

Biome Puzzles

(ages 3 to 9)

Our Biome Puzzles introduce children to maps of the continents with a focus on the natural world. These puzzle maps emphasize biomes rather than abstract political boundaries. Each full-color wood puzzle is 11 x 17 and has large pieces with wood knobs to make handling the puzzle easy for small children. The pieces are color-coded by biome.

A two-sided control chart printed on wood veneer is included with the puzzle. One side of the control is in color, the other is a blackline. Both sides feature a map legend that breaks down the color-coding for the biomes. Biome Puzzles are available for all seven continents and can be purchased individually or as a Complete Set.

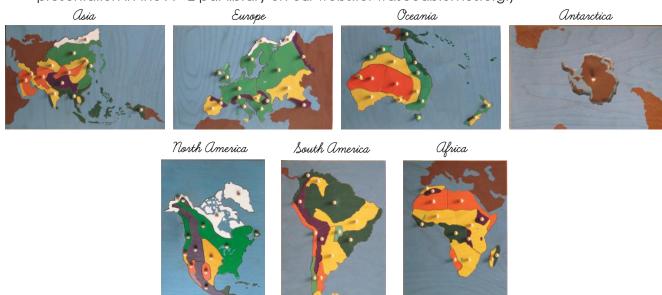
Biome Puzzle Presentation

You will need: the biome puzzle for the continent being studied, 11 x 17" paper, colored pencils **Purpose:** To introduce the map for a continent and offer the child an interactive experience of the locations of biomes on a continent.

- 1. Identify the Continent.
- 2. Introduce the full-color veneer control. Use the map legend to identify and review each biome on the continent and their puzzle pieces.
- 3. With the child, take the individual pieces off of the puzzle and match them to their positions on the full-color veneer control.
- 4. For a greater challenge, have the child take the individual pieces off of the puzzle and match them to their positions on the full-color veneer control.
- 5. Have the child take the individual pieces off of the puzzle and build the puzzle on a blank sheet of 11 x 17" paper.
- 6. Have the child create a biome map of the continent by tracing the individual puzzle pieces on a blank sheet of 11 x 17" paper. Then, the child can color each of the biomes on the map and create a legend that identifies the biomes by color.

Extensions:

- The child can create an illustrated biome continent map using texture to delineate mountains, forests, grasslands, etc. Have them draw in rivers and lakes.
- Work with the child to identify and label land and water forms on the map.
- The child can create a collage map using pictures from magazines of each biome to fill in the appropriate regions.
- The child can use the paper blackline master for the puzzle map to color and label the biomes of the continent. (The blackline master is available for download with a copy of this presentation in the A Z pdf library on our website: wasecabiomes.org.)



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