

## 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](http://wasecabiomes.org).)

*Asia*



*Europe*



*Oceania*



*Antarctica*



*North America*



*South America*



*Africa*





**Map Legend**

	ocean	=	<input type="checkbox"/>
	polar region	=	<input type="checkbox"/>
	temperate forest	=	<input type="checkbox"/>
	desert	=	<input type="checkbox"/>
	grasslands	=	<input type="checkbox"/>
	mountains	=	<input type="checkbox"/>
	tropical forest	=	<input type="checkbox"/>
	wetlands	=	<input type="checkbox"/>