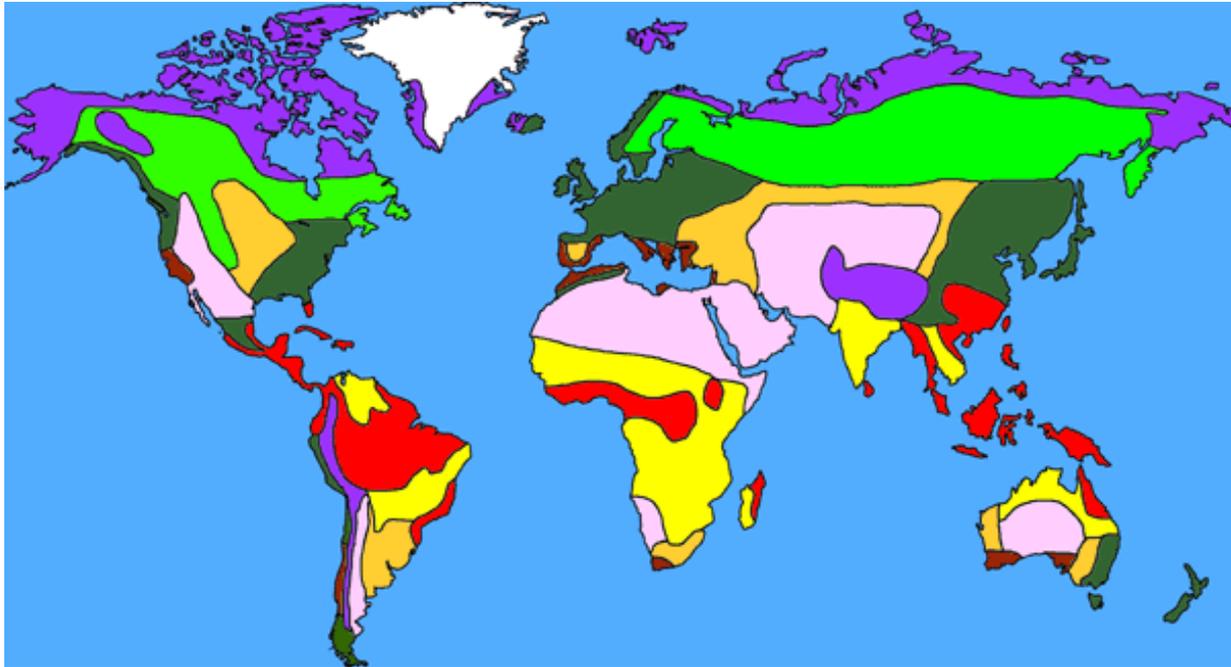


Biomes of the World

Biosphere

- “zone of life” on earth
- ALL organisms are found here
- Approx. 11miles thick, 5-6 miles above and below earths surface
- “thin film of life covering an otherwise lifeless planet”

What is a biome?



 Tropical Rainforest	 Grassland
 Tropical Savanna	 Temperate Deciduous Forest
 Desert	 Temperate Boreal Forest
 Chaparral	 Arctic and Alpine Tundra

