**Temperate Deciduous Forest Biome**

What is a temperate deciduous forest biome? One way to figure out this type of biome is to analyze each of the pieces of the name. Breaking a larger problem into smaller pieces is a great way to understand complicated ideas.

- Temperate describes a climate that has a range of temperatures within moderate limits, that is, not hot like the tropics near the equator and not cold like Antarctica.
- Deciduous describes trees and bushes that shed their leaves in the fall.
- A forest is an area of land with trees and other plants growing together.

So with a little patience and a dictionary you could figure out for yourself that this biome is a made up of forests of leafy trees that exist in the temperate zones of earth, between the tropics and the cold land around the poles.

The temperate deciduous forest biome covers much of the eastern half of the United States beginning near the coastline of the Atlantic Ocean westward to the eastern edge of Texas. It begins around the Great Lakes and extends as far south as Florida. Remember that the taiga biome covers areas north of the Great Lakes and the New England states. Most of Europe, Japan and parts of southern Asia have temperate deciduous forests. There are some areas of deciduous forest in Australia and South America.

With a milder climate than the taiga, which has mostly conifers, the temperate deciduous forest is home to a diversity of tree species. Some of the familiar tree species are maple, oak, elm, beech, hickory and sycamore. Some species of conifers, like white and red pine, grow well in the same climate as the deciduous trees. These pine trees have longer needles than the conifers in the taiga biome. Pine trees are popular for planting in abandoned field areas because they grow quickly. People think that they are replacing forest areas but fast-growing trees are no substitute for oak and elm trees that take longer to grow.

Many species of bushes and shrubs grow well under the canopy of deciduous trees. Groundcover includes flowering plants, vines and grasses. Mushrooms and other species of fungi thrive in the moist environment on the floor of the deciduous forest. There are many bird and animal species that are at home in the deciduous forest.