



# Discovering Biomes

## Diversity of Habitats

All plants and animals have four basic needs - shelter, food, water, and space. These needs can be met in a variety of unique and different ways. Across the earth, plants and animals have learned to live within distinct biomes, finding ways to survive and adapt to their specific environment.



### What is a Biome?

Biomes are large, naturally occurring collections of plants and animals. Each biome experiences a different range of temperatures and rainfall. Well-known biomes include Tropical Rainforests, the Ocean, the Tundra (where polar bears live), and Deserts.



### Biome vs Habitat

So how is a biome different from a habitat? The main difference between the two is size. Biomes are large areas of land that span across countries and continents and hold within them many different habitats. Habitats are smaller areas that meet the needs of a specific animal population.



### Animal adaptations

With such a diverse collection of biomes, animals must find a way to adapt to their environment. Some animals use camouflage - weasels and rabbits change the color of their fur to blend in with the soil in the summer and the snow in the winter. Other animals hibernate during the cold winter or dig burrows underground to escape the intense summer heat.



### Facing the extremes

Deserts contain some of the hottest and coldest living conditions on the planet. On top of that, they also get the least amount of rainfall (typically less than 4 inches/year). Plants that live in these extreme conditions must find ways to survive the harsh environment. In heat deserts, cacti will store extra water inside their tissue and grow spines to protect their supply from animals that might want to eat them.

**View upcoming events!**

<https://rockledgegardens.com/little-bugs-club/>

Take a look below for a fun biome craft!



# little bugs club



## Discovering Biomes

### Design your own biome!

Now it's your turn to create a biome for your favorite animal! The first step is to pick out what animal you want to build a biome for (the animal could be a toy that you have or you can print out pictures of multiple animals that would live in the same biome). Be creative! Collect materials from nature; use cotton balls for clouds, glaciers, or snow; you can even make your biome 2 levels to show the difference between life above and below the water or the different levels of the rainforest!

#### Materials Needed:

- Shoe box
- Crafting materials (glue, markers, scissors...)
- Animal(s) of your choice
- Materials to decorate your biome

#### Instructions:

This craft is pretty simple in its instructions. You basically just design and decorate whatever landscape you'd like. You can color, paint, and add materials you've collected to create the best biome you can imagine!