the largest
geographic
biotic unit

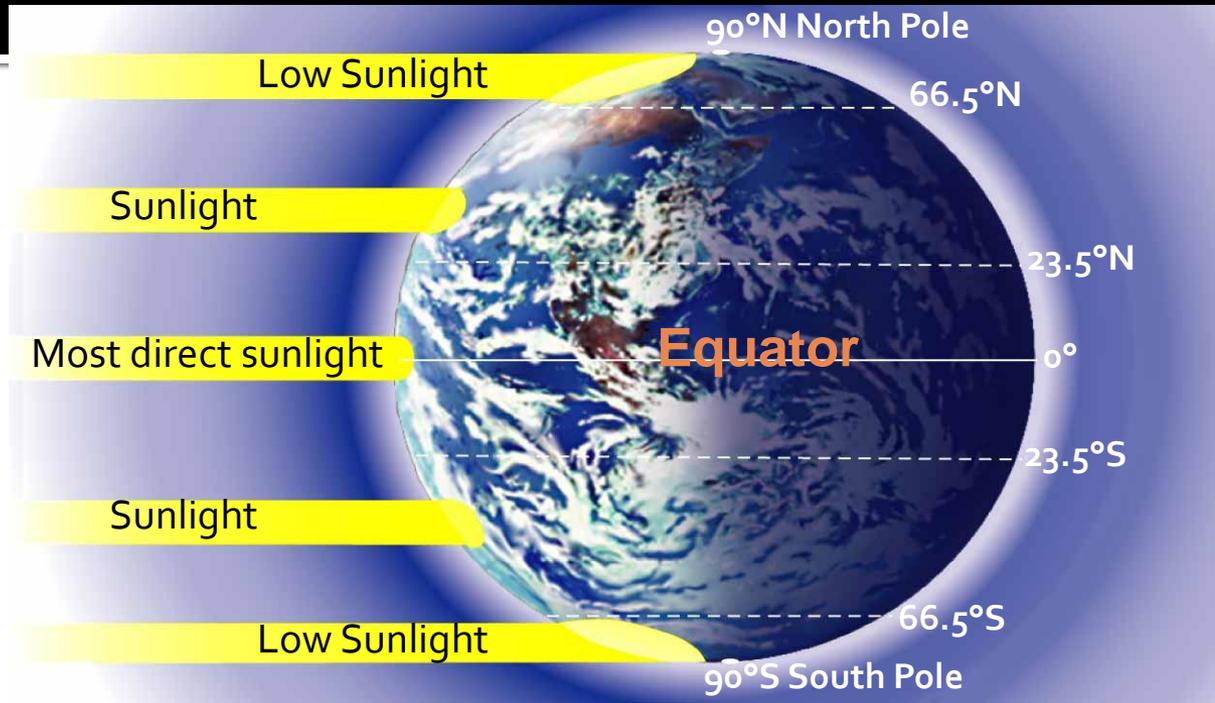
-- a major
community of
plants/animals
w/similar
vegetative
types.

-- found w/in biospheres

How are biomes formed?

- Distributed across the Earth based primarily on climate.
 - Affects on climate → latitude, elevation
 - Latitude: farther N or S of equator = colder
 - Elevation: higher up = colder
- Amount of precipitation affects climate

