



Year 5 Geography

Week beginning 22nd June

L.O.: I can understand what a biome is and identify them.

DON'T DO AT HOME IF YOU ARE COMING IN TO SCHOOL THIS WEEK!

What Are Ecosystems and Biomes?

An **ecosystem** is a system of plants and animals which are interconnected and working together. You will have learnt about these in Year 4.

Some ecosystems are found under a stone or in a pond and are very small, whereas others are very large and cover the majority of a continent.

An ecosystem covering a large area of a continent is called a **biome**.



Types of Biomes

alpine

Colder climates found at high altitudes in mountain ranges. Populated with coniferous trees such as firs and pines.

chaparral

Hot and dry like a desert, but has more rain and therefore more plants and animals, including yucca, trees and cacti, coyotes, deer, lizards and jack rabbits.

deciduous forest

Warm, wet and mild areas and dominated by deciduous trees (trees that lose their leaves in the autumn).

desert

Deserts are dry; less than 25cm rain per year. They can be hot and sandy or cold and icy. Both hot and cold deserts can support life as long as it is well adapted, such as cacti and silver ants in hot deserts, and penguins in cold deserts.

Types of Biomes

desert scrub

Very dry areas of hot deserts populated with grasses, herbs and shrubs adapted to live in very arid areas.

grasslands

Areas where a variety of grasses grow. There are few other trees or plants apart from near to water sources. The grasslands are very hot places in summer. Some become extremely cold in the winter.

rainforest

Warm, wet and humid, rainforests are home to half of the world's species and are populated with dense vegetation and trees. Rainforest animals include sloths, howler monkeys and jaguars.

Types of Biomes

savanna

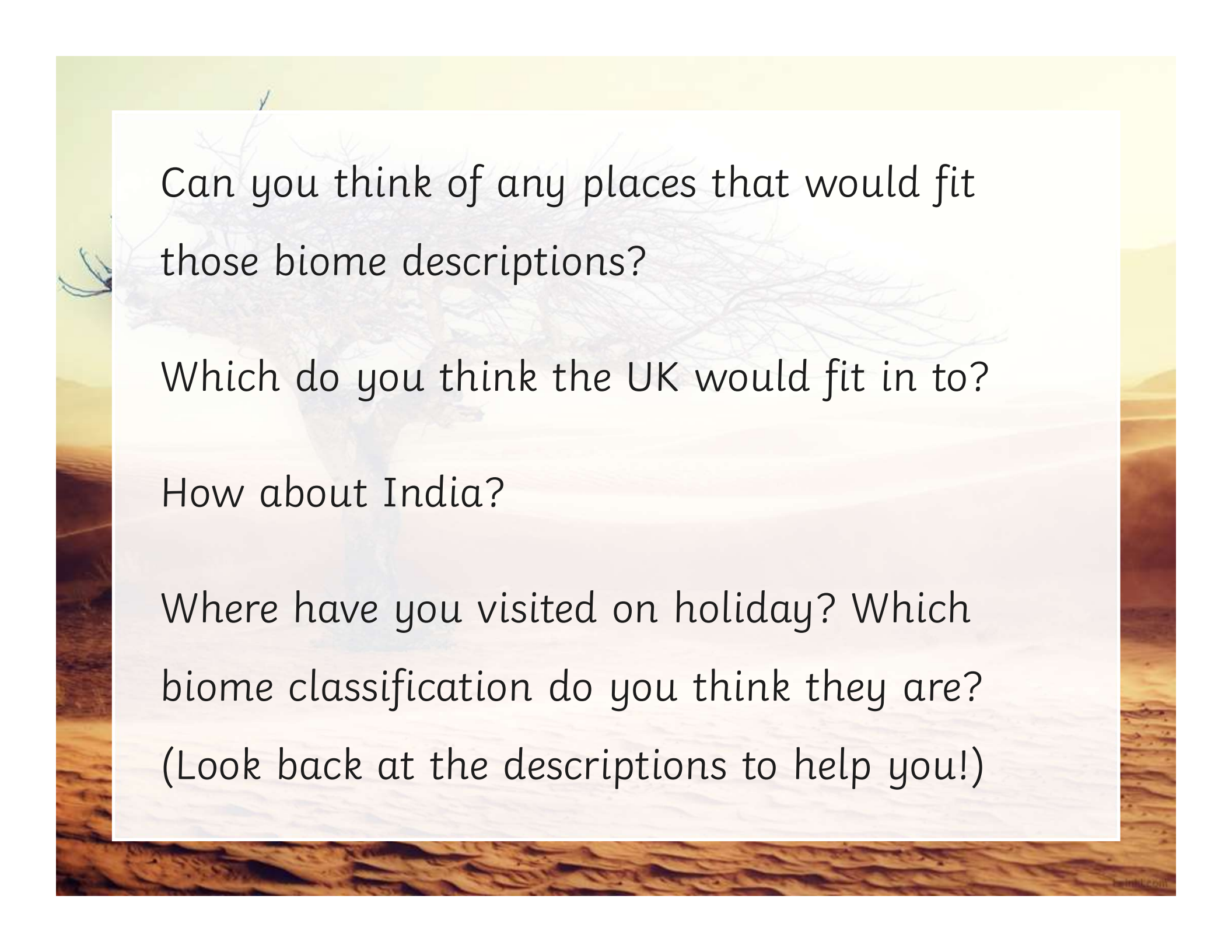
This is a mixture of grasslands and woodland. There are some trees but they are spread out enough to allow the sunlight to reach the ground and grasses in between. Animals that live here include zebras, giraffes and lions.

