



Year 6 Term 3

Is all of America the same?



Key vocabulary	
biome	a large area within a climate zone with similar plants and animals that thrive in those conditions
Canadian Shield	The largest region of Canada, made of some of the oldest rock surfaces on Earth
climate zones	areas that have similar weather conditions and climate, e.g. the tropics
Koppen System	A system that sorts climates into five zones based on rainfall and temperature
plains	large areas of flat land
temperate forests	Forests with four clear seasons, moderate rainfall and lots of trees
tundra	a very cold, treeless place, mostly in the Arctic, with frozen ground

Skills - We are geographers!

1. Use the eight points of a compass and six figure grid references, to describe geographical features of locations in North/South America.	
2. Use physical and political maps, atlases and globes to locate and describe physical features of North/South America, mountains, climate & temperature.	
3. Analyse, communicate and explain geographical information by constructing maps with keys.	

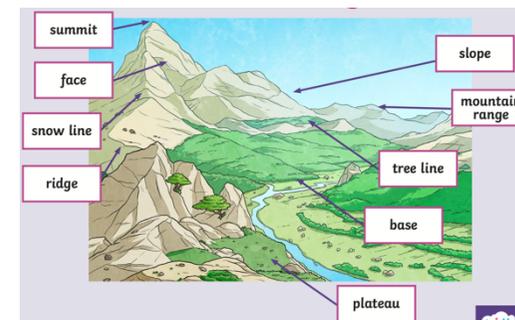
Key knowledge:

- The globe is split into **climate zones** and **biomes**.
 - The **Köppen System** is used to the earth into 5 main climate zones, depending on the temperature and rainfall: *tropical, dry, temperate, continental, polar*. Some maps have more climate zones.
 - There can be more than one **biome** in a climate zone. Biomes are areas plants and animals that thrive in the conditions of a specific region, depending on the climate.

We can study climatic maps to identify and locate climate zones.

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|----------|--|
| A | (Tropical): Hot climates with average temperatures above 18°C (64°F) year-round |
| B | (Dry): Arid and semi-arid regions where evaporation exceeds precipitation |
| C | (Temperate): Mild climates with moderate temperatures and distinct seasons |
| D | (Continental): Cold climates with significant temperature variations between seasons |
| E | (Polar): Extremely cold climates with average temperatures below 10°C (50°F) in the warmest month |

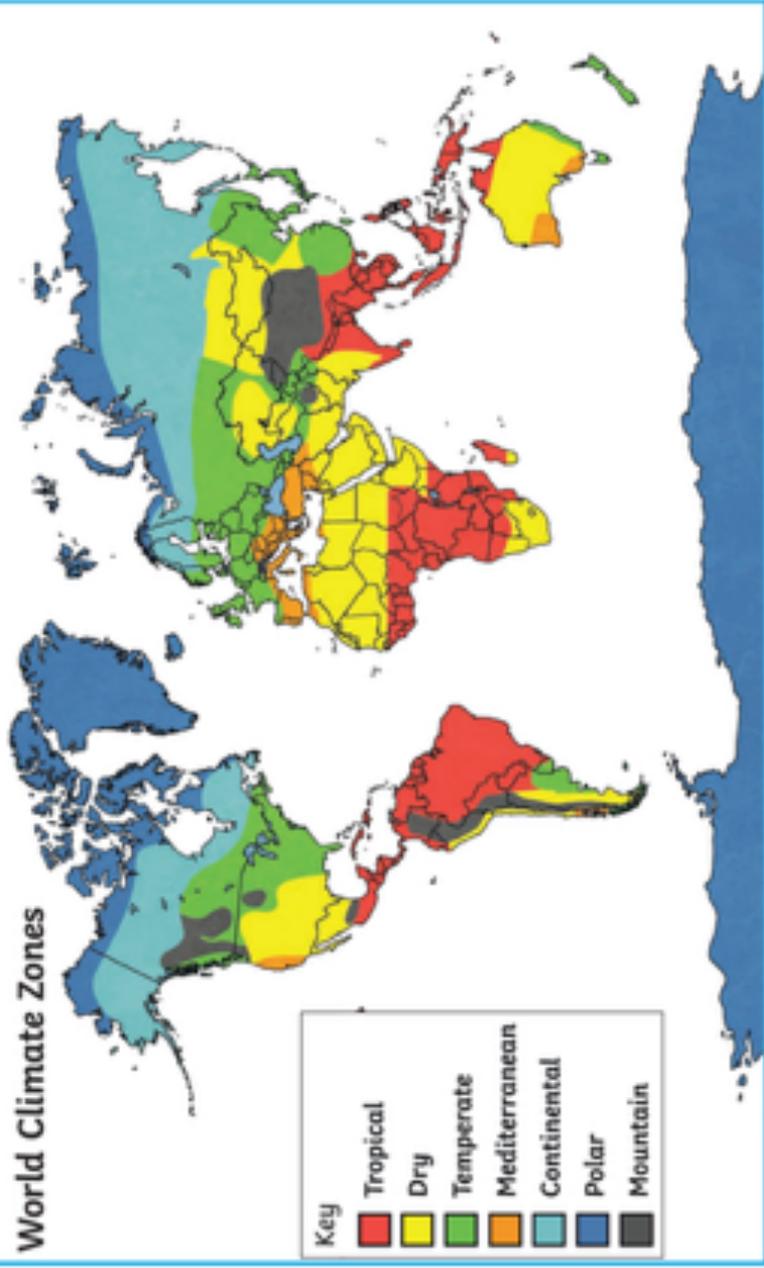
- Mountain ranges are a collection of mountains or hills. Features of a mountain are:
 - Base - the bottom where it meets flat ground.
 - Summit - the highest point of a hill or mountain.
 - Plateau - a flat part of land high up the mountain.
 - Ridge - long, narrow top connecting mountains.
 - Snow Line - above this snow covers all year round.
 - Face - the visible side of a mountain
 - Tree Line - after this point, trees cannot grow.
 - Slope - an incline or decline on the side of a mountain.



The Americas:

- The landscape in the Americas is varied, consisting of different biomes: rainforests, mountains, **temperate forests, tundra, plains, deserts** and the **Canadian Shield**. We can explore how the different climate zones affect the landscape.
- Within these different biomes, there are different animals and plants that may have made adaptations that enable survival in tropical, arid, temperate, continental, and polar zones, for example rainforest animals.
- Global warming is affecting the biomes, causing the tundra to get warmer, deserts to warm, and glaciers in mountain ranges to melt, affecting habitats and wildlife.

World Climate Zones



World Biomes

