

Our Community

3 Studies Weekly

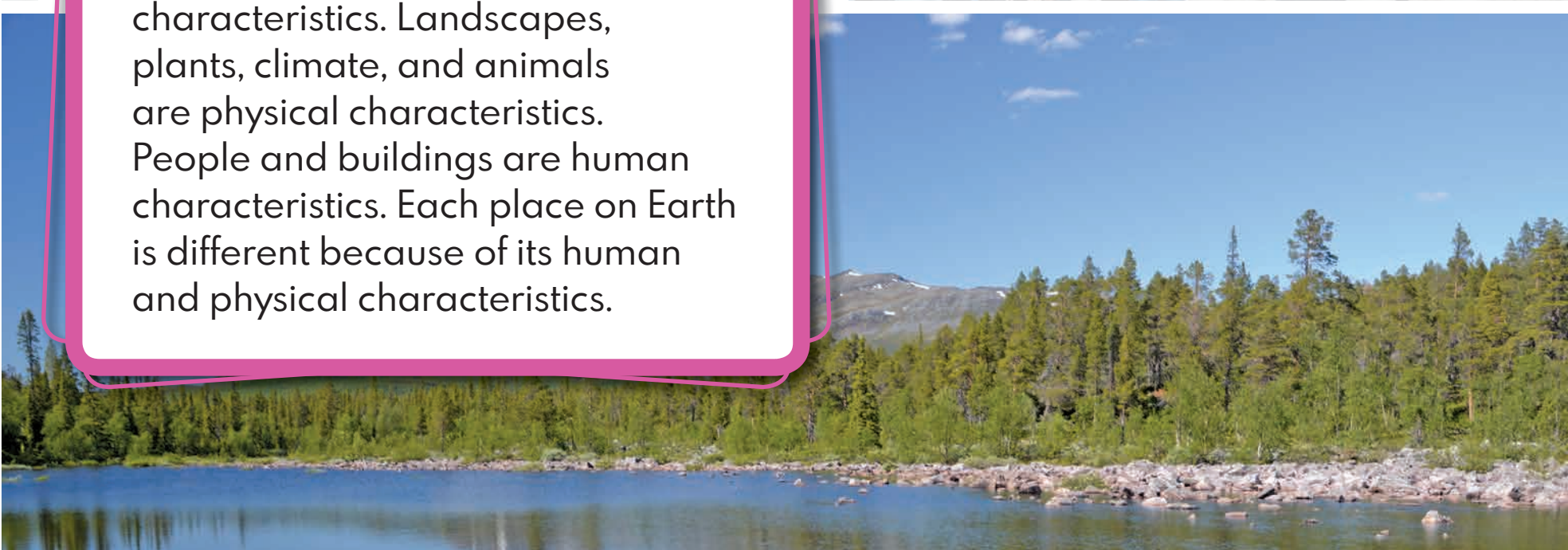
PEOPLE AND PLACES



Physical Characteristics

The theme of place refers to how we describe a location. How would you describe the physical characteristics around you? What are the weather patterns? What are the natural resources of a place? How many people live there?

We describe the theme of place using physical and human characteristics. Landscapes, plants, climate, and animals are physical characteristics. People and buildings are human characteristics. Each place on Earth is different because of its human and physical characteristics.



