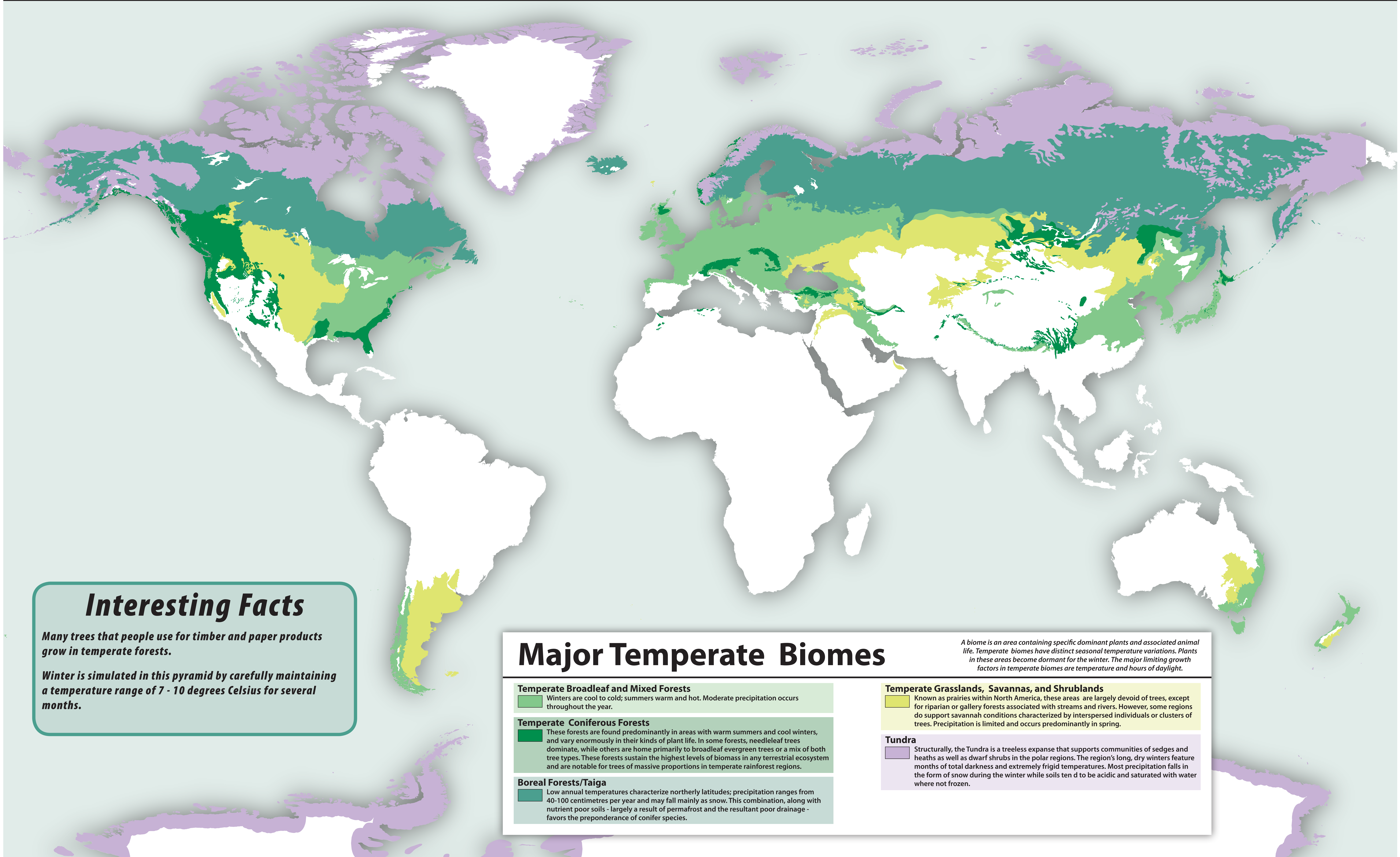


WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE TEMPERATE BIOMES?



Interesting Facts

Many trees that people use for timber and paper products grow in temperate forests.

Winter is simulated in this pyramid by carefully maintaining a temperature range of 7 - 10 degrees Celsius for several months.

Major Temperate Biomes

A biome is an area containing specific dominant plants and associated animal life. Temperate biomes have distinct seasonal temperature variations. Plants in these areas become dormant for the winter. The major limiting growth factors in temperate biomes are temperature and hours of daylight.

Temperate Broadleaf and Mixed Forests

Winters are cool to cold; summers warm and hot. Moderate precipitation occurs throughout the year.

Temperate Coniferous Forests

These forests are found predominantly in areas with warm summers and cool winters, and vary enormously in their kinds of plant life. In some forests, needleleaf trees dominate, while others are home primarily to broadleaf evergreen trees or a mix of both tree types. These forests sustain the highest levels of biomass in any terrestrial ecosystem and are notable for trees of massive proportions in temperate rainforest regions.

Boreal Forests/Taiga

Low annual temperatures characterize northerly latitudes; precipitation ranges from 40-100 centimetres per year and may fall mainly as snow. This combination, along with nutrient poor soils - largely a result of permafrost and the resultant poor drainage - favors the preponderance of conifer species.

Temperate Grasslands, Savannas, and Shrublands

Known as prairies within North America, these areas are largely devoid of trees, except for riparian or gallery forests associated with streams and rivers. However, some regions do support savannah conditions characterized by interspersed individuals or clusters of trees. Precipitation is limited and occurs predominantly in spring.

Tundra

Structurally, the Tundra is a treeless expanse that supports communities of sedges and heaths as well as dwarf shrubs in the polar regions. The region's long, dry winters feature months of total darkness and extremely frigid temperatures. Most precipitation falls in the form of snow during the winter while soils tend to be acidic and saturated with water where not frozen.