sheet and Polar Desert



Polar deserts are found near the icecaps. They have an annual precipitation of less than 250mm. Mean temperatures during the warmest months are less than 10° . Plant and animal life is limited, especially during the cold dark winter months.



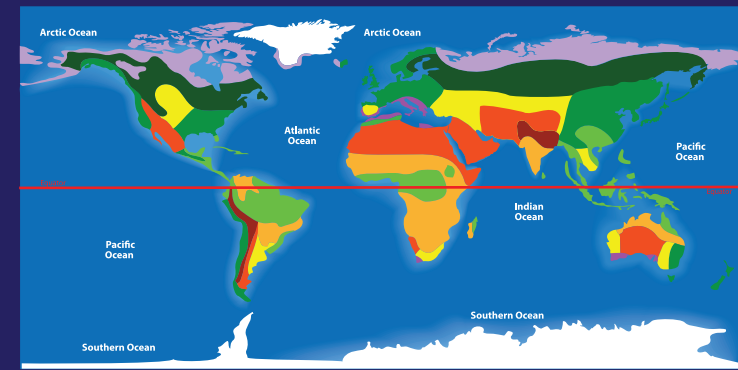
Tundra



Tundra comes from the Finnish word 'tunturia.' A tundra is a treeless, marshy plain. They are located between latitudes $55-70^{\circ}$. Summer average temperatures are less than 10°C and less than 25 mm of precipitation falls in the wettest month. The ground which is permanently frozen, is called permafrost.



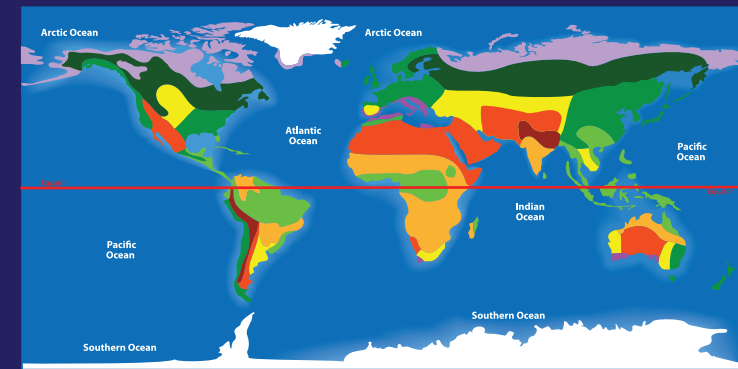
■ Taiga (Boreal Forest)



Taiga is a Russian word for a coniferous forest. They are located in between 45° and 57° latitude in North America and Eurasia. Vegetation consists of evergreen coniferous trees. Temperatures are cold in winter and warm and humid in summer.



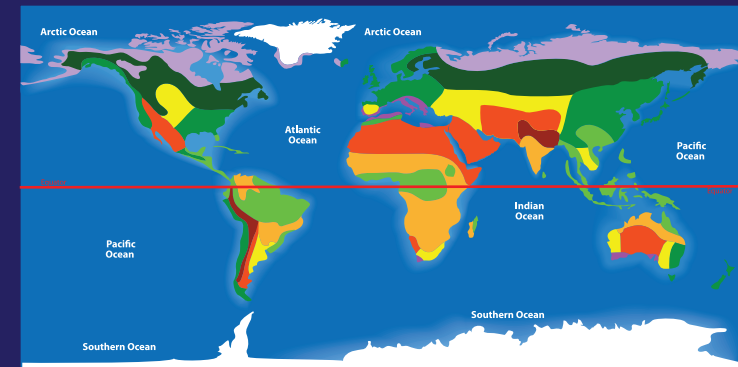
■ Montane (Alpine and montane forest)



These are high altitude grasslands and shrublands that are found above the tree line in mountainous areas of the world. Vegetation consists of sedges, mosses, lichen and some dwarf shrubs.



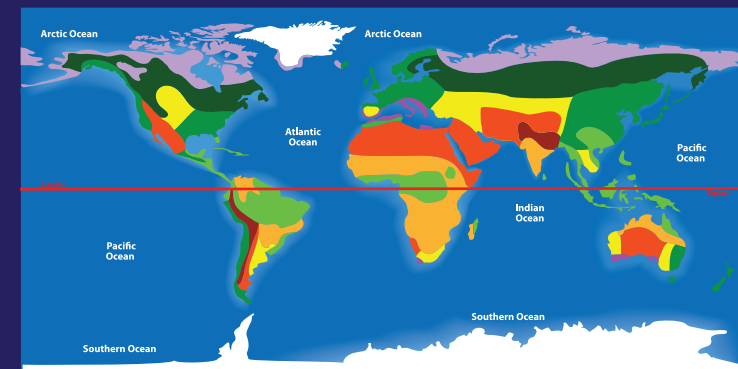
■ Mixed and deciduous forest



Deciduous forests are located in the temperate zone. They experience a moderate climate and are distinguished by the presence of deciduous trees which drop their leaves during the colder months. Much of this region has been cleared for agriculture and urban development. Soils in this region are rich in nutrients.



