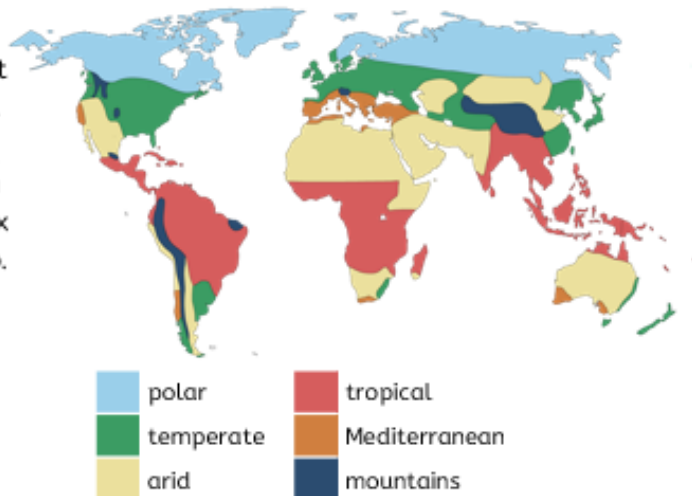


Climate across the world

Climate zones

Climate zones are areas in the world that have a similar climate. There are several major climate zones in the world. The main six are shown on this map.

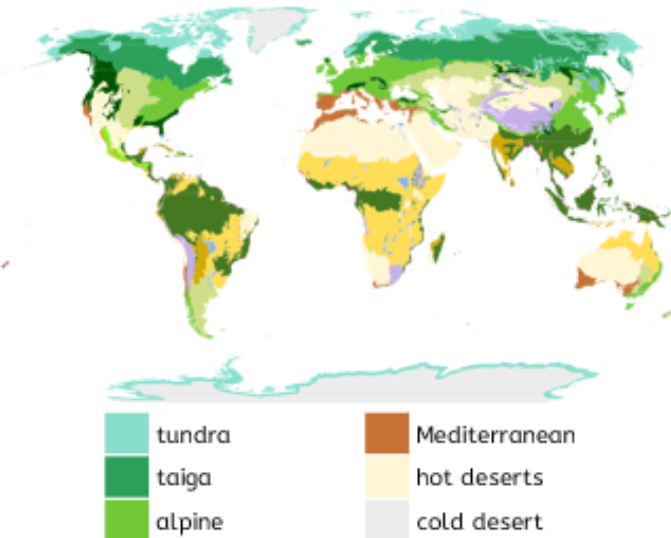
The climate zones generally group together horizontally, following **lines of latitude**.



Biomes and vegetation belts

Biomes are areas of the world that, because of their similar **climates**, have similar landscapes and wildlife. Biomes are shown on the map.

Vegetation belts are areas with distinct plant life within one or more biomes.



Global warming and climate change

The **greenhouse effect** is the **natural process** that has always taken place, which keeps the Earth warm. Without it, the Earth would be too cold to live on!

The Sun's rays are trapped in the atmosphere by greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide. This warms the Earth.



The **enhanced greenhouse effect** causes an **unnatural increase in temperature**. Human activities (like burning fossil fuels, transport, waste, agriculture, deforestation) increase the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. The Earth warms more quickly. Global warming increases.



Accelerated global warming can also lead to other changes in the Earth's long-term weather patterns, such as precipitation, wind and storms. The changes to the Earth's wider climate – not just temperature – are called **climate change**.

Climate change can cause:

- more extreme weather events, like droughts and heatwaves
- melting sea ice and loss of habitats
- rising sea levels and the flooding of coastal areas

Some biomes and species are more at risk of being impacted by climate change. These are called **vulnerable biomes** (like the tundra) or **vulnerable species** (like the dormouse).

