

EarthComm Earth System Evolution: Changing Life and Your Community, Activity 2

This investigation will help you to:

- Climate and Biomes
- To complete the investigation, each student group will need internet access:
- To learn more about herbivores and carnivores, visit the following web site:
- To learn more about Alaskan animal adaptations to climate, visit the following web site:

Climate and Biomes

- Biomes, Exploring the Environment

Scientists have divided the broad spectrum of climates and ecological communities found on Earth into biomes in different ways - some with many divisions, some with only a few. This site focuses on some of the common biomes with photos that accompany separate descriptions of each.

- Arctic Tundra
- Deciduous Forest
- Desert
- Taiga
- Tropical Rainforest
- Tropical Savannah

- Mission Biomes, Earth Observatory, NASA

Topics covered on this page include:

- Tundra
- Shrubland
- Rainforest
- Grassland
- Desert
- Temperature Deciduous Forest
- Coniferous Forest

- Biomes for Teachers! University of Richmond

This page includes links to other sources of background information, a slide show of biomes, activities, and lesson plans.

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To complete the investigation, each student group will need internet access:

- **Exploring the Environment**
 - Arctic Tundra Animals
 - Arctic Tundra Plants
 - Deciduous Forest Animals
 - Deciduous Forest Plants

- Desert Animals
- Desert Plants
- Taiga Animals
- Taiga Plants
- Tropical Rainforest Animals
- Tropical Rainforest Plants
- Tropical Savannah Animals
- Tropical Savannah Plants

- Introduction to Biomes, Radford University

Each of the pages below outlines the animals and plants that live in that particular biome.

- Tundra
- Boreal Forest or Taiga
- Deciduous Forest
- Tropical Evergreen Forest
- Tropical Savannah
- Desert Scrub
- Temperate Grasslands
- Mediterranean Scrub

- Characteristics of the Earth's Terrestrial Biomes, Dr. Michael Pidwirny, University of British Columbia Okanagan

Here is another article that provides descriptions of the animals and plants in different biomes.

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To learn more about herbivores and carnivores, visit the following web site:

- The Energy Pyramids, World Builders

Check out this site with an energy pyramid for several different biomes. Click on a "K Calorie Pyramid" link under each biome (for example, Hot Desert) to see the number of calories the carnivores must obtain from the herbivores to survive.

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To learn more about Alaskan animal adaptations to climate, visit the following web site:

- Alaska Wildlife Notebook Series, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Read about Alaskan big game, marine mammals, small game, birds, furbearers, fish, shellfish, amphibians, or reptiles.

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