

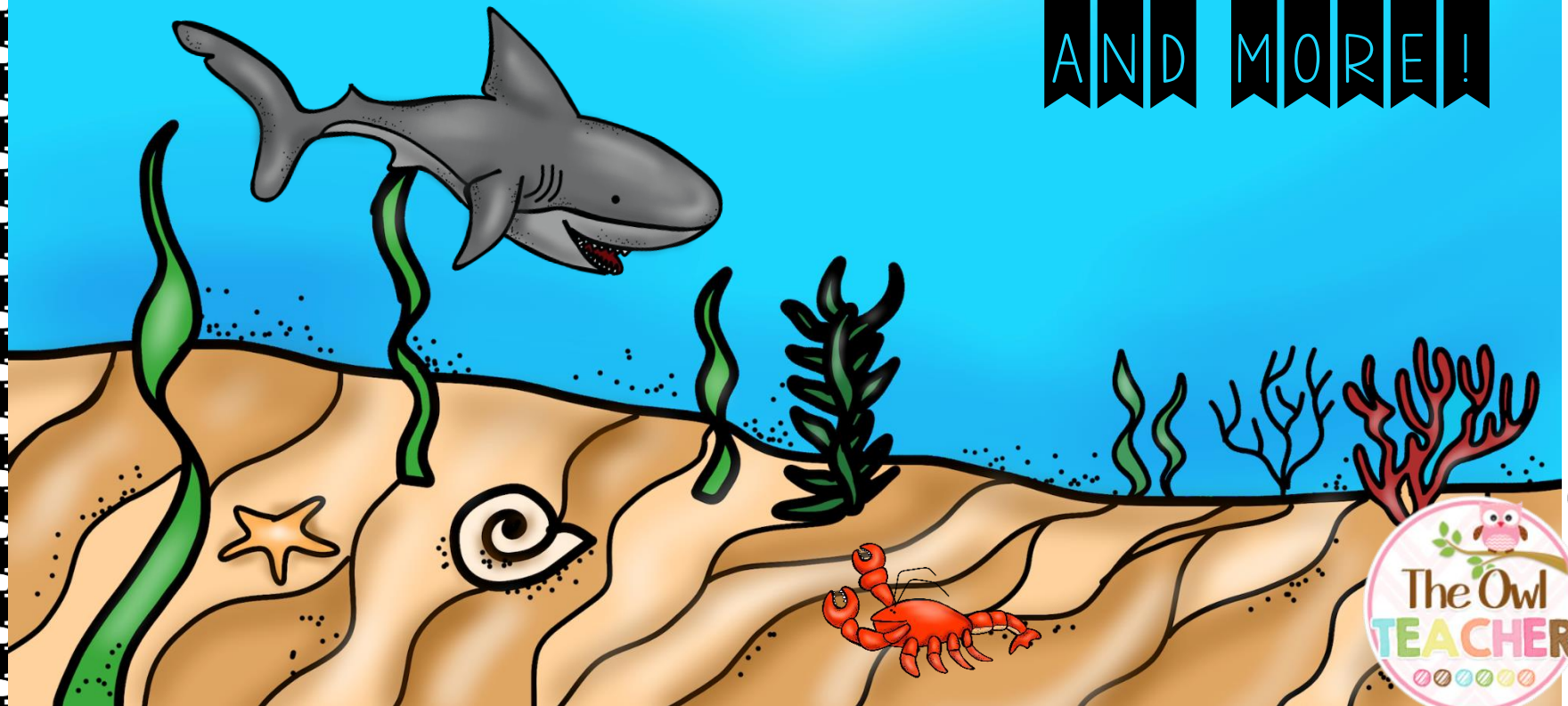
# Biomes

# Scavenger

# Hunt

AND MORE!

Meets  
ELA  
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# Teacher's Page

This fun, hands-on activity was created to cover the common biomes of the Earth. In this resource you will find half sheets that describe each biome, including fun facts! To use, just simply print them out, cut them in half, and laminate if desired. Then either place them in a center, hang them around the room, or use them in small groups or whole groups. These cards come with two different types of questions. The first set of questions highlights each biome and requires students to read the card in order to answer the question. The second set of questions are like riddles that require students to read all the cards and determine which biome it is describing. Both activities are a great way to practice reading skills while still learning science. Additionally, I have provided Venn diagrams for students to compare and contrast biomes. I have also included an answer key for your convenience.

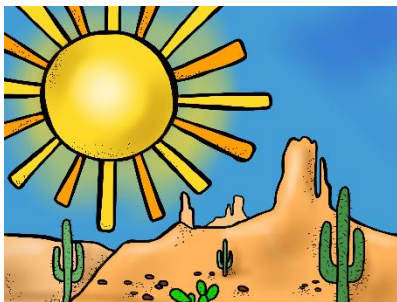
In this resource you will find the following biomes covered:

- |                       |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| *deserts              | *grasslands |
| *tundra               | *savannas   |
| *coniferous forests   | *mountains  |
| *deciduous forests    | *wetlands   |
| *tropical rainforests | *arctic     |
| *prairies             | *Antarctic  |
| *ocean                | *freshwater |

I provided a variety to try to cover all school's curriculum. You are more than welcome to remove some cards from the set. If you can think of any I should add, please let me know.

