

Lesson 4: Resource Sheet

Deciduous Forest Fact Sheet



Deciduous forests are dominated by trees that shed all their leaves during winter. In Spring they burst into life as leaf buds open. In Autumn their leaves turn bright yellow, orange and red before falling to the ground. Some forests have a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees as you can see in the photograph above.

Deciduous plants lose their leaves to conserve water or to better survive cold winter weather conditions.

Location: Deciduous forests are found in the mid-latitudes, in places with a temperate climate. Deciduous forests are found in North America, East Asia and Europe. Russia, China, Canada, the United States of America, and the countries of Western Europe all have large areas of deciduous forest.

Climate: Deciduous forests grow in areas warm, with moist summers and cold winters. Temperatures can range between -30°C and 30°C . Annual rainfall/snow ranges from 750–1,500 mm a year.

Plants: Trees and plants that lose their leaves during winter dominate the deciduous forest. During Summer the thick forest canopy reduces the amount of light reaching the forest floor. Tree species include beech, elm, maple and oak.

Animals: The habitat of the deciduous forest is home to many insects, vertebrates, birds and mammals. Insects include ants, bees, butterflies and dragonflies. Invertebrates include frogs, snakes and salamanders. Bird species include woodpeckers, hawks and owls. Small mammals include rabbits, otters, beavers, raccoons and squirrels. Bears, deer and moose are some of the larger mammals that live in this biome.