

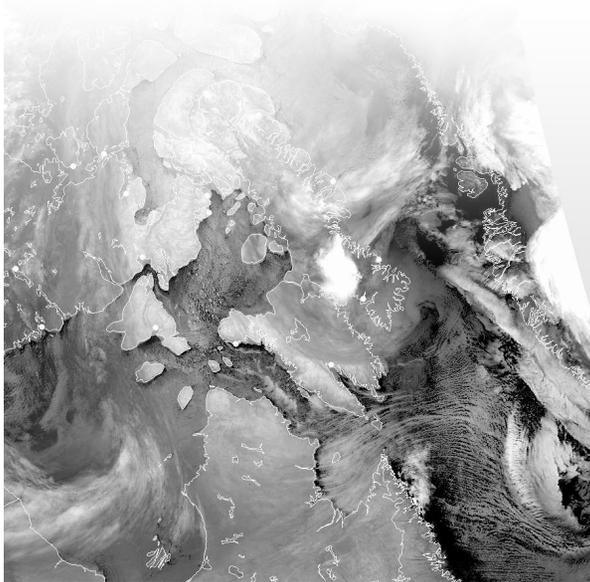
Tundra Climate

Seasons

The Arctic Tundra biome has two seasons: summer and winter. Winters are cold and dark, and summers are cool, light, and short.

Conditions

In the winter the tundra is quite cold, with lows of -58 °F, but it doesn't get as frigid as in the taiga to the south. It is often windy, but there isn't much precipitation; 6-10 inches per year is desert-like. Plants take advantage of the short summer, when temperatures rise above freezing and the top layer of the permafrost melts, to flower and set seeds.



Threats to the Tundra

Global warming has a significant effect on the tundra. The melting of the permafrost changes the ecosystem and makes it impossible for many tundra plants and animals to survive. Melting permafrost also releases carbon dioxide, creating a feedback loop that could lead to yet more warming.

Human activity can also affect the tundra more directly. Oil and uranium can be found in the tundra, but exploiting them risks harming the fragile environment.



How can people help?

It's strange to think of it, but the actions you take every day make a difference to the tundra. By using less electricity, turning down your heat, or walking or biking instead of taking the car, you can do your part to help slow global warming. And even though your efforts can't make a big difference on their own, everything you do is also a reminder to others that we have to take care of the tundra, and the planet as a whole!



Come and visit the

Tundra

by
Mr. Archibald



Where is the tundra?



There are three types of tundra in the world: Arctic, Antarctic, and Alpine. The **Arctic Tundra** is the most common and is found all across the northern part of the Northern Hemisphere.

Countries with Arctic Tundra

- » Russia
- » Finland
- » Norway
- » Iceland
- » Canada

Major Landforms of the Tundra

- » Permafrost
- » Marshes
- » Mountains
- » Landforms created by tundra ice:
 - pingos
 - frost boils
 - bumpy ground
 - polygons
 - stripes

Plants & Animals

There aren't many things that can survive in the tundra's harsh environment: tundras are home to only **1,700 plant species** and just **48 kinds of land mammal**.

Animals

- lemming
- arctic hare
- snowy owl
- arctic fox
- musk ox
- polar bear
- caribou (reindeer)



Plants

- heath
- dwarf shrubs
- mosses
- lichens
- sedges and grasses

