

# 15.3 Biomes

## KEY CONCEPT

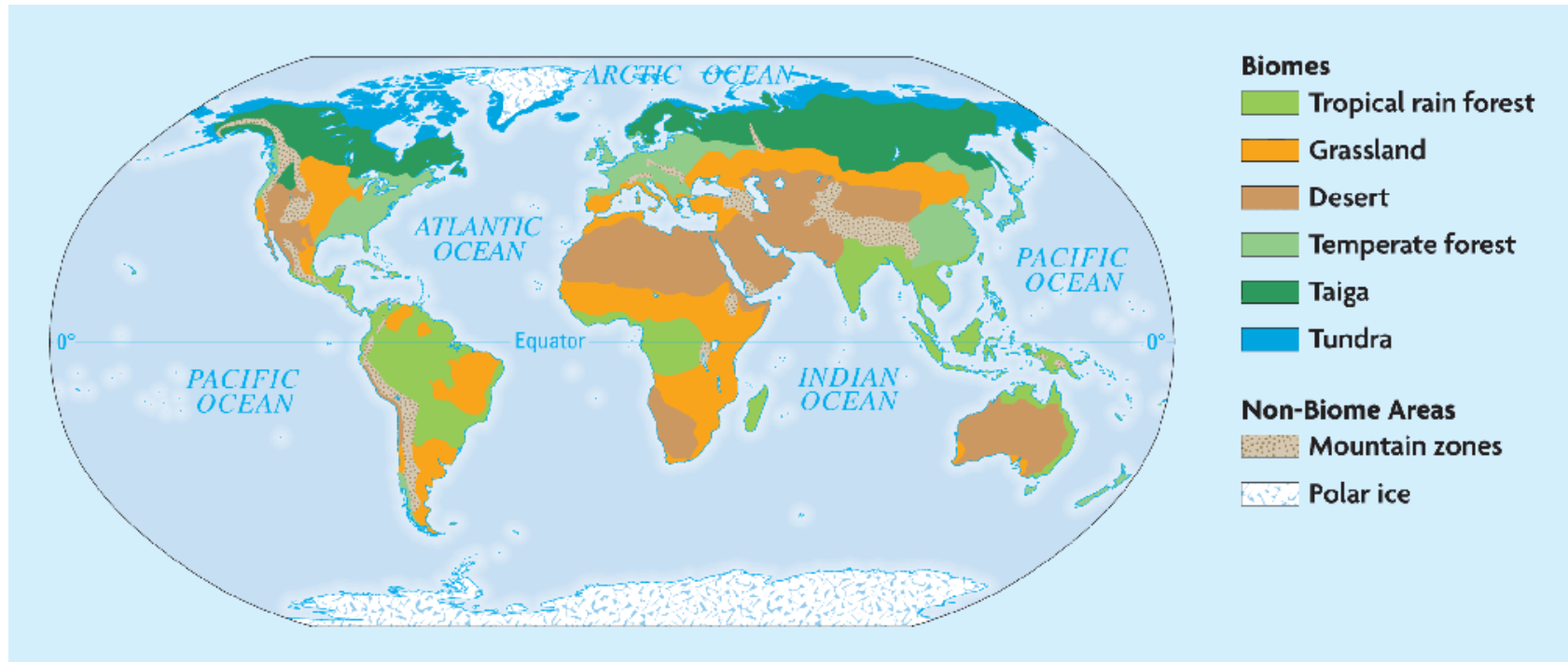
**Biomes are land-based, global communities of organisms.**



