

Lesson 8: Resource Sheet 1

Tundra Fact Sheet



Tundra landscape late summer



Tundra landscape early winter

Location: A tundra is a vast, partly frozen plain and rolling hills found in the cold regions north of the Arctic Circle. Tundra-like conditions are also found in mountainous regions above the tree-line. Tundra environments are found right across the top of Europe, Asia and North America. Russia, Canada and the United States of America.

Climate: The climate of the tundra is cold, especially in winter when the region's landscape is covered with snow and the surface of lakes are frozen. Temperatures can fall to as low as -40°C . In summer average temperatures rise to an average of around 12°C and be as high as 18°C . Annual precipitation (snow and rain) averaged between 150°C to 250°C .

Vegetation: In the tundra, the subsoil is permanently frozen and the upper layer freezes in winter and thaws in winter. This cycle of freezing and thawing affects the types of plant life that can grow in the tundra. The plants that can grow in such conditions include mosses, lichens, heath and small shrubs.

Animals: Even though the climate of the tundra is very cold, the environment provides a habitat for many animals. These animals have special adaptations that allow them to survive the very low winter temperatures. Examples of the animals that live in a tundra include Arctic foxes, wolves, snowy owls, moose, caribous and bears. *Lesson 6: PowerPoint 1* (Slide 4) shows the fish, plants, sea mammals, birds and mammals found in the tundra.