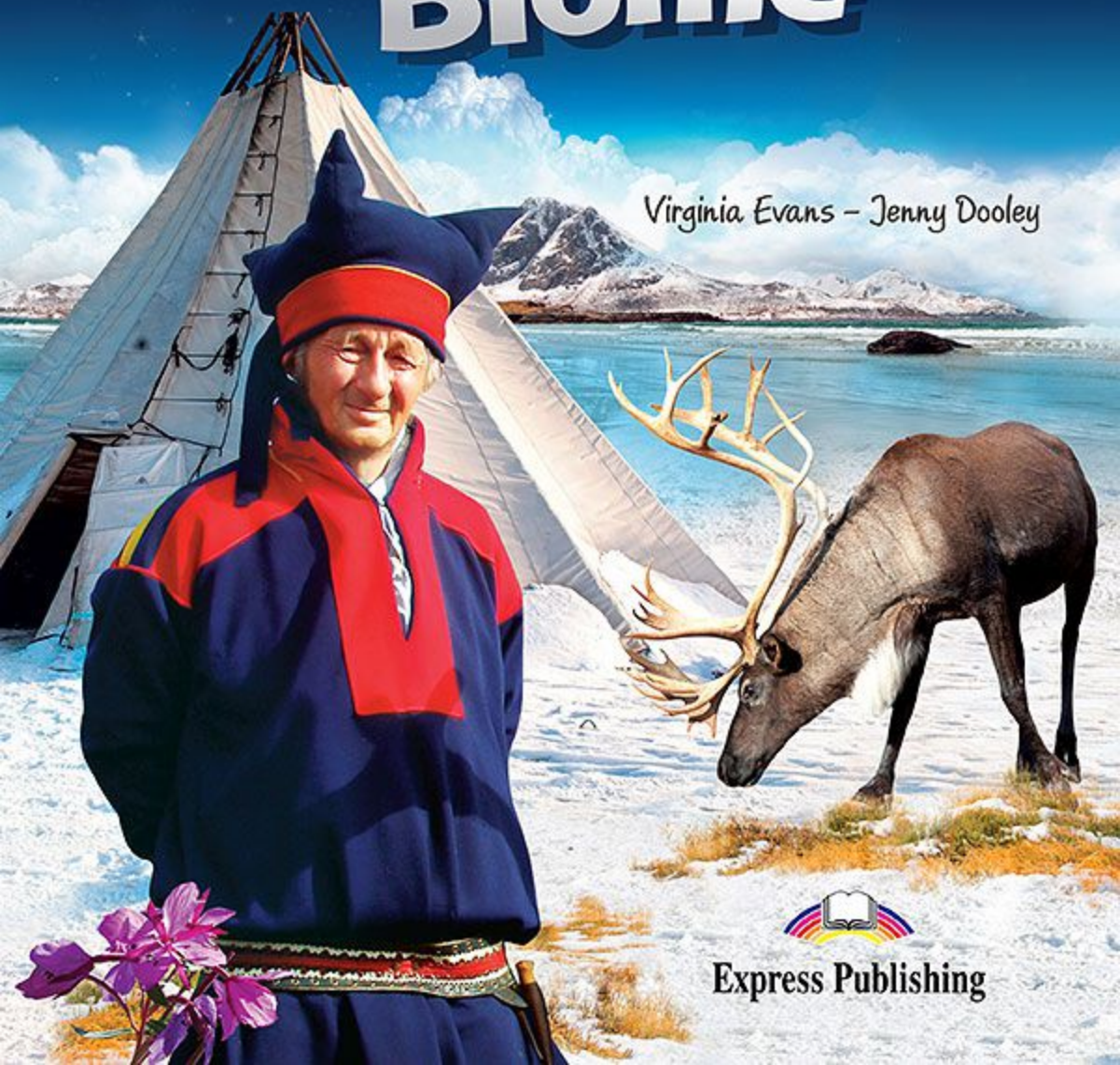


# The Tundra Biome

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# Introduction

Every living thing, whether large or small, simple or complex, depends on other plants and animals to survive. An example of this is the relationship between grass, rabbits, and foxes. The grass is eaten by the rabbits, which in turn are eaten by the foxes. The foxes depend on

the rabbits for food, and the rabbits need the grass to survive. A community of different animals and plants which all depend on each other is called an ecosystem, and a large group of ecosystems is contained in a biome. But a biome is not the same as an ecosystem.



People use the idea of biomes to help them understand Earth's diversity. Biomes divide the surface of the Earth into different groups, based on the climate and the kind of vegetation that occurs there. Tropical rainforest biomes in Africa and South America, for example, will have similar kinds of vegetation and climate, but they will each contain very different ecosystems. Not everyone agrees about how to divide up the earth into biomes, but nevertheless these categories are still helpful.





More than 2,000  
species of butterflies  
live in the rainforests  
of South America.

## The Tropical Rainforest Biome

**Location:** mainly in South America, Africa, and South Asia

**Climate:** warm and wet all year; very little variation from one month to the next in temperature or rainfall

**Common Flora and Fauna:** extremely diverse plant species; monkeys, parrots, panthers

**Special Features:** complex structure, as the biome is split into the emergent, canopy, understory, and forest floor layers







## ***The Temperate Broadleaf Deciduous Forest Biome***

**Location:** mainly in Europe, North America, and East Asia

**Climate:** well-defined seasons with a cold winter and warm summer; precipitation is evenly distributed throughout the year

**Common Flora and Fauna:**  
large, broadleaf trees, e.g. oak, beech, maple, etc.; deer, foxes, bears, owls



**Special Features:** trees change color and shed leaves during the fall