



# Plants around the world

Plants are successful at growing in different conditions around the world.

If you were to take a journey from the icy wastes of the North Pole to the hot rainy lands near the equator, you would see many different kinds of plant.

Different conditions suit different kinds of plant, as you can see in Picture 1. Near the North Pole it is always cold – often freezing, sometimes snowy. Near the equator it is warm and rain falls all year long.

In each place you would find plants that can get everything they need to grow well from the place where they grow. But if you took one of these plants and put it in a different part of the world, the chances are that it would die.

## Summary

- Different plants grow well in different parts of the world.
- Plants that grow well in one part of the world may not succeed in other parts.

▼► (Picture 1) Each part of the world has its own kinds of plants that grow well.

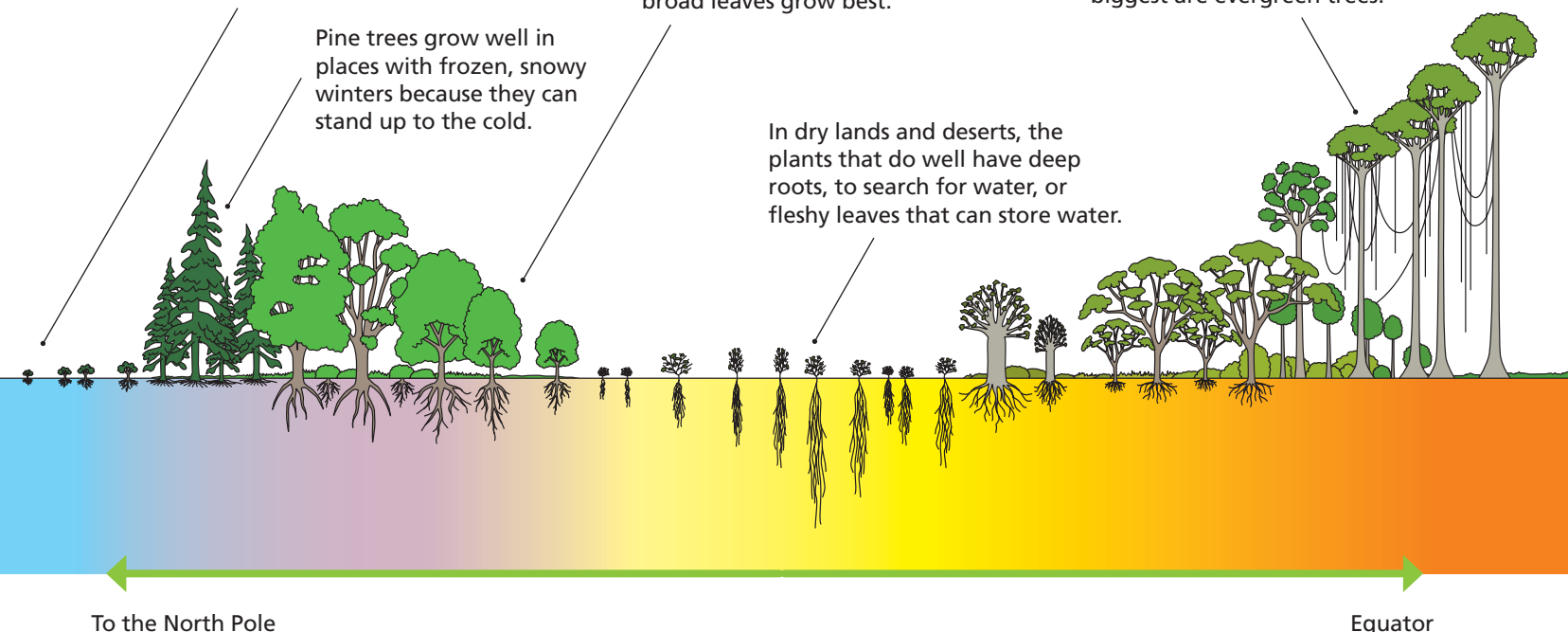
Very cold, snowy, windy weather means that plants must grow close to the ground to do well.

Pine trees grow well in places with frozen, snowy winters because they can stand up to the cold.

In places that are warm and moist the plants that have broad leaves grow best.

In dry lands and deserts, the plants that do well have deep roots, to search for water, or fleshy leaves that can store water.

As you get close to the equator it is hot and rains on most days of the year. More plants can grow well here than in any other part of the world. Those that grow biggest are evergreen trees.







Alpines grow on mountains and in icy wastes. They grow close to the ground on poor, rocky soil.



Heathers grow on moorlands where the soil is damp and cool.



Cacti grow in deserts, where it is hot and the rainfall is unreliable.



Look carefully at this picture. If you look up the trunk of the tropical palm tree you will see a Swiss cheese plant! Its roots grow down in search of nourishment.



Bromeliads are tropical plants that live on rocks or in trees. They use their roots less than most plants and instead take nourishment from water that falls in the centre of their leaves.