

## Answers for comparing and contrasting biomes.

### **Deserts**

- Deserts are the hottest and driest areas of the Earth.
- Temperatures can reach 50 °C during the day and below 0 °C during the night.
- There is little rainfall.
- Few people live in deserts.
- The Sahara Desert is the world's largest desert.

### **Tropical Rainforests:**

- Tropical rainforests are found close to the equator.
- The temperature is consistent throughout the year (around 30 °C throughout the year).
- There are two seasons: the wet season and the dry season.
- The hot and humid climate provides the ideal conditions for half the world's plant and animal species to live.
- The world's largest rainforest is the Amazon rainforest.

### **Savannahs:**

- Savannahs are hot, dry grasslands.
- There are two seasons: a dry season (when plants die back) and a wet seasons (when plants grow quickly).
- Savannahs can be found in countries such as Brazil, Kenya, northern Australia, Tanzania, Venezuela and Zambia.

### **Temperate Forests:**

- Temperate forests contain trees that lose their leaves in winter.
- Temperate forests can be found across most of Europe, USA, New Zealand, parts of Australia and northern Japan.
- The climate is mild and wet and there are warm summers and cold winters.

**Marine Biomes:**

- This is the largest biome in the world.
- Marine biomes take up 70% of the Earth and provide 90% of the world's water supply.
- Over 230 distinct species live in them.
- There are 5 main marine biomes; the Pacific, the Atlantic, the Indian, the Arctic and the Southern Oceans.
- The average temperature is 4°C.
- The water is extremely salty and so the creatures that live in it are adapted to survive.
- There is very little plant life due to the lack of sunlight, especially in the deeper parts of the oceans.

**Freshwater Biomes:**

- Freshwater biomes consist of lakes, ponds, streams, rivers and other small bodies of water.
- 700 different species of fish found in freshwater sources.
- Other creatures such as crocodiles, hippopotamuses, turtles and frogs live in freshwater.
- Freshwater biomes contain less than 1% salt.
- The largest freshwater biome is the Florida Everglades.
- Plants and grass grow in and around freshwater sources.