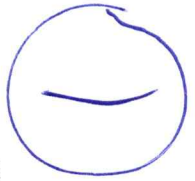


**Environmental Types around the World**

As we have just done with Manitoba, we can look at environmental types around the world to see if there is any relationship between environmental type and population. Things will be a little more complicated because we are now dealing with many environmental types instead of just three. Unless you have a book that shows environmental types around the world, it is best to use a world vegetation map from your atlas or the Internet.



The vegetation map of the world is very complex. If you look carefully, however, you can identify a number of patterns. **Tropical** vegetation such as **desert**, tropical rainforest, and tropical grassland are located in the hot areas near the equator (between the Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn). **Temperate** environmental types, such as the temperate grasslands, **deciduous** and mixed forests, and cold deserts are located in the mid-latitude regions between the tropics and the sub-arctic regions. Boreal forests, tundra, and ice caps are located in **sub-arctic** and **polar** areas of the world. Temperate and arctic conditions also occur at high elevations in mountainous regions in tropical and temperate areas of the world. These are sometimes referred to as **alpine** conditions.

As with Manitoba, there are differences in the number of people the environmental types are able to support in the rest of the world. Deserts, tundra, and high elevation areas are too hot, too dry, too cold, or do not have quality soil to support large numbers of people. On the other hand, a number of the environmental types in the temperate regions of the world support high populations.

**Learning Activity 1.8****World Environmental Types and Population**

1. The following map, "Global Environmental Types," shows the approximate boundaries of the four main environmental types and some of the subcategories throughout the world. Refer to a population density or distribution map of the world in your atlas or from an Internet source and compare it to the map of global environmental types.

- a) Name the environmental types that support very few if any people. In which parts of the world are they located? Why do so few people live there?

**Note:** Think of vegetation, climatic, and landform factors.

- b) Name the environmental types that support the highest population densities in the world. Where are they located? Describe the conditions that support high populations in these regions.



2. According to population growth estimates, some of the countries with the fastest population growths are located in less developed regions of the world. Many of these countries are located in environmental types that cannot support higher populations. What might be the impact of this trend on life in these regions?

## Learning Activity 1.8: World Environmental Types and Population

### Global Environmental Types

