

What on Earth is a Biome?

Answers

A biome is a large geographical area of the world characterized by similar climate, animals, and plants. Some biomes are terrestrial (land-based), and some are aquatic. **Aquatic** biomes can be freshwater biomes or marine biomes. “**Marine**” biomes refer to saltwater biomes. In other words, biomes can be categorized like this:

BIOMES

Terrestrial (land)

- **Tundra**
- **Forest** (includes rainforest, temperate forest, chaparral, and taiga)
- **Grassland** (includes temperate grassland and savanna)
- **Alpine**
- **Desert**

Aquatic (water)

- **Freshwater** (includes freshwater wetlands and estuaries)
- **Marine** (saltwater; includes oceans and coral reefs)

Classify the areas below as either terrestrial or aquatic:

1. The Great Barrier Reef: aquatic
2. Arctic Ocean: aquatic
3. Gobi Desert: terrestrial
4. Lake Tahoe: aquatic
5. Florida Everglades: aquatic
6. Swiss Alps: terrestrial
7. Amazon River: aquatic
8. North American Prairie: terrestrial

Which type of biome, terrestrial or aquatic, is best suited for human survival? Explain your reasoning.

(answers will vary)

WATER