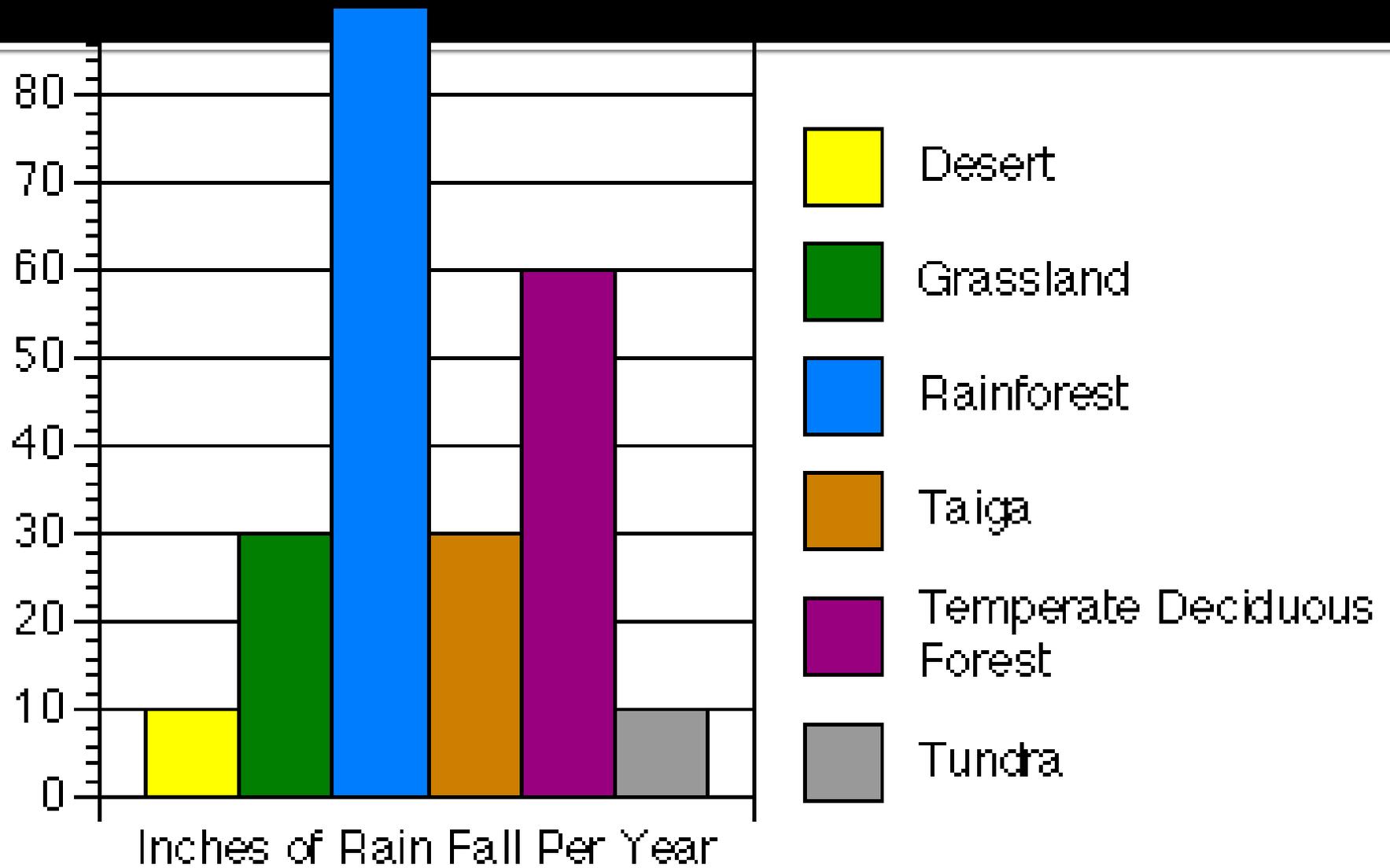
Latitude



- The amount of direct light affects the temperature.
- Remember that the equator gets the most sunlight, and polar regions get the least.

Climatograms

- Graph showing biome's monthly **temperature** and **precipitation** data in a single year
- Have both line graphs and bar graphs
- Line → represents temperature
- Bar → represents precipitation



Main Climate Zones

- Polar zones → N and S poles; cold areas
- Temperate zones → between polar zones and the tropics ; ranges from hot to cold, depending on season
- Tropical zones → near equator; almost always rain

3 major influences on biomes

- 1. growing season based on latitude (N&S)
 - Shorter growing season farthest away from equator
 - (ex: conifers = short growing season, farther north than deciduous)
- 2. rainfall amount (E&W)
 - East = many trees, more rain needed for support
- 3. elevation
 - Higher up, the colder it is

BIOMES → NORTH TO SOUTH

- TUNDRA
- TAIGA
- PRAIRES/TEMPERATE DECIDUOUS
- DESERT
- TROPICAL RAIN FOREST
- **EQUATOR**

BIOMES → WEST TO EAST

- Mountains (lots of moisture)
- Desert
- Grassland
- Temperate deciduous forest

Background Information:

- Tropical : No Seasons, Temperate : Seasons
- Tropical RF: Most Complex
 - (50% of world's animals present here)
- Grassland = Savanna = Chaparral
 - Greatest number of grazing animals
 - Aka: prairies, steppes
- Desert: Driest place on earth
- Deciduous forest: Most of human population found here
- Tundra: Most Fragile Biome
- Taiga: Largest Forest Area