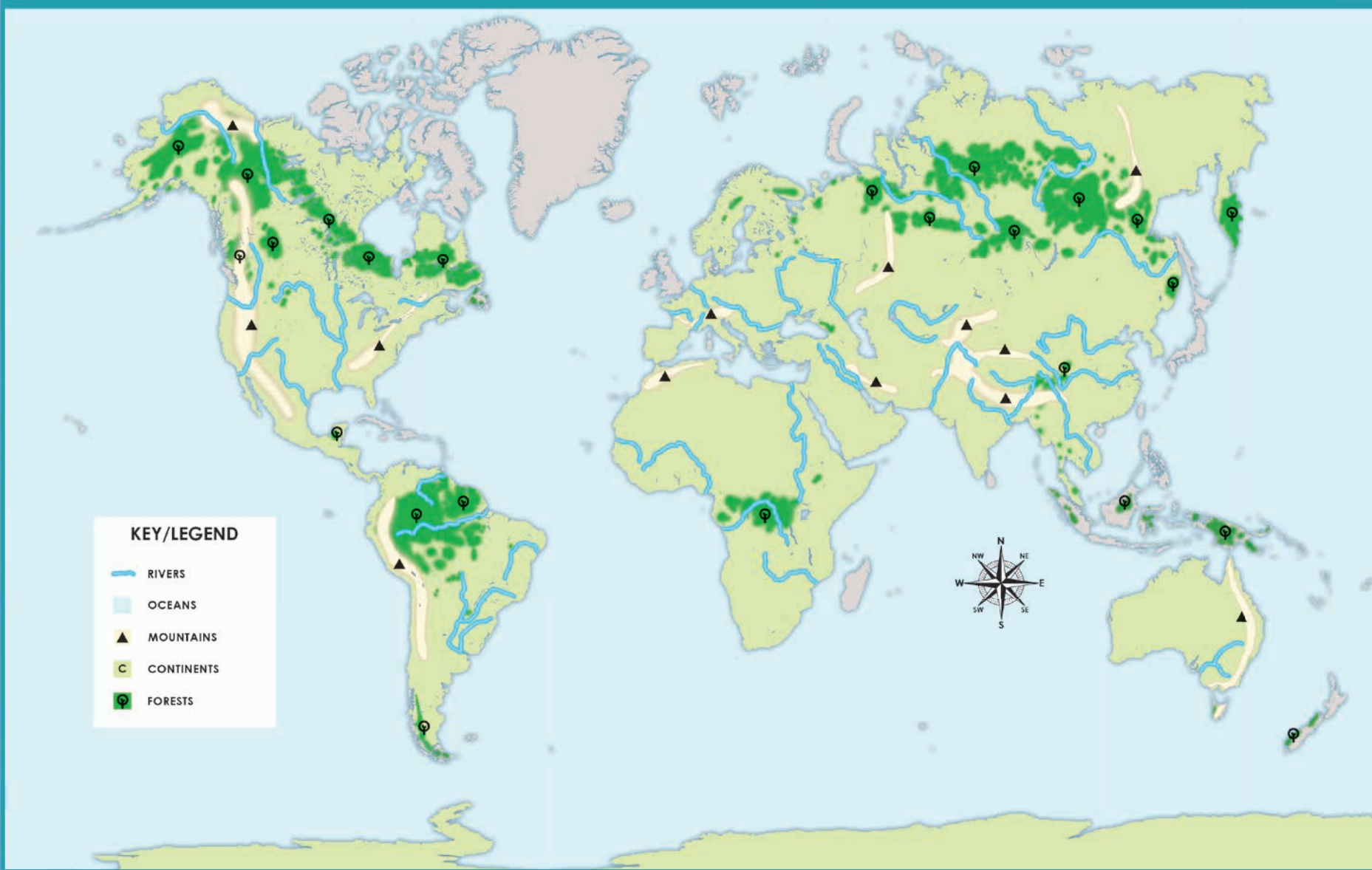
Place: Physical Characteristics

Physical Features

If you flew to a place in an airplane, what would you see when you looked out the window? You might see physical features, such as forests, mountains, rivers, or oceans. Physical characteristics occur naturally in the environment.

A physical map shows major physical features. Look at the physical map of the world. Can you locate the mountain ranges and rivers? Can you identify the forests? The map shows us these physical features.

PHYSICAL FEATURES MAP OF THE WORLD



Biomes

The type of vegetation that grows in a place depends on the climate, the type of soil, and other growing conditions. Animals are also affected by climate. The climate, vegetation, and animals in a place together form a **biome**. In a biome, the plants and animals depend on each other for survival. Grassland, freshwater, desert, forest, tundra, mountain, and marine are all examples of biomes. Biomes are part of the physical characteristics of a place.



Climate

When we study the weather of a place, we want to know if it is warm or cold, sunny or rainy. Climate is a physical characteristic of a place. Climate is the weather pattern of an area that develops over many years. While the weather can change in just a few hours, the climate takes hundreds, thousands, or even millions of years to change. Climate includes the average temperature, precipitation (rain, snow, sleet), and wind in the area. We can understand the climates of the world by looking at a graph that shows the patterns in weather over 12 months.

Let's look at a graph describing climate zones around the world. This graph shows how many regions of the world have the same kind of climate. For example, four regions of the world have a tropical climate in them.

