LA COUNTY LIBRARY

Activity Idea

Taiga Biome Activity Packet

Recommended for Ages 8 – 12

What is a biome?
A biome is a large outdoor area with certain types of plants, animals and weather. Some examples of biomes are desert, taiga, tundra, and grasslands.

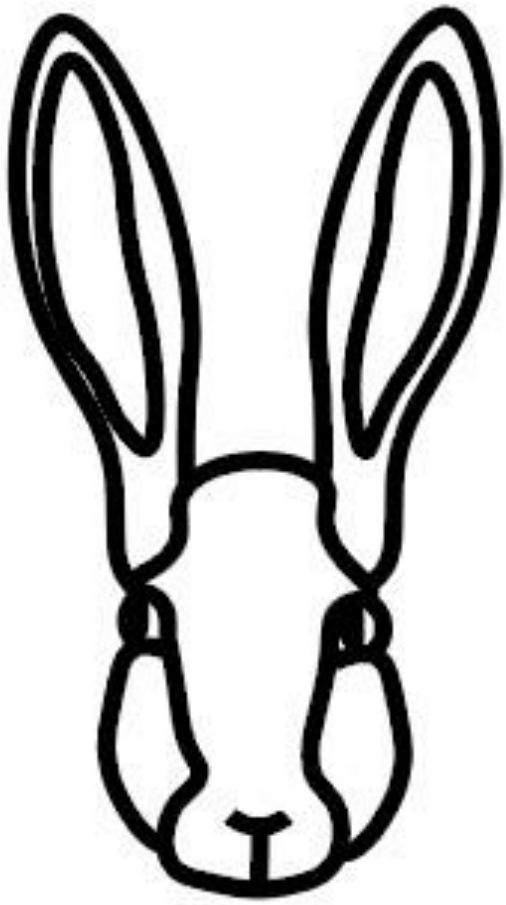
What is a Taiga?
The taiga is a coniferous forest where the trees have needles or scales instead of leaves, and the seeds come in cone form. An example of this type of tree would be a pine tree. The taiga has very cold winters that last five to seven months. Depending on which part of the world the taiga is found, it will have two to four months when it is warm enough to grow. It is a cold place but not as harsh as the tundra or desserts. All taigas are found in the far north just below where the tundra starts to form. You can find them in North America, northern Europe, and northern Asia as well. Taiga, unlike deserts and tundra, can have a lot of water, and you may even find a river running through one.

Did you know there are three zones of taigas?
Taiga is very large. So big, in fact, that if you started on the southern edge and walked all the way to the northern edge, you would notice three different areas that are all part of the same taiga. These different areas are called zones, and each zone has its own name. In the southern most zone, taiga are closed-canopy forests. This means that there are so many trees that their branches and needles block out most of the sky. If you kept traveling north in a taiga, you would end up in the lichen woodland zone. The lichen woodland is a part of the forest where there is more room between the trees. You can even see the sky. Here the forest floor is covered with lichen, which is a plant that is made up of fungus and algae, or sometimes bacteria. This plant grows over rocks and ground in a green crust. If you continued further north, you would find the tundra-forest, which is just north of what is called the “tree line.” The tree line is the furthest point north that trees can grow. The tundra-forest is an area that is changing into a tundra. The tundra does not have trees. This area used to be a large forest, but due to changing climates, it is now too cold for a forest to thrive and is now only small patches of trees that cannot make new trees. When a forest fire spreads in this area, or someone chops down a tree, new trees normally do not grow back. It is so cold that the trees cannot produce healthy cones to grow new trees.

Animals of the taiga
Since the area that the taiga covers are so large, there are some vastly different creatures to be found. You can find small animals like the snowshoe hare, wolverine, river otters, long-eared owls, foxes, lynxes, minks, beavers, and squirrels. There are larger animals too such as wolves, caribou, and reindeer, and even some really big animals like moose, bears, and Siberian tigers!

Plants of the taiga
Most of the taiga is filled with trees. Pines, spruce, fir, and larch trees are common. There are also mosses, blueberries, lingonberry, fungus, and lichen. Unlike other forests, there are not a large variety of plants.

Now that we know a little about the taiga lets have some fun.
Color the snow hare.



