**CLASS COPY**

**Student Guide - Part I: Biomes**

A **biome** is one of the world’s major communities, classified according to the predominant vegetation and characterized by adaptation of organisms to that particular environment. In other words, a biome is a large habitat with a certain climate and land formations that lead to the growth of plants adapted to the area which in turn support the other organisms that live there. Scientists don’t agree as to the exact number and types of biomes but the most commonly accepted are freshwater, marine, forest, grassland, desert, and tundra. Biomes are found all over the globe.

Look at the map of world biomes provided by your teacher in the Student Reference Sheet.

You may look at the map of biomes and think, “the eastern United States is not a forest!” When assigning a biome type, scientists use the process of succession. Succession is the change in types of species present in a community over time such as after a disturbance. In other words, if New York City was evacuated and all of the buildings were removed to allow the land to return to its natural state, the land would eventually become a forest. The area would remain a forest until a disturbance such as a fire or human construction occurs.

**Step One:** Research the biome assigned to you by your teacher, make a poster and present your biome to your class.

Use the notes section in your *Student Journal* to organize the research information for your presentation.

Your poster must include the following: total of 100 pts

* Type of biome (10 pts)
* Location/region research (10pts)
* Climate of the biome (10 pts)
* Abiotic features of the biome
  + Soil/water (fresh or salt water) type (10pts)
  + Two geology or land forms (10pts each – total of 20pts)
  + annual amount of rain (10pts)
* Biodiversity of the biome
  + Two types of plants (10pts)
  + Two species of animals (10pts)
* Name a common disturbance that would start succession (10pts)

Bonus Point: total possible bonus points 20pts

* Map your biome, label and color (10pts)
* Two extra species of animals that live in your biome (1pt each – total 2pts)
* Two extra types of plants that are in your biome (1pt each – total 2pts)
* What type of succession (primary or secondary) would occur after your listed common disturbance (5pts)
* Are lichens needed for the type of succession that you listed and why (1pt)

**Step Two:** Take notes in your *Student Journal* during the biome gallery walk. Your notes must include: Type of Biome, Climate of the biome, Abiotic features of the biome, Biodiversity of the biome.