EARTH'S NATURAL REGIONS

The Earth supports a wide diversity of biomes: tundra, taiga, temperate forest, grasslands, savanna, desert, montane, tropical dry forest, tropical rain forest, and islands.

An ecosystem dominated by a large vegetation formation, whose boundaries are largely determined by the climate. (Krough)
A major type of ecosystem that covers a large geographic region. (Campbell)
A complex of ecological communities characterized by a distinctive type of vegetation, as determined by the climate. (Wallace)
One of several types of terrestrial ecosystems. (Lewis)

A biome is an ecosystem complex defined by its vegetation and comprising a geographic region.

A community of living things and the physical environment with which they interact. (Krough)
All the organisms in a given area, along with the non-living (abiotic) factors with which they interact; a biological community and its physical environment. (Campbell)
The biotic and abiotic factors of an ecological community considered together. (Wallace)
All organisms and their non-living environment in an area. (Lewis)

Those non-living features or characteristics that influence or otherwise impact the living organisms in an area

Aquatic – Freshwater and Marine
Desert
Grasslands – Savanna, prairie, steppe, and pampas
Forests – Coniferous, northern boreal, deciduous, and tropical
Mountain / Montane
Tundra
Islands? - Mountain? Aquatic?

THE FROZEN PRAIRIE

This biome circles the globe at the highest northern latitudes and often has temperatures of -50F.

This frigid biome circles the globe at the highest northern latitudes, between the taiga (to its south) and the permanent ice circling the North Pole. Tundra covers about one-fifth of the Earth's land surface; and winter temperatures are so cold, often dipping to -50F, that trees find it impossible to grow. For this reason, some people comment that the tundra looks like a frozen prairie.

In many regions of the tundra the deeper layers of soil remain frozen throughout the year -- a condition called permafrost -- and only the surface thaws during the brief summer. This tough combination of harsh climate and soil conditions makes it a challenging place for most living things.
Bare rock and scoured soils are everywhere in areas exposed by the withdrawal of massive glaciers after the last Ice Age.

The temperate forest biome
Northern hemisphere
Mid-latitudes in eastern North America, western Europe, and eastern Asia.

Southern hemisphere
South America, southern Africa, Australia, and New Zealand.

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Temperate forests are highly seasonal, trees are mostly deciduous -- dropping their leaves in the fall.
Lower latitudes, where more broad-leaved evergreen species thrive, look somewhat like the tropical dry forest.
To the north, temperate forests blend into the pines and firs of the taiga.

STRUCTURE AND FERTILITY

Tropical rain forests are layered
Adapted to survive on poor soils.
Tree growth is luxuriant in this biome
Canopy trees reaching 100 – 200 feet

The interactive collection of all the world’s ecosystems. Also, that portion of the Earth that supports life. (Keogh)
The global ecosystem; that portion of the Earth that is alive; all of life and where it lives. (Campbell)
The entire part of the Earth’s land, soil, waters, and the atmosphere in which living organisms are found. (Wallace)
The ecosystem of the entire planet. (Lewis)

The surroundings in which individuals of a species are normally found. (Keogh)
A place where an organism lives; an environmental situation in which an organism lives (Campbell)
The physical place where an organism lives (Lewis)

http://www.ucmp.berkeley.edu/glossary/gloss5/biome/tundra.html#alp

http://www.pbs.org/kteh/cadillacdesert/home.html
Cadillac Deserts – PBS

http://www.miragemall.com/desertjpegs/imagesf.htm
Images