I personally use all of my products in my classroom and can testify to the effectiveness of them. This product was well enjoyed by my students. We placed the cards around the room and answered questions in the carousel format. Then together as a whole class we checked our answers and for fun followed up with the Who Am I sheet as a quiz to see what they remembered.

I hope you enjoy this activity!



## Desert

When people think of the desert, they think of a really hot region with sand and tumbleweeds tossing

through the breeze.

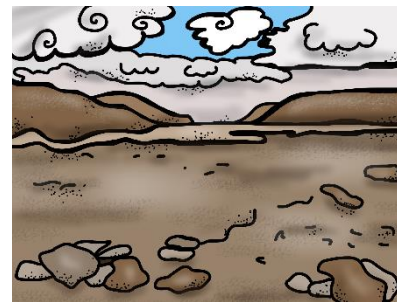
That vision is only partly true. Not all deserts have sand. While 1/3 of the Earth's surfaces are deserts, only 20% of those deserts are covered with sand.

Indeed deserts are hot during the day time but at night, it can actually get really cold. Sometimes it will get so cold that water can freeze. That is, if there was water. One of the things that defines a desert is how little rain it gets. Usually deserts have less than 6 inches of rain in a year. That is incredibly dry!

The word "desert" used to mean 'abandoned place' because there was very little life there. Very few plants and animals can survive in deserts, but it is home to lizards, coyotes, and rattlesnakes. You will also find various shrubs and cactuses in the desert.

There are many deserts around our world such as the Sahara Desert, the Arabian Desert, and the Atacama Desert.

## Biomes



## Tundra

Did you know that a tundra is actually a desert? It is a very *cold* desert found at the north pole!

A tundra is definitely a desert because it receives about 10 inches of precipitation each year – and that's usually in the form of snow. In fact, it is so cold here that the ground is frozen solid! The average temperature is a *rigid* *fr*.

Since the ground is frozen and the temperatures are so cold in the tundra, there are few nutrients to support animals and plants. Some shrubs and lichens live in the tundra, but most plants that live there have to "huddle" together to stay warm and protect themselves.

In the summer, the tundra is a bit warmer and a bit more active. For instance, during the summer, polar bears will come to the arctic to give birth to their cubs. You can also find other animals such as caribou and the arctic fox.

The tundra has been melting a bit more in recent years. That means it's starting to shrink.

## Biomes

# Deciduous Forest



Deciduous forests are a temperate type of forest with mild temperatures. In this biome, it experiences all four seasons and

the leaves of the trees cycle through changes. For instance, in the fall the leaves change colors, while in the winter it sheds its leaves.

Deciduous forests generally receive about 30 to 60 inches in rain a year and has an average temperature of 50 °F. However, in the winter, the temperature can fall below freezing. Because of this reason, many trees in the deciduous forest have deep roots to keep roots from freezing up.

In deciduous forests, many animals are camouflaged or blend in with the color of the surrounding area. Along with black bears, wolves, and coyotes, you will also find oak trees, maple trees, and chestnut trees. Along the forest floor you will also find wildflowers, mosses, and mushrooms.

## Biomes

# Savanna



Savannas are tropical grasslands, and therefore have a lot in common with them. Since it is tropical, that means

the temperatures are a bit different. In a savanna, there are two seasons – the dry season and the rainy season. It is warm all year, but typically cooler during the dryer season. During the rainy season it is humid and it typically receives 15 to 25 inches of rain.

Can you imagine seeing grasses taller than you are? Here grass can grow up to six feet tall! While there are scattered trees and shrubs, most of the area is covered with grasses such as Bermuda grass.

Just like in temperate grasslands, fires are needed to renew the land and create richer soil. The trees in a savannah have really thick bark so it can withstand the fires.

In savannas you can find large herds of elephants, lions, zebras, and giraffes. The fastest land animal, the cheetah, is also found here.

## Biomes

# Scavenger Hunt Questions

**Directions:** Read each card about its particular biome. Then answer the questions that follow. Use complete sentences and support your answer from the text.

1.) Why are **wetlands** important?

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2.) In the **grassland** biome, what kind of animals can you find?

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3.) What is another name for the **coniferous** forest?

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4.) How do plants stay warm and protect themselves in the **tundra**?

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5.) What are the two seasons in a **Savanna**?

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6.) Why do humans not live in the **Antarctic**?

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7.) How often and how much are **tropical rainforests** being cut down?

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# Who Am I?

**Directions:** Read each card about its particular biome. Then read each clue below and determine which biome it is. Write its name on the line. Each biome will only be used once.

- 1.) I was once called the "abandoned place." Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2.) I have multiple names. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) I am the largest biome in the world. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4.) My biome is owned by multiple countries. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5.) I have the coldest temperature on record. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6.) My biome is commonly called a wasteland. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7.) My biome has a large variety of animals. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8.) I once had been which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 9.) My biome is at least over 1,000 feet. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 10.) My leaves change my biome. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 11.) My biome often has to clean up the forest floor. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 12.) My icy biome is shrinking. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 13.) Grass can grow 6 feet tall in my biome. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 14.) My biome supplies more than half the water supply. Which biome am I?  
\_\_\_\_\_