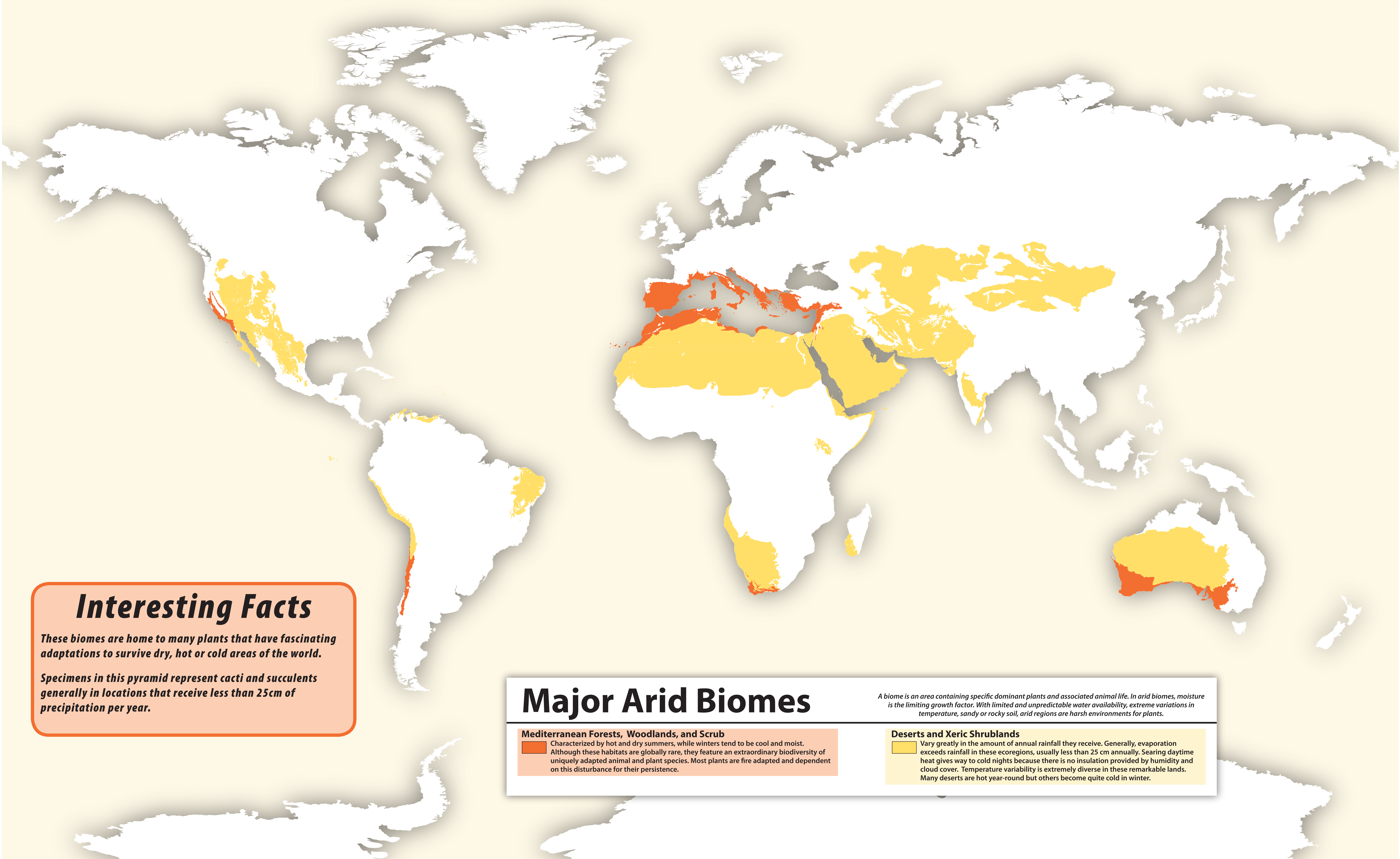


WHERE IN THE WORLD ARE ARID BIOMES?



Interesting Facts

These biomes are home to many plants that have fascinating adaptations to survive dry, hot or cold areas of the world.

Specimens in this pyramid represent cacti and succulents generally in locations that receive less than 25cm of precipitation per year.

Major Arid Biomes

Mediterranean Forests, Woodlands, and Scrub
Characterized by hot and dry summers, while winters tend to be cool and moist. Although these habitats are globally rare, they feature an extraordinary biodiversity of uniquely adapted animal and plant species. Most plants are fire adapted and dependent on this disturbance for their persistence.

Deserts and Xeric Shrublands
Vary greatly in the amount of annual rainfall they receive. Generally, evaporation exceeds rainfall in these ecoregions, usually less than 25 cm annually. Searing daytime heat gives way to cold nights because there is no insulation provided by humidity and cloud cover. Temperature variability is extremely diverse in these remarkable lands. Many deserts are hot year-round but others become quite cold in winter.

A biome is an area containing specific dominant plants and associated animal life. In arid biomes, moisture is the limiting growth factor. With limited and unpredictable water availability, extreme variations in temperature, sandy or rocky soil, arid regions are harsh environments for plants.