Taiga Word Search

F	U	C	B	F	O	R	E	S	T	L	Y	R	U
X	O	J	L	Y	N	X	E	S	K	A	O	A	B
C	W	X	U	X	C	V	I	O	O	R	I	F	S
Z	L	W	E	B	S	G	L	S	R	C	B	G	C
J	R	N	B	Y	C	M	N	O	O	H	S	G	A
T	I	G	E	R	S	S	N	O	R	T	H	R	N
D	B	A	R	W	P	F	S	K	A	W	Q	C	O
M	A	K	R	F	R	V	B	Z	S	B	X	O	P
T	O	M	I	I	U	V	O	T	T	E	R	L	Y
Q	Y	S	E	H	C	H	G	S	P	A	B	D	J
P	F	R	S	B	E	V	L	C	W	R	K	J	F
L	I	C	H	E	N	S	H	M	R	S	P	B	T
H	K	H	G	A	G	F	P	I	F	U	M	C	D
R	W	O	L	V	E	R	I	N	E	F	H	U	E
S	L	M	X	E	U	N	N	K	K	H	A	R	E
D	Z	O	C	R	Z	P	E	S	U	A	Y	U	E
E	G	S	G	S	O	Y	T	Q	K	B	L	G	B
A	C	M	P	S	E	F	R	G	S	P	X	R	Q
P	T	B	W	O	L	V	E	S	W	X	M	D	M
K	N	E	J	Z	U	N	E	N	Y	N	P	E	U
X	Y	S	O	Z	X	S	O	Q	H	J	F	W	E

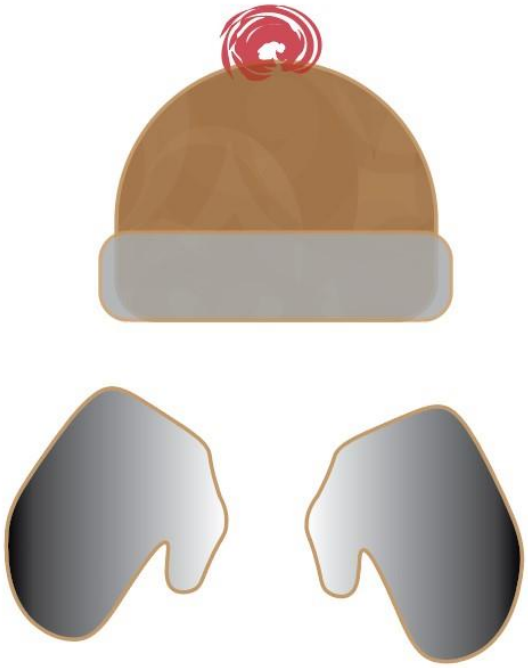
Find these words

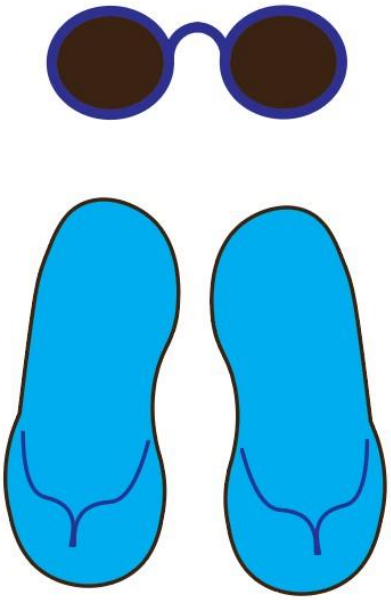
BEARS ▪ BEAVERS ▪ BLUEBERRIES ▪ CANOPY ▪ COLD ▪ FOREST ▪ FOX ▪ HARE ▪ LARCH ▪ LICHEN ▪ LYNXES ▪ MINKS ▪ MOSS ▪ NORTH ▪ OTTER ▪ OWL ▪ PINE TREE ▪ SPRUCE ▪ TAIGA ▪ TIGERS ▪ WOLVERINE ▪ WOLVES

Taiga Picture Match

Pick the correct picture
Circle your answers.

1. Which would you wear in a taiga?





2. Which would you find on a tree in the taiga?

3. Which big cat might you find in the taiga?

4. Which continent would you find the taiga biome on, North or South America?

Answers: 1 Mitts and a beanie, 2 needles, 3 tiger, 4 North America