# 15.3 Biomes

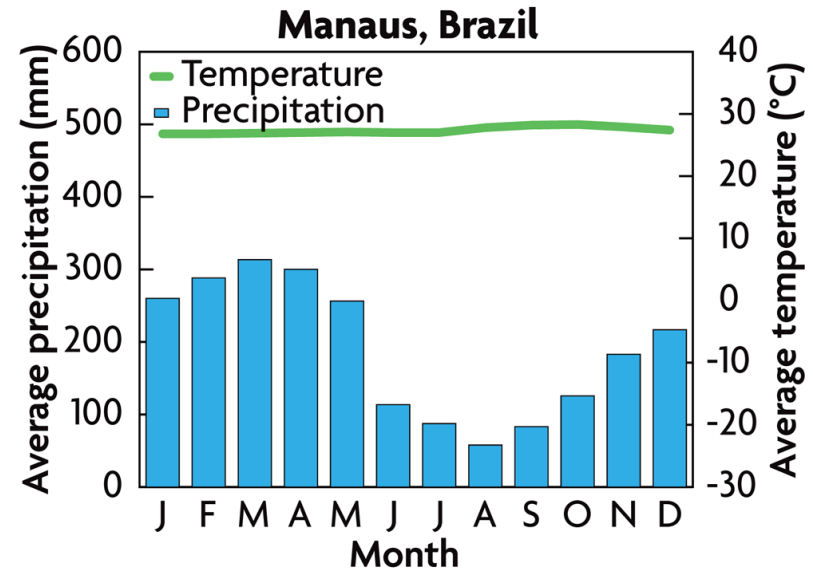
## ► Earth has six major biomes.

- A biome is a major community of organisms.



# 15.3 Biomes

- Tropical rain forest biomes produce lush forests.
  - warm temperature
  - abundant precipitation all year



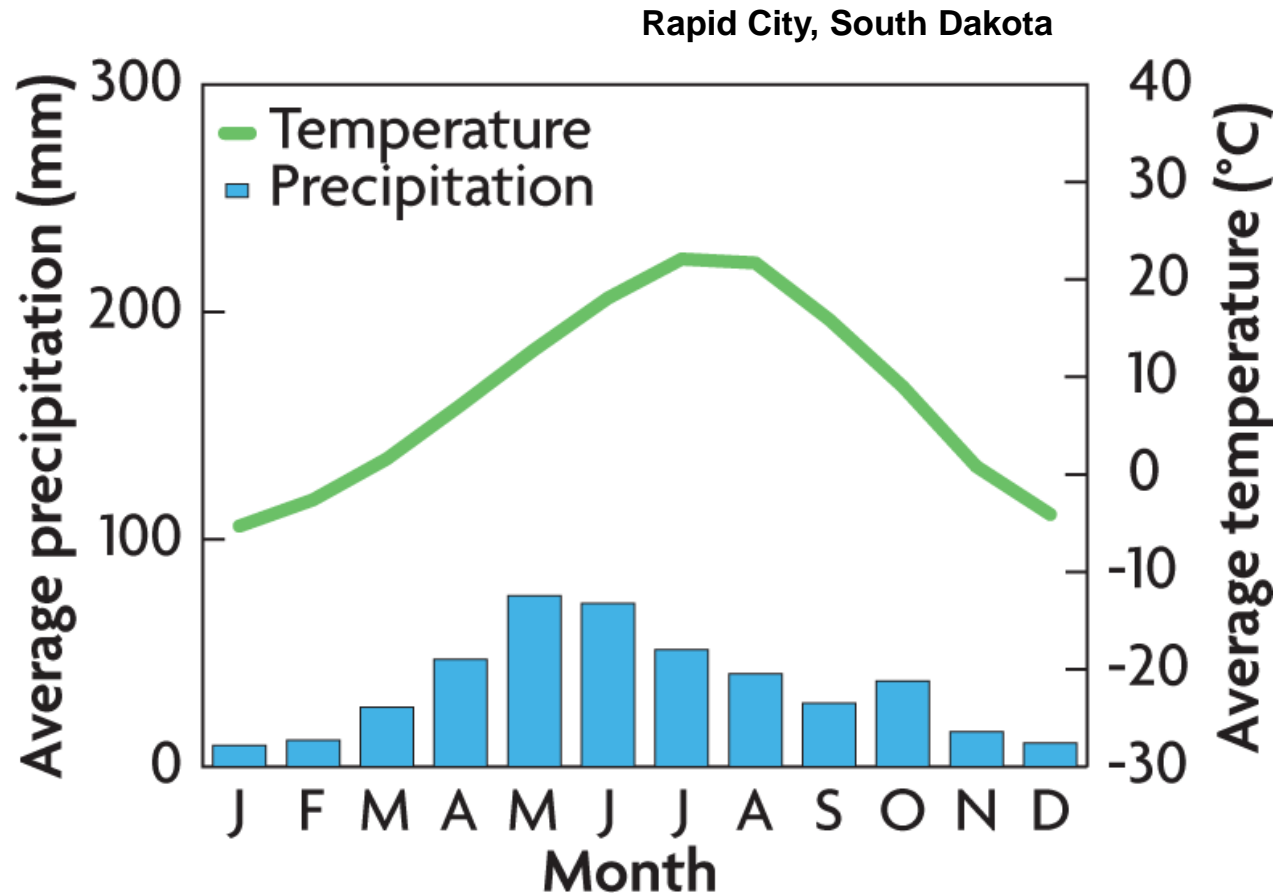
Source: World Meteorological Organization





## 15.3 Biomes

- Grassland biomes are where the primary plant life is grass.



