

What is my Biome?  
Seasons and Biomes Learning Activity

**Draft**

Dr. Leslie S. Gordon

**Purpose:**

- To have students investigate the key characteristics of their local environment and compare them to the characteristics of the land biomes listed on the website at [http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?biome\\_desc&lang=en&nav=1](http://www.globe.gov/fsl/html/templ.cgi?biome_desc&lang=en&nav=1)
- To support the use of GLOBE protocols and instruments for student research.

**Overview:**

Students will collect data and use the internet to learn more about their local environment over the year and compare it to the general list of biomes at the url above

**Student Outcomes:**

- Students will use GLOBE instruments and protocols to investigate their local environment in order to understand its characteristics and to compare these characteristics to those on the biome list on the GLOBE website.
- Students will use GLOBE protocols and instruments, the internet, and reference books to help them determine in which biome their local environment best fits and then learn more about that biome.

**Science Concepts:**

- A biome is a large geographic area of distinctive plant and animal groups that are adapted specifically for a particular environment. Biome type is determined by the climate and geography of a region. See "Land Biomes" url listed above for a description of each land biome. Biomes sometimes are given local names. For example, Temperate Grasslands are called *steppe* in Eurasia, *prairie* in North America and *pampas* in South America.
- Each biome has seasonal changes that can be observed and recorded.
- The local environment at the GLOBE study site may vary from the general biome for an number of reasons
- An environment is the external conditions, resources, stimuli etc. with which an organism interacts

**Essential Questions:**

- What are the key characteristics of my local environment and how do they compare to the biome at large
- How do I learn about my local environment?
- How do I learn about my biome?
- How does my biome change from season to season?
- How is my biome changing over the years?
- What impact will these changes have on me?

**Inquiry Abilities**

- Observe
- Measure
- Infer
- Predict