

Where does our food come from?

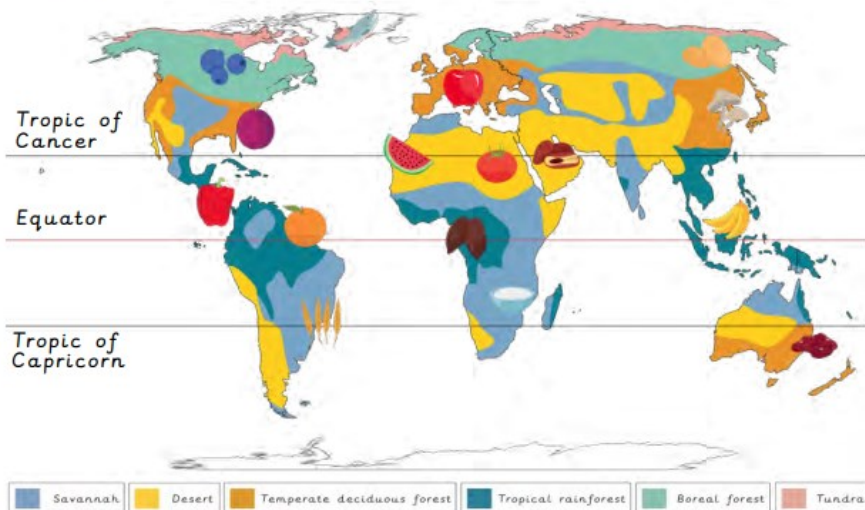
GEOGRAPHY OVERVIEW

Different foods grow in different biomes. Different foods require different conditions, for example, temperature, rainfall, types of soil and amount of sunlight. The different conditions in each biome support the specific produce that grows there. To get foods which do not grow in the biome in which we live, foods are imported by boat, aeroplane or train from other countries. Sometimes people can create special conditions for products not normally grown in their country, for example, in a greenhouse. The food industry impacts the environment more than all transport pollution combined.

KEY VOCABULARY

air freight
carbon footprint
consume
distribution
export
fertiliser
food miles
grant
import
pesticides
sustainability
trade

Map of biomes



Different foods require different conditions, such as temperature, rainfall, type of soil and amount of sunlight. Therefore, each biome's unique conditions mean that only certain food can grow there.



Energy used to grind wheat and bake bread can produce greenhouse gasses.

Meat contributes around 14.5 % of greenhouse gas emissions.



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Advantages of buying local food:

- Reduces food miles.
- Provides people with fresh seasonal food.
- Creates jobs in the local community.

Disadvantages of buying local food:

- May mean greenhouses are used to grow food out of season.
- May be more expensive if farmers sell independently.
- Means food may go bad quickly if grown without pesticides.

Advantages of importing food:

- Helps support communities in developing countries.
- Provides people with a wider variety of food.
- Creates relationships with other countries.

Disadvantages of importing food:

- May encourage deforestation to produce enough food.
- Increases food miles.
- Can sometimes be more expensive if they have been produced through a responsible trade organisation.



Trading responsibly:

- Helps workers to get the best deal they can for their product.
- Protects workers against changes in the price of their product and natural disasters.
- Helps farmers share ideas.
- Gives communities extra money to spend on whatever they need.
- Aims to preserve natural habitats and support the climate.