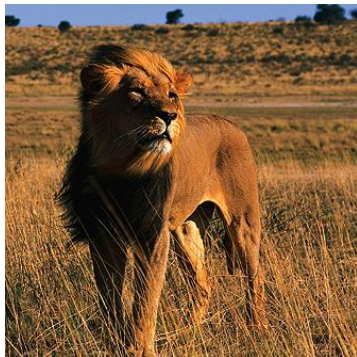
Source: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

# 15.3 Biomes

- Grassland biomes are where the primary plant life is grass.
  - Temperate grasslands are dry and warm during the summer; most precipitation falls as snow.



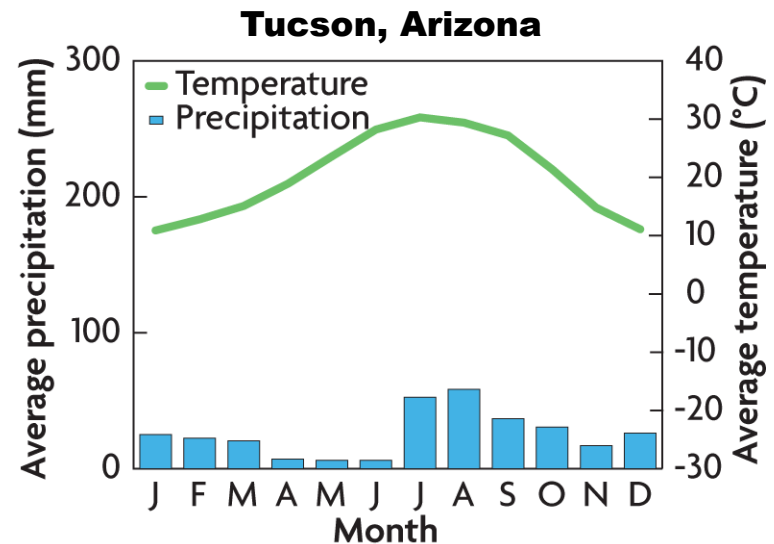
- Tropical grasslands are warm through the year, with definite dry and rainy seasons.





# 15.3 Biomes

- Desert biomes are characterized by a very arid climate.
  - very low amount of precipitation
  - four types: hot, semi-arid, coastal, and cold

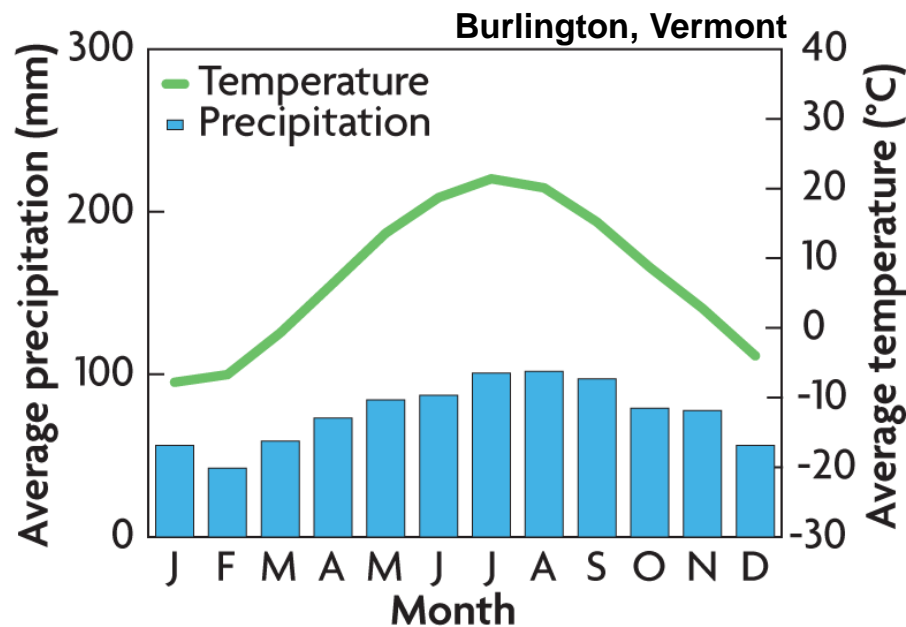


Source: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration



## 15.3 Biomes

- Temperate forest biomes include deciduous forests and rain forests.
  - Temperate deciduous forests have hot summers and cold winters.
  - Deciduous trees are the dominant plant species.



