**Biomes Vocab**

1. **Wetland:** an area of land that is periodically underwater or whose soil contains moisture
2. **Biosphere:** the part of Earth in which life exists including land, water, and air or atmosphere
3. **Desert:** a region characterized by a very dry climate and extreme temperatures
4. **Taiga:** a region of evergreen, coniferous forest below the arctic and subarctic tundra regions; also known as boreal forest
5. **Biome:** a large region characterized by a specific type of climate and certain types of plant and animal communities
6. **Deciduous Tree:** trees that lose their leaves at the end of the growing season
7. **Tundra:** a region found at far northern and far southern latitudes characterized by low-lying plants, a lack of trees, and long winters with very low temperatures
8. **Estuary:** an area where fresh water mixes with salt water from the ocean
9. **Tropical Rain Forest:** a region characterized by very warm and humid climate, over 300 cm of rain per year, and a great diversity of living things; found along the equator
10. **Savanna:** a region characterized by wide open spaces, spotty trees, and many shrub-like bushes; it is found between tropical forest and desert biomes, and receives about 35-50 cm or rain during the rainy season
11. **Temperate Grassland:** a region characterized by large areas of grass and shrubs, hot summers, and very cold winters; it receives 55-95 cm or rain per year
12. **Coniferous Tree:** cone-bearing trees that usually keep their leaves or needles during all the seasons of the year
13. **Grassland:** a region that is dominated by grasses, that has few woody shrubs and trees, that has fertile soils, and that receives moderate amounts of seasonal rainfall
14. **Temperate Forest:** a region characterized by trees that lose their leaves during certain months of the year, and moderate temperatures during summer and winter; it receives 75-150 cm of rainfall every year; also known as Temperate Deciduous Forest
15. **Urbanization:** an increase in the proportion of a population living in urban areas rather than in rural areas
16. **Stewardship:** the careful and responsible management of a resource
17. **Eutrophication**: an increase in the amount of nutrients, such as nitrates, in a marine or aquatic ecosystem
18. **Conservation:** the wise use of and preservation of natural resources
19. **Biodiversity:** the number and variety of organisms in a given area during a specific period of time