

Science 9 Unit 4.1 KEY

How might this look for a gold fish (carp) in an aquarium?

Species: goldfish
Population all the goldfish in the aquarium
Community all plants + animals in aquarium

All the living parts of an environment are called **organisms**. Some are animals and plants that you might be familiar with. Some are **micro-organisms** are too small to be seen without a microscope. This might include bacteria or algae.

The interactions among organisms within a community are many. Organisms also interact with non-living parts of their environment. This network of interactions among living and non-living parts of an environment is called an ecosystem.

In this unit, we will discuss how all of the living (biotic) and non-living (abiotic) parts of an ecosystem interact. Visit <https://switchzoo.com/games/buildabiome.htm> to build a terrestrial (on land) biome. Explore the various biomes.

Now choose a biome that you want to focus on: Tundra, taiga, deciduous forest, tropical rainforest, grass savanna, or desert.

Then fill out the chart on the next page using the information below as a guide. To get this information, try googling phrases such as “desert biome climate” or “taiga biome location.”

World location: Most biomes occur in more than one place, so unless yours is very specific, you will probably describe the location by talking about factors such as:

- Latitude: tropical, middle latitudes, polar
- Northern or southern hemisphere
- Surrounding biomes (for example, “tundra” is located mostly between “taiga” and “ice caps”)

Climate: made up of mostly temperature and precipitation. You also need to talk about seasons. This can look very different depending on whether you are talking about a land or sea biome. Example

- Taiga, or boreal forest, has long cold winters and short mild summers. The usually get moderate precipitation with a lot of it falling as snow.