

Practice • Characteristics of Biomes

Student Edition pages 337–341

For each biome, decide if the characteristics describe it. Complete the table by placing check marks in the correct columns. Some descriptions may describe more than one biome.

Characteristics of Major Land Biomes							
Characteristic	Tundra	Taiga	Tropical Rain Forest	Temperate Grassland	Savanna	Temperate Forest	Desert
1. Highest yearly rainfall							
2. Mostly cone-bearing trees							
3. Trees lose their leaves in fall							
4. Caribou and lichens live here							
5. Cacti grow							
6. Permafrost							
7. Very hot and dry							
8. Used for farmland							
9. Has tall grasses and trees							
10. Broad-leaf trees, vines, and fern grow							
11. No trees							
12. Warm and wet all year							

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WRITE ABOUT BIOLOGY

What are two freshwater biomes and two saltwater biomes? What are the basic characteristics of each? How are these biomes important? Write your answer on a separate sheet of paper. Use complete sentences.