taiga

Very wet and cold, receiving plenty of snow during the winter. Coniferous trees are evergreen and remain green all year round. The soil is not very nutritious and therefore, the variety of vegetation is limited.

tundra

Cold, harsh and difficult for much vegetation to survive. Found at the top of mountains and the Poles. These areas are snow-covered and all life here is very hardy, including mosses, birds and mountain goats.



Can you think of any places that would fit those biome descriptions?

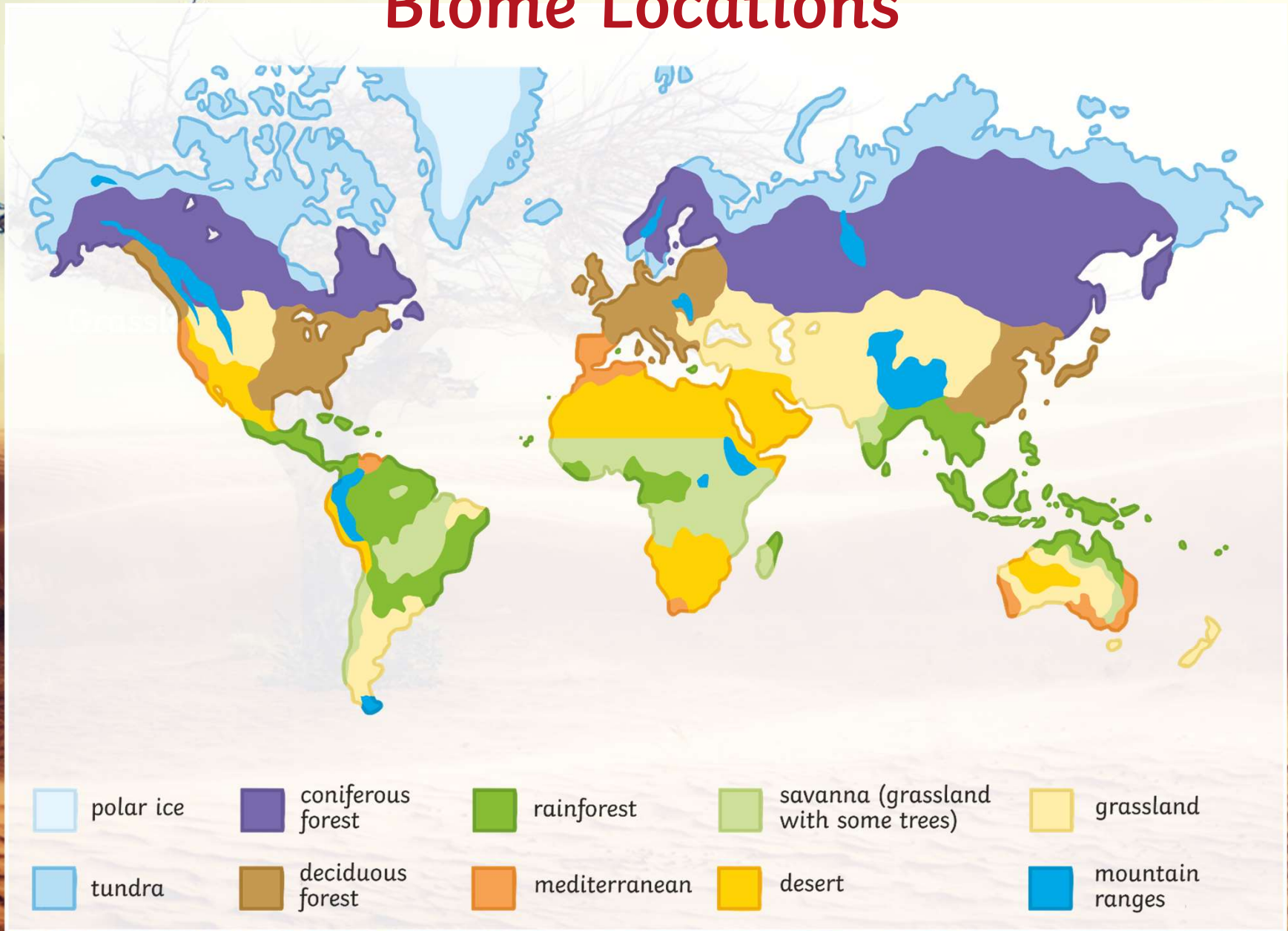
Which do you think the UK would fit in to?

How about India?

Where have you visited on holiday? Which biome classification do you think they are?

(Look back at the descriptions to help you!)

