

## Hemingbrough Geography Curriculum

**Theme:** Vegetation Belts & Climate Zones    **Phase:** Lower Key Stage Two    **Year Group:** 3    **Strand:** Locational Knowledge / Human & Physical Geography

**By the end of the theme I should be able to:**

- Describe and understand key aspects of vegetation belts and climate zones..

**In Year 1 & 2 I should already have learned to:**

Use basic geographical vocabulary to refer to key physical features (beach, cliff, coast, forest, hill, mountain, sea, ocean, river, soil, valley, vegetation, season and weather) **and** key human features (city, town, village, factory, farm, house, office, port, harbour and shop).

### 1. What are climate zones and vegetation belts?

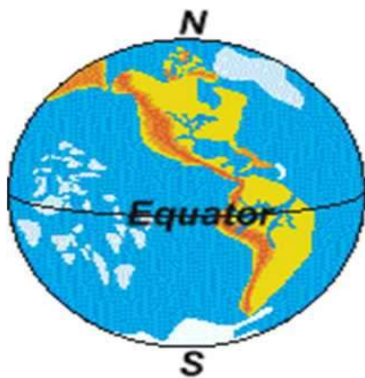
#### What is a climate zone?

The weather changes in different parts of the world. Where there are similar weather patterns this is known as a **climate zone**.

At the top and bottom of the Earth, there are **polar zones**, where some of the coldest temperatures in the world exist.

**Temperate** climates are found between the polar zones and the **Tropics of Capricorn and Cancer**. Mediterranean and **desert** climates are found here.

Further towards the equator, between the **Tropic of Cancer** and the **Tropic of Capricorn**, there is a **tropical** climate.



#### What is a Vegetation Belt?

An area with distinct plant types, determined by **climate zone**, soil, **drainage**, and **elevation**. There are five major **vegetation regions**: **forest**, **grassland**, **tundra**, **desert**, and **ice sheet**.

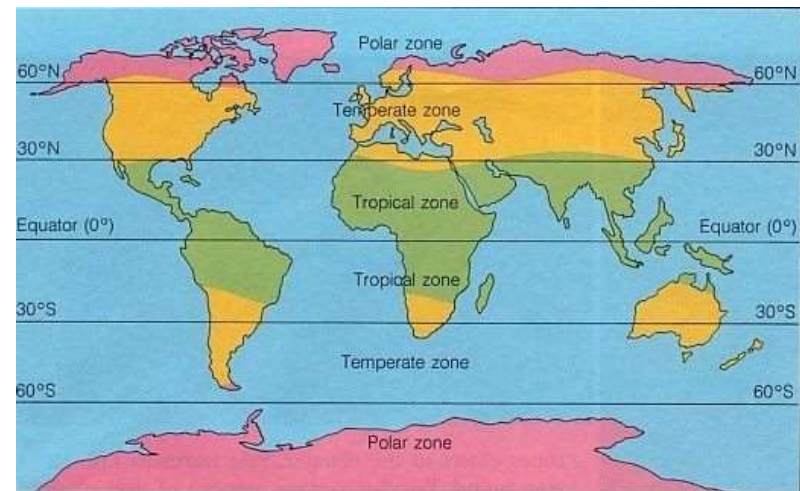
#### KEY VOCABULARY

<b>climate zone</b>	areas of and with distinct climates
<b>polar zone</b>	region around the North Pole
<b>temperate</b>	climate zone with mild temperatures
<b>tropical</b>	climate zone with hot, humid weather
<b>Equator</b>	line around the middle of the Earth
<b>grassland</b>	large piece of land with grass and few trees
<b>forest</b>	large area covered by trees
<b>desert</b>	a barren landscape with little rain
<b>tundra</b>	flat, dry, treeless Arctic region
<b>ice sheet</b>	a large layer of ice covering
<b>vegetation</b>	plants in a given climate

### 2. How are climate zones and vegetation belts linked?

The vegetation that grows in a region is dependent on the temperature and precipitation there, which are two key factors of climate. Areas with more rainfall and higher temperatures contain more forests, while regions with less rainfall tend to be deserts.

### 3. Can you describe where different climate zones are using your knowledge of the equator?



**Can you describe the features of the 5 major vegetation regions? (Forest, grassland, tundra, desert and ice sheet).**

**FOREST**

A forest is a piece of land with many trees.

There are three categories of forest on Earth; **temperate, tropical and boreal**. Within these three categories are different types of forest, such as; **temperate and tropical rainforests, deciduous forests, coniferous forests and mangrove forests.**

**Coniferous forests** dominate in cold climates: the conifers keep the soil shaded and cool so other plants cannot grow.

**Deciduous forests** (N. America, Europe & Asia) lose leaves in Winter which decay, creating nutrients for new plants to grow.

**Rainforest:** found in tropical climates.

**DESERT**

A desert is an area where little or no life exists because of a lack of water. About one-fifth of the earth's land surface is desert.

Deserts are on every continent except Europe.

Deserts are 'hot and dry' or 'cool and dry'.

Snakes and lizards, and amphibians, like frogs and toads—are well-adapted to the hot desert.

Most desert plants are cacti.



**GRASSLAND**

Grasslands can be both **tropical** and **temperate**.

Tropical grasslands are also called **savannahs**.

'Grasslands' or 'savannahs' are usually found between deserts and forests.

Temperate grasslands include: prairies (N. America), steppes (Russia) and pampas (S. America).

**Skills**

	Teacher Assessment	Self-Assessment
I can answer questions about physical and human features.		
I can use maps to locate countries and make assumptions about physicality		
I can use maps to locate the Equator, the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn and Consider the countries and climates that surround these		
I can compare places, and understand some reasons for similarities and differences		
Comparing places, and understand some reasons for similarities and differences		

**TUNDRA**

Tundra is a cold and treeless area where it is difficult for plants and animals to survive.

Around 20% of the earth's surface is Tundra.

Tundra is cold and dry, with a much rainfall as the desert but in the form of snow.

Permafrost lies beneath the topsoil all year.

**Arctic Tundra:** located in the Arctic.

**Alpine Tundra:** found high in the mountains

**ICE SHEET**

An ice sheet is a mass of glacial ice of more than 1900 square miles.

Ice sheets contain about 99% of fresh water found on Earth.

There are only two ice sheets on Earth today: the Antarctic Ice Sheet and the Greenland Ice Sheet.

Ice sheets are formed by layers of snow building other over many years.

