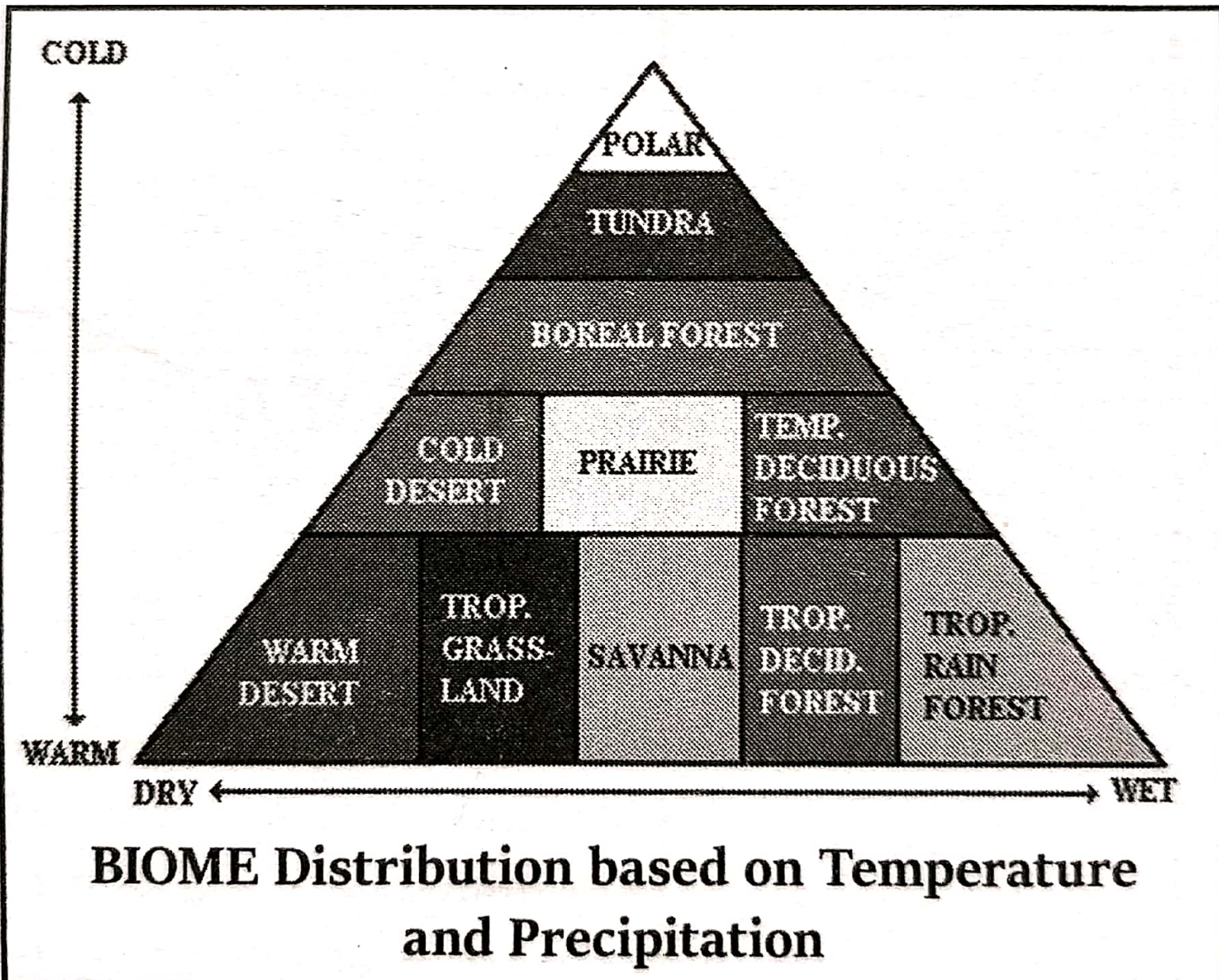


Biome -

- The terrestrial part of the biosphere is divisible into enormous region called biomes.
- It is characterized by climate (temp. & precipitation), vegetation, animal life & general soil type.
- Climate determines the boundaries of a biome & abundance of plants & animals found in each of them.



Aquatic Zone -

- Aquatic systems are not called biomes.
- Difference betⁿ various aquatic zones are due to —
 - (i) salinity
 - (ii) levels of dissolved nutrients.
 - (iii) water temp.
 - (iv) depth of sunlight penetration.

S.No	Aquatic ecosystem	Characteristics
1.	Fresh Water Ecosystem	Fresh water ecosystem are classified as <u>lotic (moving water)</u> or <u>lentic (still or stagnant water)</u> . Lotic water system includes freshwater streams, springs, rivulets, creeks, brooks, and rivers. Lentic water bodies include pools, ponds, some swamps, bogs and lakes. They vary considerably in physical, chemical and biological characteristics.
2.	Marine Ecosystem	Nearly three - quarter of earth's surface is covered by ocean with an average depth of 3,750 m and with salinity 35 ppt, (parts per thousand), about 90 per cent of which is sodium chloride.
3.	Estuaries	<u>Coastal bays, river mouths and tidal marshes</u> form the estuaries. In estuaries, <u>fresh water from rivers meet ocean water</u> and the two are mixed by action of <u>tides</u> . Estuaries are <u>highly productive</u> as compared to the <u>adjacent river or sea</u> .
4.	Coral reef	
5.	Mangrove	

Biosphere -

- It represents a highly integrated & interacting zone comprising of air, water & land.
- Life in the biosphere - 220 m below the surface of the ocean to 6000 m above sea level.
- Biosphere is absent at extremes of N & S poles, highest mountains & the deepest oceans.
- Occasionally, spores of fungi & bacteria do occur at 8000 m & above but at dormant stage.