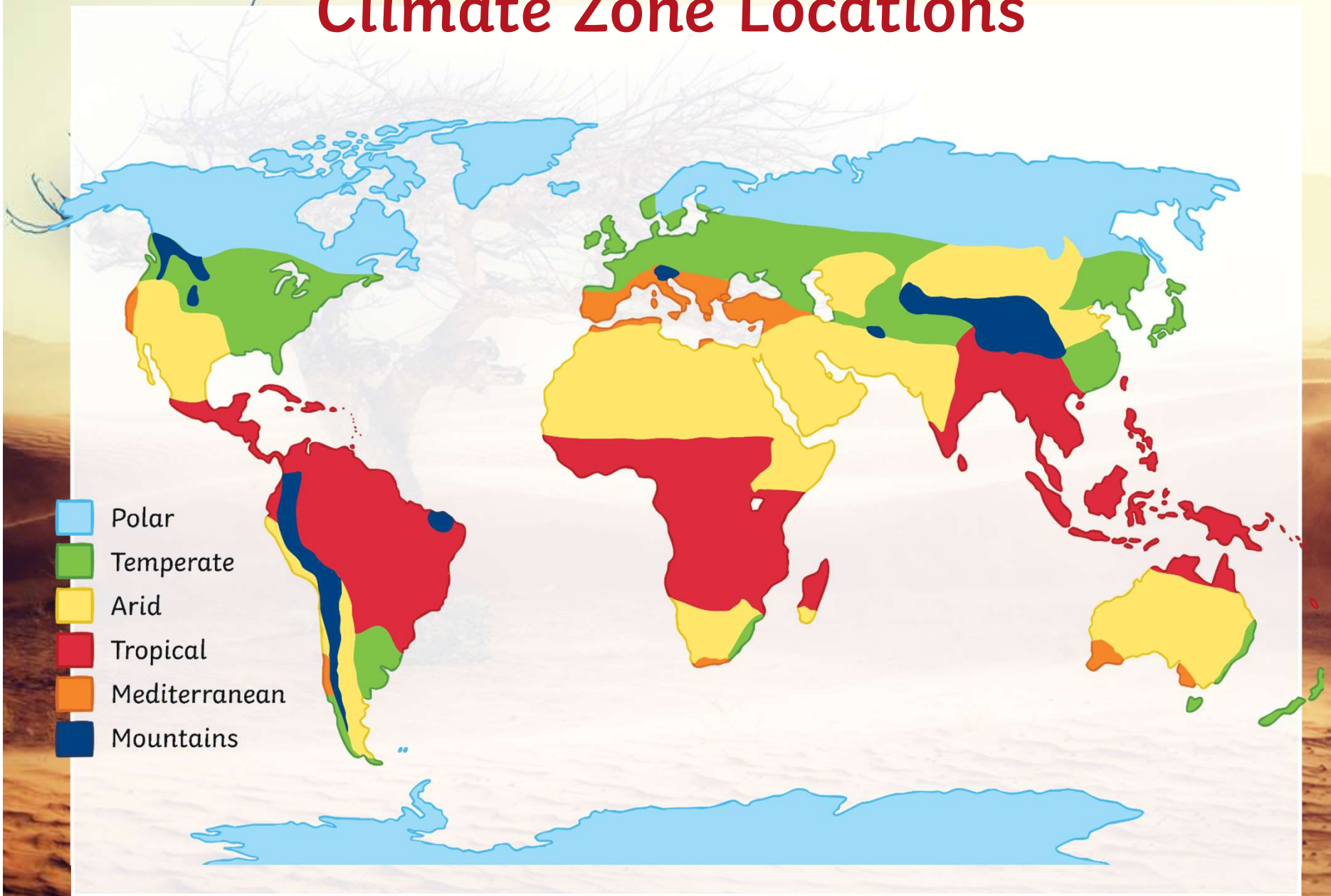
Biome Locations



Types of Climate Zone

Biome	Description	Example
Polar	Very cold and dry all year round	Antarctica
Temperate	Cold winters and mild summers	UK
Arid	Dry and hot all year round	Sahara Desert
Tropical	Hot and wet all year round	Brazil
Mediterranean	Dry, hot summers and mild winters	Spain
Mountain	Very cold, sometimes wet, all year	Himalayas

Climate Zone Locations



Linking Biomes and Climates

Draw out this table.

Area	Biome	Climate
North Africa		
Northern Russia		
India		
Central Australia		
Eastern USA		
UK		
Mexico		
Canada		
Spain		

Task 1: Use an atlas (or online Google Maps or similar) to locate these countries, and then cross reference with the maps on pages 6 and 8 of this presentation to help you answer these questions. Fill in the answers on the table you have drawn out.
What is the biome in...
What is the climate in...

North Africa?	India?	Eastern USA?
Russia?	Central Australia?	the UK?
Mexico?	Canada?	Spain?

Do you notice any patterns between biomes and climates?

Task 2: Choose one of the biomes listed on pages 3 – 5 to draw a detailed picture of. Include what plants and animals live there, what the terrain (ground) is like and how the weather is likely to be. You could do some further research online to find out more.