



Biomes Lessons

Websites

[Missouri Botanical Garden- What's It Like Where You Live?](http://www.mbgnet.net/)

This web site is a grade appropriate site children can use to research the major terrestrial and aquatic biomes of the world. The drop down menus on the left hand side of the screen lead children to more in depth answers regarding certain topics about a particular biome.
(<http://www.mbgnet.net/>)

[Biomes](http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/msese/earthsysflr/biomes.html)

Children can use this kid-friendly web site to find information about Earth's major terrestrial biomes. The site is set up like a natural museum for the children to explore. The prompts on the right hand side of the screen lead the children to specific biomes and topics.
(<http://www.cotf.edu/ete/modules/msese/earthsysflr/biomes.html>)

[Biomes](http://ths.sps.lane.edu/biomes/index1.html)

Use this web site to find links to information on the major terrestrial and aquatic biomes on the Earth. All links are geared towards elementary aged children and provide good research information. There are generally three different links for each biome.
(<http://ths.sps.lane.edu/biomes/index1.html>)

[NASA Earth Observatory- Mission: Biomes](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Experiments/Biome/)

This fun web site not only has information about the major terrestrial biomes, but once the children have investigated each of the biomes, they can test their knowledge by playing some educational games based on the biomes.
(<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Experiments/Biome/>)

[World Biomes](http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/world_biomes.htm)

This web site can be used for higher level readers to research the major terrestrial biomes on Earth. This web site also provides an excellent map depicting where all of Earth's major biomes are located.
(http://www.blueplanetbiomes.org/world_biomes.htm)

[WorldBiomes.com](http://worldbiomes.com/)

Use this web site to research both the terrestrial and aquatic biomes on Earth. The reading level may be advanced, but there are pieces the children should be able to extract from the text.
(<http://worldbiomes.com/>)



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Books

Biomes of the World series: Chaparral, Desert, Grassland, Ocean, Rainforest, Taiga, Temperate Forest, Tundra

By Elizabeth Kaplan and Edward R. Ricciuti. (1996, Benchmark Books)

Each title in this series describes the distinguishing geography, plants, and animals of a specific biome. The texts are clearly written, and full-color photographs and diagrams amplify definitions. A color-keyed map in each book clearly illustrates worldwide biome locations and distributions.

The Living Planet —A Portrait of the Earth

Produced by BBC/Time Life; narrated by David Attenborough. DVD released 2003.

This classic documentary series provides some of the most spectacular sights and sounds of nature ever captured on film. They offer a memorable way to learn about the world's biomes.

One Small Square series: African Savanna, Arctic Tundra, Backyard, Cactus Desert, Cave, Coral Reef, Pond, Seashore, Swamp, Tropical Rain Forest, Woods

By Donald M. Silver; illustrated by Patricia J. Wynne. (1993-1999, McGraw-Hill)

This series provides a wealth of information about what you would see if you staked out "one small square" of each place, and observed it closely through the seasons. Each book documents dozens of organisms, by peeking through microscopic views, under the ground or under water, inside stems or egg cases, even examining unobtrusive lichen or tiny bacteria. It also teaches, in context, the composition of soil, rock, and other components of each environment.

Experiments and other activities are described in the margins of these books. The books are packed with so much information that children will probably not read them from cover to cover; however, they can learn a great deal just by dipping into a few pages.



One Day in the... series: Alpine Tundra, Desert, Prairie, Tropical Rain Forest, Woods

By Jean Craighead George. (1983-1999, HarperTrophy and Scholastic Inc.)

These short chapter books combine lyrical, suspenseful storytelling and expert nature writing to describe the animals and plants living in each setting. They include all of the information children need for their biomes research, but it is not presented in reference book form.