1. Which climate has the most regions?

2. What are the climates of Africa?

3. What are the climates of North America?

Tropical	Dry	Temperate	Continental	Polar
Central America	North America	North America	North America	North America
South America	South America	South America	Europe	Europe
Africa	Africa	Africa	Asia	Asia
Asia	Asia	Europe		South America
Australia	Middle East	Asia		
Caribbean	Australia	Australia		
Oceania				

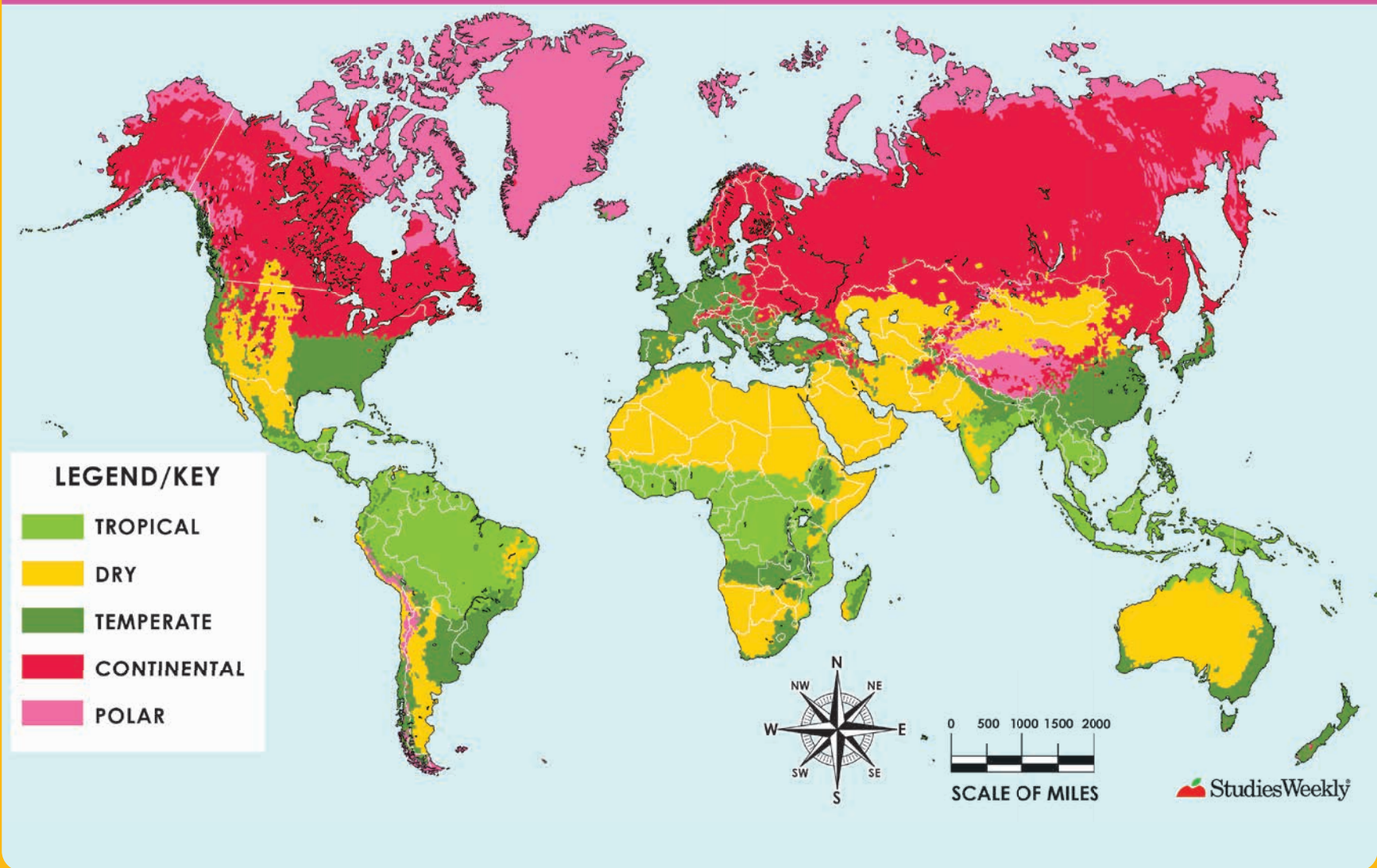
zones defined by the NGSS

Name _____

Climate Maps

Each continent has many different climates. We use climate maps to learn about what different places are like. We can also see how places are similar or different. People around the world make decisions about food, clothing, and shelter based on climate. Choose a type of climate from the climate map, research the climate, and suggest what the clothing and shelter might be based on the climate.

CLIMATE MAP OF THE WORLD



Animals and Biomes

Use the pictures from this week about the different biomes. Cut them out and research or collaborate with a group about the kinds of animals and plants you might find in the different biomes. Be sure to justify your answers.