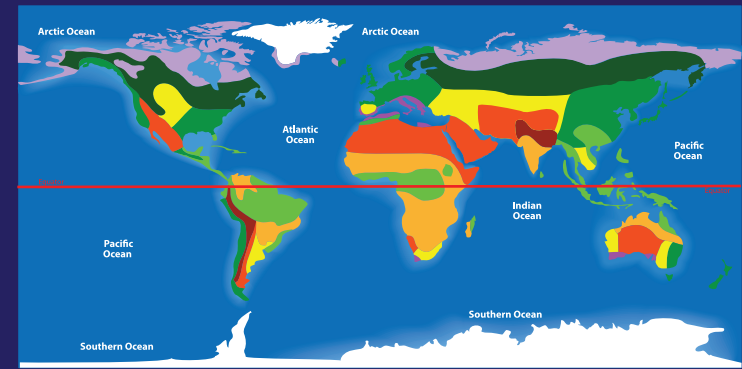
■ Tropical Rainforest



Tropical Rainforests are found around the equator. Here, annual rainfall exceeds 2000 mm and temperatures remain high throughout the year. Vegetation forms a distinct canopy about 25-35 m tall with emergent trees of up to 40 m in height.



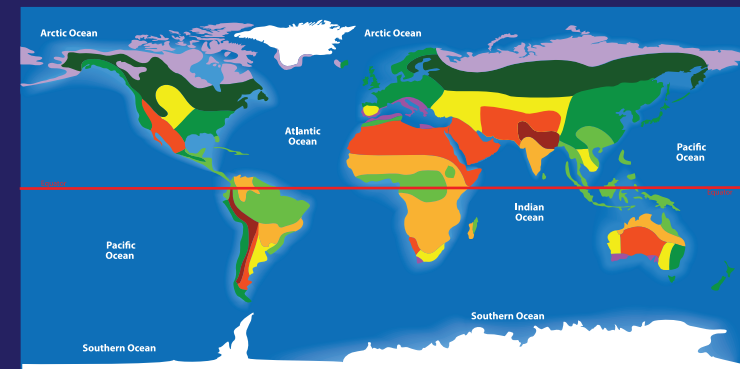
■ Steppe



A steppe is a grassy plain. They are semi-arid regions that receive between 25 and 50 cm of rain per year, which is not enough to support trees. They are cold in winter and hot in summer.



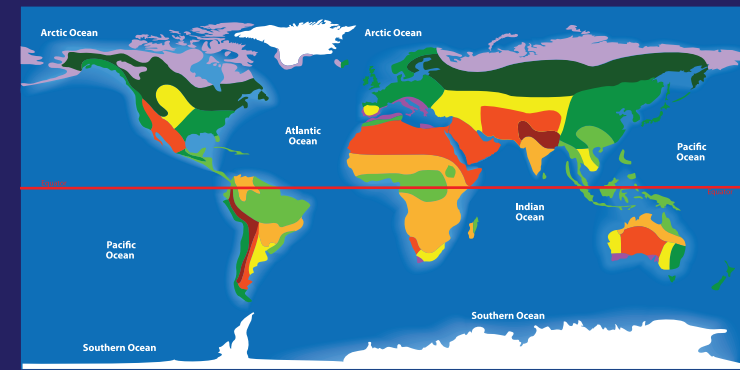
■ Savanna



A savanna is a grassland scattered with a few isolated trees that do not exceed 10 m in height. They experience a long dry winter season and a very wet summer season. Temperatures remain hot all year long.



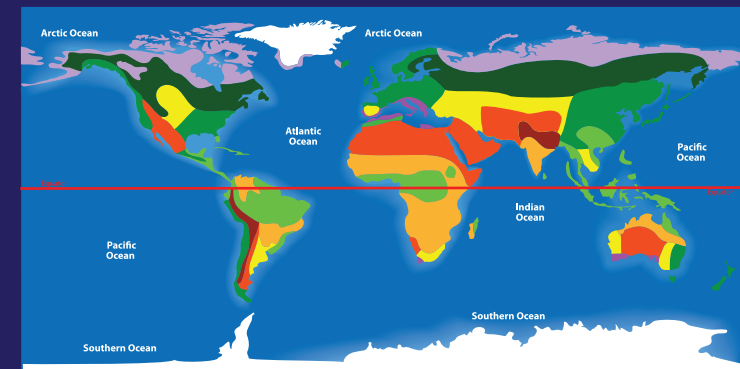
■ Desert



Deserts are found in regions that receive an average of less than 250 mm of rainfall per year. They can be found between 25° and 40° North and South latitudes. The limited plant life is drought resistant and animals have adapted to the dry conditions.



■ Mediterranean Vegetation



Mediterranean forests, woodlands and scrub experience long hot summers and rainy winters. They can be found between 32° and 40° North and South latitudes on the west coasts of continents. Vegetation is drought and fire resistant.

