

# Environments

(Main vegetation types)

A vibrant, stylized illustration of a rainforest scene. The background is filled with various types of green leaves and plants, including large broad leaves, ferns, and palm fronds. Several bright pink and yellow flowers are scattered throughout the foliage. In the center-right, there is a light green rounded rectangular box with a thin blue border containing text about rainforests.

## Rainforests

**Climate:** Hot and humid. Average temperature 20°– 25°C. More than 2000mm of rain per year.

**Plant life:** Vines, palms, ferns. Great variety of plant life (two-thirds of all flowering plants). Forest floor covered in nutrient rich leaf litter called humus.

**Locations:** Between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn in Asia, Central Africa, South America and relatively small areas in eastern Australia.





## Deciduous Forests

**Climate:** Warm/hot summers and cold winters. Temperatures  $-30^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Rainfall/snow 750–1,500 mm a year.

**Plants:** The leaves of trees and shrubs turn golden yellow or red in Autumn. The leaves fall to the ground as winter arrives. Examples include beech, elm, maple and oak.

**Locations:** Eastern USA, Canada, Europe, China and Japan





## Coniferous Forests

**Climate:** Long, cold snowy winters, and warm, humid summers; well-defined seasons, at least four to six frost-free months. Temperatures from  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $20^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Rainfall/snow from 300 to 900 mm of rain per year

**Plants:** Cone-bearing, needle-leaved pines.

**Location:** Northern parts of Asia, Europe and North America. Coniferous forest make up one-third of the world's forests.



## Tundra

**Climate:** Very cold winters (down to  $-40^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Warm summers (up to  $18^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). Rain/snow –  $150^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $250^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**Plants:** Low shrub-like plants, mosses and lichens. Some scattered conifers in southern parts. Shallow soil over a layer of permanently frozen ground (permafrost). Short growing season.

**Locations:** Mostly north of the Arctic Circle across Asia and North America.





## Grasslands

**Climate:** Annual temperatures typically range from  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Rainfall of between 500 mm and 900 mm

**Plants:** Grass species dominate. Scattered trees.

**Location:** North of the Tropic of Cancer ( $23.5^{\circ}$  degrees North) and south of the Tropic of Capricorn ( $23.5^{\circ}\text{S}$ ) on all continents except Antarctica. Known as prairies (Nth. America), pampas (Sth. America) and Savanna (Africa).



## Deserts

**Climate:** Temperatures average  $38^{\circ}\text{C}$  during the day and  $-3.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  of night. Rainfall less than 250mm of per year.

**Plants:** Drought resistant shrubs and grasses.

**Location:** Between  $15^{\circ}$  and  $35^{\circ}$  latitude, North and South of the equator. Africa, Australia, South America, North America and Asia.