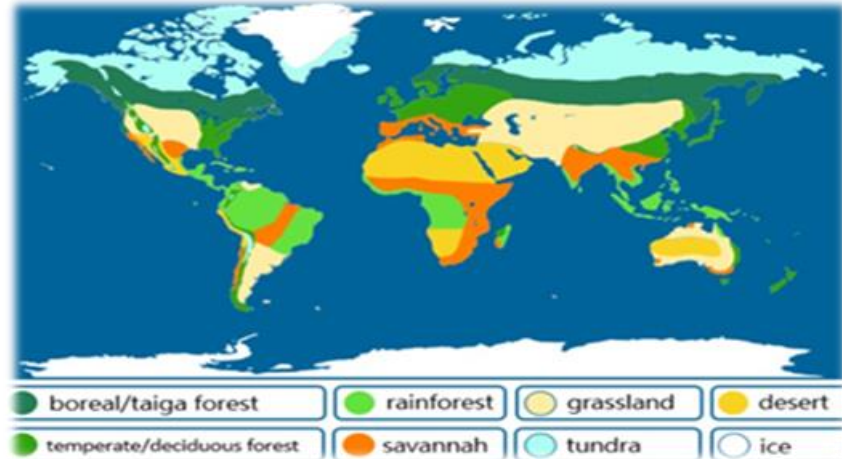




# Lowerhouse Junior School Geography Overview Sheet



## Year 3 – What are biomes and how are they created?



**Rationale:** Biomes are distinct regions of the Earth, characterised by their climate, plants, and animals. They are formed through a combination of factors such as temperature, precipitation, and geographical location, which all contribute to the variety of life found within these ecosystems.

**Substantive Knowledge:**

Locational Knowledge

Identify the position and significance of latitude, longitude, Equator, Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, Arctic and Antarctic Circle

Human and physical geography

- Describe and understand key aspects of physical geography, including: climate zones, biomes and vegetation belts.
- Describe and understand key aspects of human geography, including: economic activity including trade links, and the distribution of natural resources including energy, food, minerals, and water.

**Overview:**

Lesson 1: What are Biomes? - Define and identify biomes and understand their characteristics.  
 Lesson 2: How Do Latitude and Climate Create Biomes? - Understand the role of latitude, the Equator.  
 Lesson 3: What Makes Each Biome Unique? - Explore the features of specific biomes (e.g., rainforest, desert, tundra).  
 Lesson 4: How Do Humans Use Natural Resources in Biomes? - Learn how biomes provide natural resources and the impact of human activity.  
 Lesson 5: Mapping Biomes and Linking Features - Develop mapping skills by linking photos and maps to biome features.  
 Lesson 6: How Do We Feel About Biomes? - Reflect on personal views about biomes and consider human impact (assessment lesson).

**Key Vocabulary**

**Biome** - large ecosystem which relies on climate  
**Equator** - imaginary line halfway around the earth which is between the North and South Poles.  
**Climate** - average weather conditions over longer periods  
**Ecosystem** - group of living organisms interacting with their physical environment  
**Savannah** – type of biome. Sometimes called tropical grass  
**Tundra** – type of biome. The coldest biome.  
**Coniferous Forest** – forests made mostly of conifer trees such as cedar, fir and pine trees.  
**Deciduous Forest** - forests made mostly of broad-leaved trees that shed their leaves during a season (usually winter)

**Impact/Assessment**

**Most Children will know:**

- Tropical grassland or savannah Within the tropics Hot with a wet and dry season Mainly grass and a few specially adapted trees
- Tropical rainforest Hot and wet all year Rich in plants and animals Poor soils
- Desert Can be hot or cold Limited plants
- Deciduous forest Cool summers and mild winters. Rain throughout the year. Rich deciduous woodland
- Temperate grassland Warm summer and very cold winter. Quite low rainfall. Mainly grassland vegetation
- Tundra Below freezing for most of the year Ground permanently frozen
- Coniferous forest (Taiga) L Long, cold winters Short, mild summer Limited rainfall