UNDERSTANDING
THE EARTH'S
DIFFERENT CLIMATE ZONES
BIOME - are very large ecological areas on the earth's surface, with specific animals and plants adapting to their environment. Biomes are often defined by abiotic factors such as climate and vegetation. A biome is NOT an ecosystem, although in a way it can look like a massive ecosystem.
EVERY BIOME HAS A CHARACTERISTIC CLIMATE AND VEGETATION

[Whittaker Biome Diagram
Originally from RH Whittaker
Communities and Ecosystems
1975;
Modified from RE Ricklefs
The Economy of Nature
2000]
very wet, very hot

cool and moist

very dry, frigidly cold

Whittaker Biome Diagram
Originally from RH Whittaker communities and Ecosystems 1975;
Modified from RE Ricklefs The Economy of Nature 2000
WHERE ARE EACH OF THESE BIOMES ON EARTH?
TROPICAL RAINFOREST
TROPICAL SEASONAL RAINFOREST AND SAVANNA
SUBTROPICAL DESERT
TEMPERATE RAINFOREST

moss everywhere
TEMPERATE DECIDUOUS FOREST

leafy trees
TEMPERATE GRASSLAND AND DESERT
TAIGA

pine trees
HANDOUT:

BIOMES OF THE PLANET
Draw a horizontal line of best fit through the tropical rainforests on the planet.

Draw a horizontal line of best fit through the boreal forests of the planet.

Draw two horizontal lines of best fit through the subtropical deserts. One in the North, one in the south.
BOREAL FORESTS

SUBTROPICAL DESERTS

TROPICAL RAINFOREST

SUBTROPICAL DESERTS
From the diagram with the lines drawn on it is obvious that the biomes have something to do with latitude (distance north and south of the equator).

But why?