

	Zone	Precip	Temp	Struct	Prod
Ice Cap	Polar	dry! but snow and ice don't melt	cold year-round	no plants; dominated by carnivorous warm-blooded mammals	very low
Tundra	Polar	not much	cold, but may have warm summers (<30C)	permafrost! --> no trees; mosses, lichens; short, low-growing plants with leathery, waxy leaves that are wind and cold-tolerant; NO reptiles or amphibians; predominantly mammals	low
Taiga	Sub-Polar	snowy winters, rains in the summer	long, cold, dark winters, cool summers with long days	evergreen coniferous trees dominate (narrow, needle-like leaves that shed snow, resist freezing and allow photosynthesis throughout the year);	seasonal (medium in summer, low in winter)
Temperate Deciduous Forest	Temperate	consistent precipitation throughout the year	distinct seasons: cold winters and hot summers	highly diverse due to seasons, precipitation, and layered forest structure; complex food webs involving all the major kingdoms; very good, nutrient-rich soil	high
Temperate Grassland (Prairie)	Temperate	seasonal: dry winters, moist summers	cold winters and mild or hot summers	dominated by grasses (!) and non-woody plants; few if any trees; animals have long legs and good eyesight; very rich soil; high biodiversity	relatively high
Savanna	Tropical	distinct wet and dry seasons	hot throughout the year	predominantly grasses and shrubs with scattered trees; drought-resistant plants have thick waxy leaves; well-developed food webs	medium-high (less than prairies); seasonal fluctuations
Chaparral	temperate	wet winters, dry summers	mild winters and hot summers	drought-resistant plants with thick waxy leaves that tend to be pale/light in color	medium
Tropical Rainforest	Tropical	high precip levels year-round	stable warm temperatures year-round	high biodiversity, complex food webs, poor quality soils due to fast nutrient cycling; complex vertical layering	extremely high (highest of all biomes)
Desert	Temperate + Tropical	low precip year-round	very hot days and cold nights	poor quality, low-nutrient soils; drought-tolerant plants; rodents, birds, and small mammals predominate	low