

The Tundra

It is crazy cold in the Arctic Tundra. The word Tundra means "treeless plain". The ground is always frozen in the Tundra and it is called the permafrost.

The Tundra has been called "the land of the midnight sun". One fifth of the Earth is a Tundra biome.

The Arctic Tundra is located in the Northern Hemisphere near the north pole.

There is also a Tundra in alpine mountain tops which is called the Alpine Tundra.

The average rainfall in the Tundra ranges from 15 to 25 cm. It never gets any warmer than 4°C - 10°C. It is a windy region.

Summer and winter are the Tundra's two main seasons.

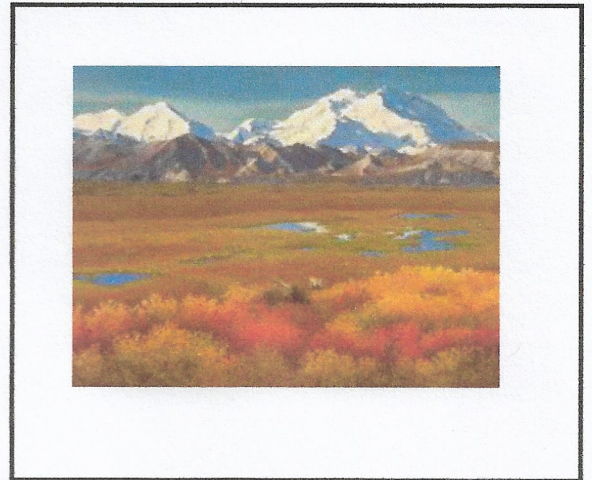
The Tundra is cold all year and summer is very short (6-10 weeks) with some mild temperatures when the sun shines. Winters are very long and very cold.

The tundra is a rocky landscape. Lichen - a combination of fungi and algae - grow on the rocks. Lichens are the favourite food of reindeer that migrate across the tundra in vast herds. During winter, these lichens are the only food for the reindeer.

The animals that live in the Tundra have adapted by having extra layers of fat and long fur. Some of the animals will migrate or hibernate for the long winters. There are herbivores (lemmings, caribou, squirrels), carnivores (arctic foxes, wolves, polar bears) and birds that migrate (ravens, falcons). There are very few reptiles or amphibians in the Tundra due to the extreme cold. There are insects (flies, bees), too.

Trees do not grow in the Tundra. Plants grow and reproduce in the top layer of soil which is just above the permafrost layer. Plants only grow for the short summer season, when permafrost melts and there is also lots of surface water. After that, they are dormant. Plants in the tundra include low shrubs, flowers, lichens, mosses and grasses.

Plants adapt in the Tundra by grouping together to survive the strong winds and cold temperatures.



BIOME: THE TUNDRA

Read the passage and take notes.

Location (where it is)

IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE NEAR THE NORTH POLE
AND ALSO IN ALPIN MOUNTAIN TOPS

Climate/ Temperature

AVERAGE RAINFALL FROM 15 TO 25 cm; TEMPERATURE
FROM 4°C TO 10°C ; IT'S A WINDY REGION; THE SUMMER
IS VERY SHORT (6-10 WEEKS); WINTERS ARE VERY LONG AND
COLD

Animals (Fauna) and their adaptation

THE ANIMALS HAVE ADAPTED BY HAVING EXTRA LAYERS OF FAT AND
LONG FUR. THERE ARE HERBIVORES, CARNIVORES, BIRDS THAT
MIGRATE, VERY FEW REPTILES OR AMPHIBIANS.
THERE ARE ALSO INSECTS.

Trees (Flora) and their adaptation

TREES DO NOT GROW IN THE TUNDRA. PLANTS ONLY GROW FOR
THE SHORT SUMMER SEASON. PLANTS GROW AND REPRODUCE
IN THE TOP LAYER OF SOIL.
PLANTS GROW IN THE TUNDRA BY GROUPING TOGETHER.

Soil

ABOVE THE PERMAFROST LAYER.

