

# Year 5 – Geography – Australia – Lesson 4

**KO:** A biome is a large **ecosystem**, containing many different living organisms that have adapted to the environment.

Australia is home to several different **biomes** including grassland, forest and desert.

Due to its size, Australia has several climates including the **tropical** north and the temperate south.

- Key Vocabulary**
- Biome
  - Temperate grassland
  - Tropical forest
  - Savannah
  - Semi desert
  - Desert
  - Deciduous forest

**Aquatic**  
This is the largest biome out there, covering nearly 75% of our planet and can be divided into two main categories: freshwater and saltwater.



**Grassland**  
The majority of this biome is made up of a variety of grasses with very few trees or large plants. The two main types of grasslands found are 'tall-grass' (humid and wet), and 'short-grass' (dry). This biome is very popular for farming due to the rich soil.



**Desert**  
These biomes cover about one fifth of our planet and are extremely dry areas. Depending on their location, they can be either hot or cold. Plants and animals have evolved over time to adapt to the harsh environment.



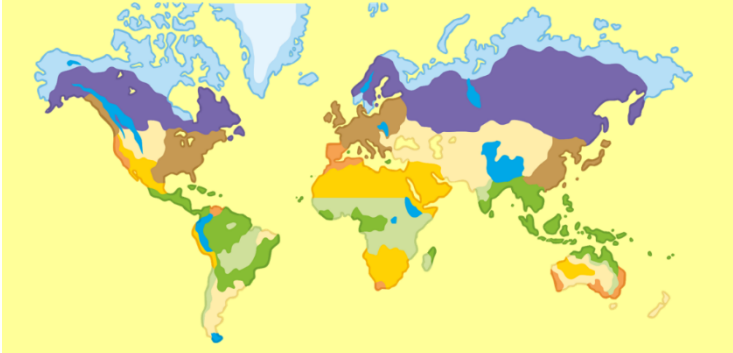
**Rainforest**  
Home to a variety of tropical plants and animals and found in regions that are warm all year round. Unfortunately, rainforests now cover less than 6% of our planet but still produce about 40% of our oxygen.



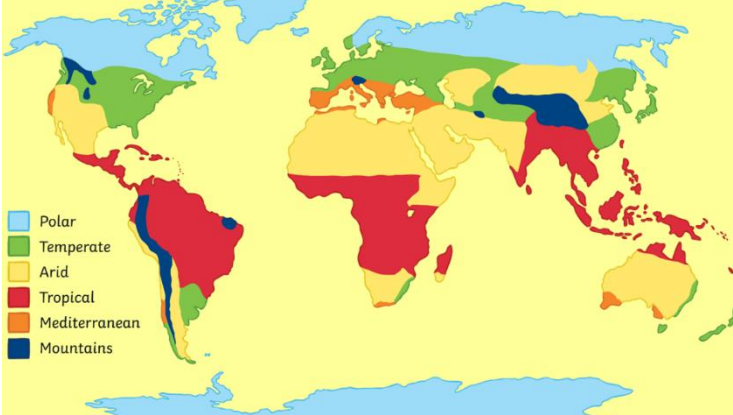
**Forest**  
Forest biomes are home to a variety of trees and other plants. They cover about 30% of our Earth's surface and are extremely important to our ecosystem as they store carbon and provide many materials that we use.



**Australia can experience both flooding and extreme drought.**



**What type of biomes are in Australia?**  
Due to its size, Australia is home to several biomes including temperate grassland, deciduous forest, semi desert, desert, savannah and tropical forest.



**What type of climate zones are in Australia?**  
The climate across Australia is also varied from the temperate East coast, the arid outback to the tropical north. Southern Australia is cooler than the north, with mild summers and cool winters.

Temperate grassland is land that is dominated by grasses, there are few trees.  
Grasslands can be used for grazing animals such as cows and sheep (often Merino sheep used for their wool) in Western Australia.

## Types of Climate Zone

Biome	Description	Example
Polar	Very cold and dry all year round	Antarctica
Temperate	Cold winters and mild summers	UK
Arid	Dry and hot all year round	Sahara Desert
Tropical	Hot and wet all year round	Brazil
Mediterranean	Dry, hot summers and mild winters	Spain
Mountain	Very cold, sometimes wet, all year	Himalayas

Australia has opposite seasons to the UK; it is summer time from December to February, and winter time in June, July and August.






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Climate change is a big issue in Australia as average temperatures have risen in recent years and on average, rainfall is low.

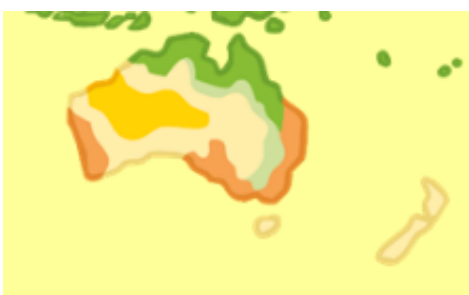
Australia does have some extreme, or hazardous weather. The ‘Angry Summer’ of 2013 saw record breaking temperatures. Bushfires were caused by the hot, dry conditions and destroyed land in Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales. When rain came, the solid dry land did not absorb rainfall well and flooding occurred.

In January 2019, temperatures reached 49.5 degrees in Port Augustus in South Australia. Many fish died in the Murray Darling River due to high temperatures.

Most of the wildlife in the desert biomes are all small animals such as reptiles and rodents. These animals need to be small enough to hide under the small vegetation or in burrows to escape the heat. Many of the animals are also nocturnal, meaning they sleep during the day and come out when the weather is cooler. With a lack of water in the desert biomes the animals have adapted to be able to store water or find water in the foods they eat. Others, like the camel, have adapted to store fat in their hump because fat stores heat.

Deciduous Forest	Tropical Forest	Savannah	Semi Desert	Desert
Trees drop their leaves in winter	Tall trees growing close together	Tall grassland and scattered trees	Short grass and small, dry bushes	Sand and stone with few plants
Tasmania and East Coast	North coast, Queensland	Further inland on East Coast, parts of New South Wales	Across Australia including large parts of Western Australia	Western and Central Australia
				

## Biomes in Australia



 polar ice	 coniferous forest	 rainforest	 savanna with so
 tundra	 deciduous forest	 mediterranean	 desert

**Task:** Sketch and label examples of the different **biomes** found in **Australia** and identify the locations of each.

**Step for Depth:** Why isn't there a Polar Climate Zone in Australia?