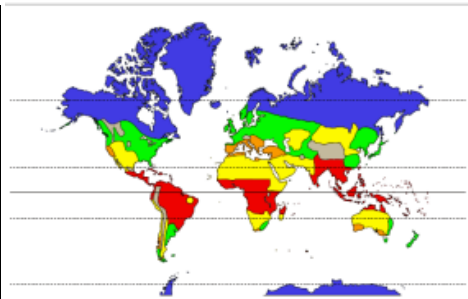


Geography Term 3 Knowledge Organiser – Climate and Weather

Key Vocabulary

Biome	A geographical area defined by its climate, plant and animal life and the activities of the people who live there.
Weather	Conditions in the atmosphere on a particular day, such as temperature, windiness, rainfall, hours of sunshine or cloud cover.
Climate Zone	A part of the world where places have a similar climate (i.e., Arid, Mediterranean, temperate, tropical, polar).
Environment	Conditions to which a plant, animal or person is adapted.
Fauna	Animals native to an area, such as birds, reptiles and insects.
Flora	Plants native to an area, such as trees, climbers, flowers and grasses.
Rainfall	Measured level of water that has fallen as rain, snow, sleet or hail in a given period.
Temperature	Temperature is the degree of hotness or coldness of the atmosphere on some chosen scale.
Tropical	The region on either side of the Equator, between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.
Tundra	Land where the soil beneath the surface is frozen all year and trees cannot survive the low temperatures and short growing season.
Temperate	Areas with moderate rainfall spread across the year or portion of the year with mild to warm summers and cool to cold winters.
Polar	Areas close to the North and South Pole that have long, cold winters. Average temperatures are mostly below freezing.
Mediterranean	A climate of dry summers and mild, wet winters, which generally have hilly landscapes.
Arid	Land or a climate that has little or no rain; too dry or barren to support vegetation.



Mediterranean

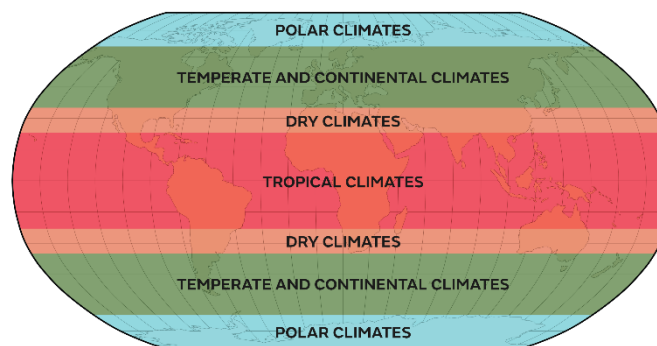
Temperate

Tropical

Arid

Polar

Climate is the average daily and seasonal weather patterns over a long period of time. The Equator is an invisible line that runs around the centre of the Earth. The closer you live to the Equator, the hotter it is. As the Earth is tilted on an axis, the Northern and Southern Hemispheres experience different types of weather at the same time of the year.



Weather is short term. It is what happens in our atmosphere from day to day. It includes precipitation (rain), temperature, wind and humidity. Weather varies from place to place, from day to day and from season to season. The range of weather in a place is a characteristic of its climate.

Climate is long term. It refers to the average weather pattern of a place over many years. Climates can be predominantly hot, cold, wet or dry, hot and wet, hot and dry and so on. The climate of a place affects the soil, flora and fauna of that place and impacts on human activity in a variety of ways.

Biomes include deserts, forests, grasslands, tundra and aquatic environments. They are defined collectively by the climate, soil organisms, flora and fauna of a large geographical area. Each biome consists of many ecosystems whose communities have adapted to the small differences in climate and the environment inside the biome.

