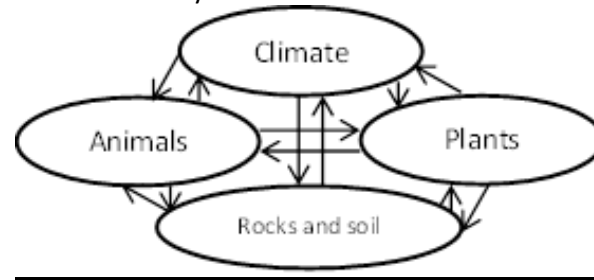


Ecosystems and Biomes:

- An ecosystem is an environment in which a **community of plants and animals** interact with each other and the **climate on rocks and in soil**.
- Climate is the weather in an area over a long period of time.
- The plants and animals within ecosystems **adapt** so that they are able to survive in that area.
- Ecosystems **are not one size**: they can be as small as a hedgerow or as large as a rainforest.
- Large ecosystems are called **biomes**.
- Biomes fall into 9 main types:
 - tundra (cold desert) - tropical rainforest
 - coniferous forest - tropical grassland
 - temperate deciduous forest - other (ice or mountains)
 - temperate grassland
 - Mediterranean
 - hot desert

How Ecosystems work:

- There are four components to any ecosystem: animals, plants, rocks and soil and the climate.
- All of the different components of ecosystems work together and interact with each other.
- **Plants** decompose to add nutrients to **rocks and soil**. These nutrients then feed the **plants** which also grow because they are adapted to the **climate**. They plants are then eaten by **animals**.



Key words and terms:

Ecosystem:

An environment in which a community of plants and animals interact with each other and the climate on rocks and soil.

Biome:

A large ecosystem.

Temperate:

A climate or region which has mild temperatures.

Deciduous:

A type of tree or shrub which sheds its leaves every year.

Coniferous:

A type of tree or shrub which has needle or scale-like leaves and which does not shed its leaves during the winter.

Climate:

The weather over a long period of time.

Precipitation:

Rain, snow, sleet or hail which falls to or condenses on the ground.

Climate Graphs:

- Climate graphs show the temperature and the rainfall of a country over one year.
- The average temperature and rainfall are both plotted on the graph. The **temperature is shown with a line** and the **rainfall is shown with bars**.
- This graphs can be used to describe a locations climate.
- This graph of Honolulu in Hawaii can tell us a number of facts about the climate in this area:
 - The temperature is high and remains fairly constant throughout the year (We know this as the line stays between 25°C and 35°C).
 - Hawaii generally receives very little rainfall (we know this because the bars do not go higher than 150mm).
 - Hawaii experineces more rain and slightly lower temperatures between October and March.

Honolulu, Hawaii

