

OCEANS

ENDANGERED
BIOMES



DONNA LATHAM

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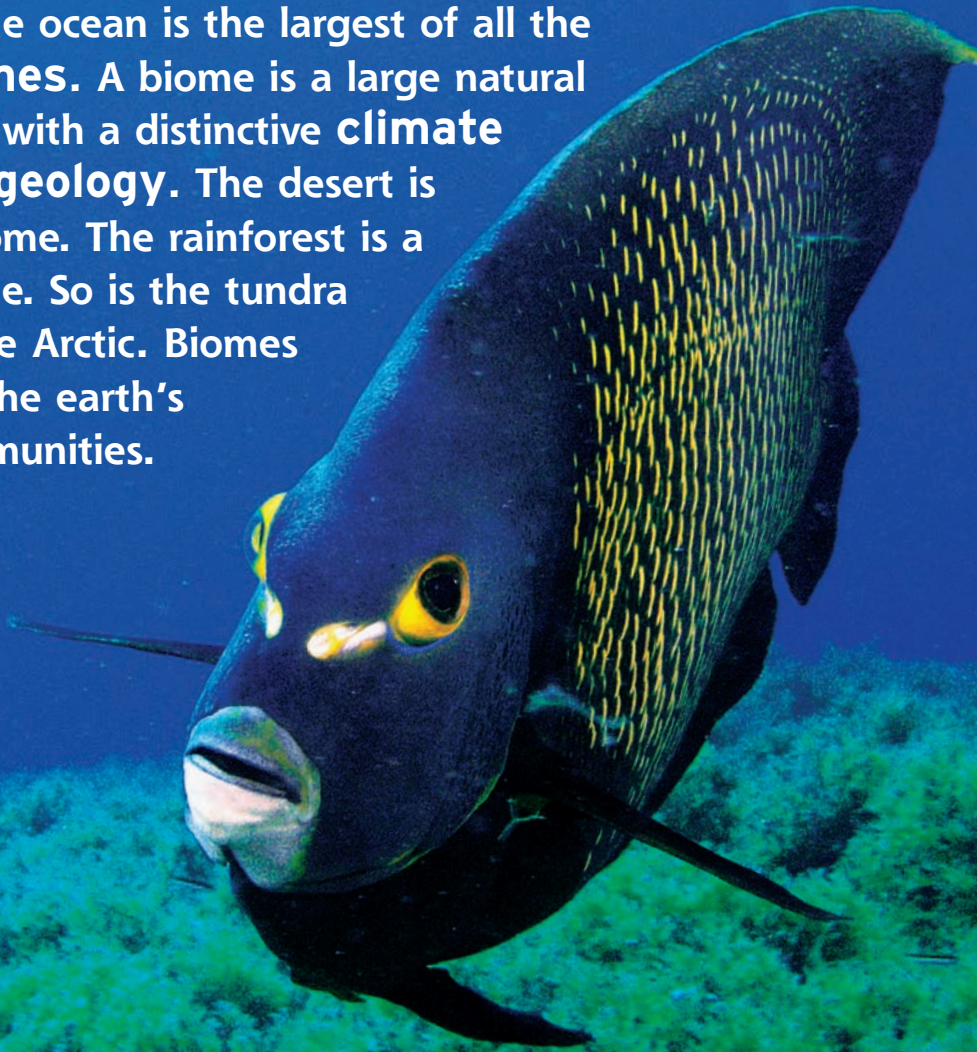
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What Is a Biome?

Earth is a watery world. Its nickname is the "Blue Planet" because water covers almost three-quarters of its surface.

The ocean is the largest of all the **biomes**. A biome is a large natural area with a distinctive **climate** and **geology**. The desert is a biome. The rainforest is a biome. So is the tundra in the Arctic. Biomes are the earth's communities.





Words to Know

biome: a large natural area with a distinctive climate, geology, and set of water resources. A biome's plants and animals are adapted for life there.

climate: average weather patterns in an area over a period of many years.

geology: the rocks, minerals, and physical structure of an area.

adapt: changes a plant or animal makes to survive in new or different conditions.

ecosystem: a community of living and nonliving things and their environment. Living things are plants, animals, and insects. Nonliving things are soil, rocks, and water.

environment: everything in nature, living and nonliving.

Each biome has its own biodiversity, which is the range of living things **adapted** for life there. It also contains many **ecosystems**. In an ecosystem, living and nonliving things interact with their **environment**.

Teamwork keeps the system balanced and working. Earth's biomes are connected together, creating a vast web of life.

Landscape and Climate

Another word for ocean is marine. The marine biome is the salt water surrounding all the continents. It includes the Atlantic, Pacific, Arctic, Indian, and Southern Oceans.

Did You Know?

Scientists don't agree on how many biomes there are. Some divide the earth into 5 biomes. Others argue for 12.