

Desert biome

Deserts are primarily defined by their **lack of** rain and water. Because deserts are so dry and their humidity is so low, they have no "blanket" to help **insulate** the ground; as a result, deserts get very hot during the day and extremely cold at night. Some deserts can reach temperatures of over 38° C during the day and -4° C during the night.

Animals have adapted to survive in the desert despite its extreme temperatures and lack of water. For example, the camel stores up **fat** in its **hump** while other animals **store** up reserves in their tails. Desert animals include **meerkats**, camels, reptiles, scorpions, among others.

Only certain types of plants can survive the **harsh** environment of the desert. These include cactus, **grasses**, **shrubs**, and some short trees. Most of these plants have a way to store water in their stems or leaves, so they can survive a long time without water.

Tundra biome

The tundra is the coldest of the biomes. It has two seasons: a long winter and a short summer. Winter in the tundra lasts around 8 months and it is extremely cold. Temperatures can reach up to -51 °C while temperatures in the summer may reach 10 °C causing the snow to **melt**.

Plants that grow in the tundra include grasses, shrubs, herbs, and **lichens**. They grow in groups and stay low to the ground to stay protected from the icy winds.

The tundra has a lot more animal activity during the summer than the winter because most birds migrate south for the summer and some mammals hibernate for the winter. Some other animals have adapted to winter in the tundra like arctic hares and foxes whose fur changes from brown in the summer to white in the winter to **blend in** with the snow.

Vocabulary:

1. Lack of: the state of being without or not having enough of something.
2. Insulate: protect from the unpleasant effects or elements.
3. Fat: a natural oily and greasy substance.
4. Hump: a rounded protuberance found on the back of a camel.
5. Store: keep or accumulate something for a future use.
6. Harsh: cruel, severe.
7. Meerkat: a suricate like Timón in the Lion King.
8. Melt: make or become liquid by the heat.
9. Blend in: to look like things nearby.



Grasses



shrubs



lichens



artic hare



artic fox

Use the Venn diagram to help you plan your writing.