Source: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration



# 15.3 Biomes

- Temperate forest biomes include deciduous forests and rain forests.
  - Temperate deciduous forests have hot summers and cold winters.



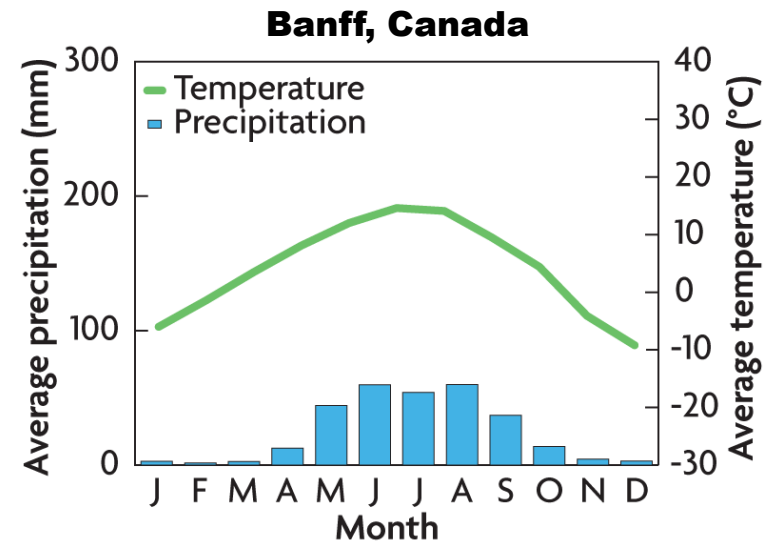
- Deciduous trees are the dominant plant species.
- The temperate rain forests have a long wet season and relatively dry summer.
- Ferns and moss cover the forest floor.





# 15.3 Biomes

- The taiga biome is located in cooler northern climates.
  - boreal forest
  - long winters and short summers
  - small amount of precipitation

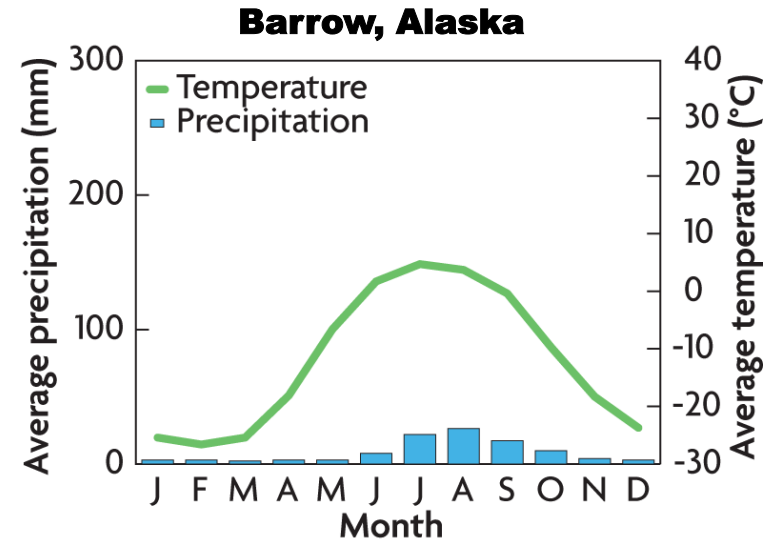


Source: Environment Canada



# 15.3 Biomes

- The tundra biome is found in the far northern latitudes with long winters.
  - winter lasts 10 months
  - limited precipitation
  - permafrost



Source: National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration





## 15.3 Biomes

- Minor biomes, such as chaparral, occur globally on a smaller scale.





# 15.3 Biomes

- ▶ **Polar ice caps and mountains are not considered biomes.**
  - Polar ice caps have no soil, therefore no plant community.
  - The climate and organisms found on mountains change as the elevation changes.

