

Hemingbrough Geography Curriculum

Theme: Vegetation Belts & Climate

Phase: Lower Key Stage Two

Year Group: 3

Strand: Locational Knowledge / Human & Physical Geography

By the end of the theme I should be able to:

- Describe and understand key aspects of vegetation belts and climate zones..

In Year 1 & 2 I should already have learned to:

use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical features (beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather) and key human features (city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop).

Key skills I will develop:

- Comparing physical and human features.
- Draw conclusions, pose questions and use prior knowledge of map reading.
- Discover the cause of global warming and research the implications.

1. What are climate zones and vegetation belts?

What is a climate zone?

The weather changes in different parts of the world.

Where there are similar weather patterns this is known as a **climate zone**.

At the top and bottom of the Earth, there are **polar zones**, where some of the coldest temperatures in the world exist.

Temperate climates are found between the polar zones and the **Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer**. Mediterranean and **desert** climates are found here.

Further towards the equator, between the **Tropic of Cancer** and the **Tropic of Capricorn**, there is a **tropical** climate.



What is a Vegetation Belt?

An area with distinct plant types, determined by **climate zone**, soil, **drainage**, and **elevation**. There are five major **vegetation regions**: **forest**, **grassland**, **tundra**, **desert**, and **ice sheet**.

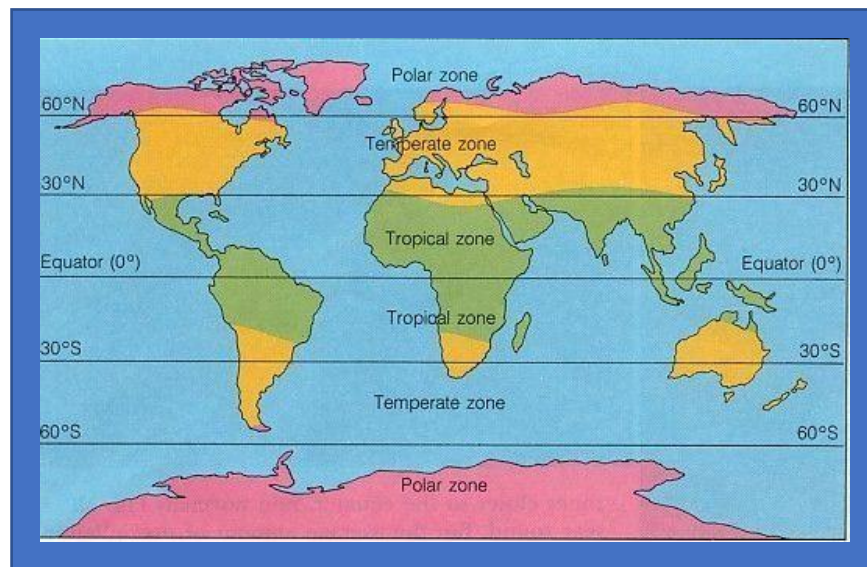
KEY VOCABULARY

climate zone	areas of and with distinct climates
polar zone	region around the North Pole
temperate	climate zone with mild temperatures
tropical	climate zone with hot, humid weather
Equator	line around the middle of the Earth
grassland	large piece of land with grass and few trees
forest	large area covered by trees
desert	a barren landscape with little rain
tundra	flat, dry, treeless Arctic region
ice sheet	a large layer of ice covering
vegetation	plants in a given climate

2. How are climate zones and vegetation belts linked?

The vegetation that grows in a region is dependent on the temperature and precipitation there, which are two key factors of climate. Areas with more rainfall and higher temperatures contain more forests, while regions with less rainfall tend to be deserts.

3. Can you describe where different climate zones are using your knowledge of the equator?



4. Can you describe the features of the 5 major vegetation regions? (Forest, grassland, tundra, desert and ice sheet).

FOREST	GRASSLAND	TUNDRA
A forest is a piece of land with many trees.	Grasslands can be both tropical and temperate .	Tundra is a cold and treeless area where it is difficult for plants and animals to survive.
There are three categories of forest on Earth; temperate, tropical and boreal . Within these three categories are different types of forest, such as; temperate and tropical rainforests, deciduous forests, coniferous forests and mangrove forests .	Tropical grasslands are also called savannahs .	Around 20% of the earth's surface is Tundra.
Coniferous forests dominate in cold climates: the conifers keep the soil shaded and cool so other plants cannot grow.	'Grasslands' or 'savannahs' are usually found between deserts and forests.	Tundra is cold and dry, with a much rainfall as the desert but in the form of snow.
Deciduous forests (N. America, Europe & Asia) lose leaves in Winter which decay, creating nutrients for new plants to grow.	Temperate grasslands include: prairies (N. America), steppes (Russia) and pampas (S. America).	Permafrost lies beneath the topsoil all year.
Rainforest: found in tropical climates.		Arctic Tundra: located in the Arctic. Alpine Tundra: found high in the mountains
DESERT	KEY VOCABULARY	
A desert is an area where little or no life exists because of a lack of water. About one-fifth of the earth's land surface is desert.	vegetation	plants in a given climate
Deserts are on every continent except Europe.	coniferous	relating to trees with cones e.g. pine tree
Deserts are 'hot and dry' or 'cool and dry'.	deciduous	a tree or shrub which sheds its leaves annually
Snakes and lizards, and amphibians, like frogs and toads—are well-adapted to the hot desert.	drainage	a process of draining something
Most desert plants are cacti.	elevation	being raised above a given level e.g. sea level
	equator	line around the middle of the Earth
	savannah	grassland in a tropical climate
	temperate	climate zone with mild temperatures
	tropical	climate zone with hot, humid weather
	boreal	forests growing in high-latitude environments where freezing temperatures occur for 6 to 8 months of the year
