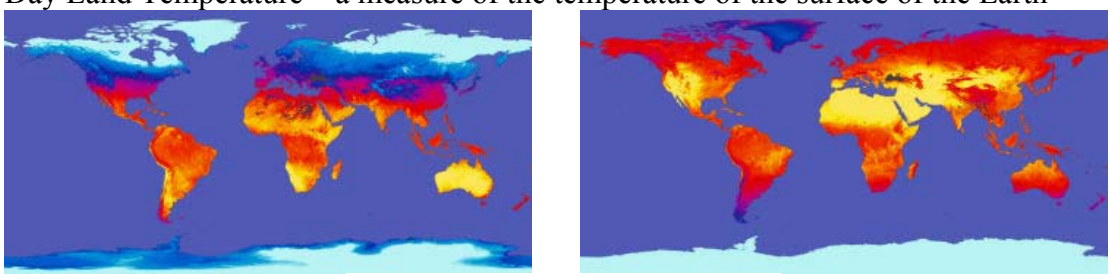
(c) J. Keuing

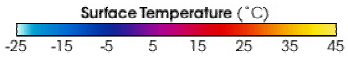
Mapping Biomes

Use the NASA maps below to help you complete this worksheet.

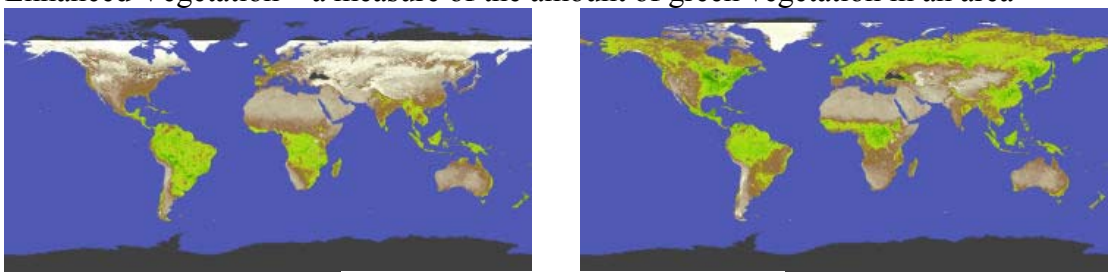
Day Land Temperature – a measure of the temperature of the surface of the Earth



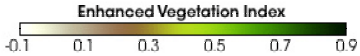
January 2002 *July 2002*



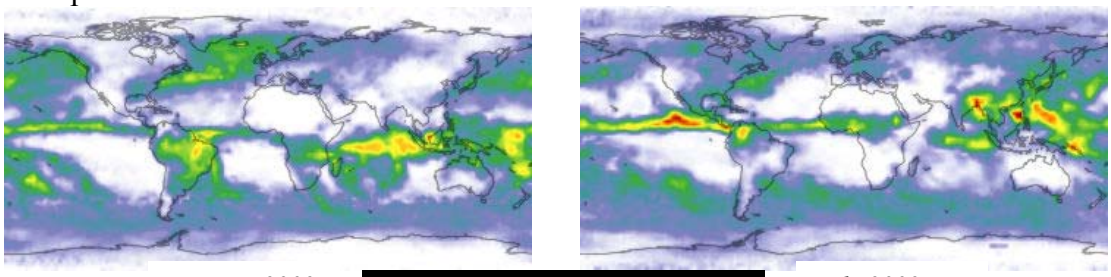
Enhanced Vegetation – a measure of the amount of green vegetation in an area



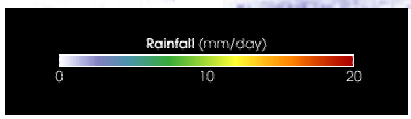
January 2002 *July 2002*



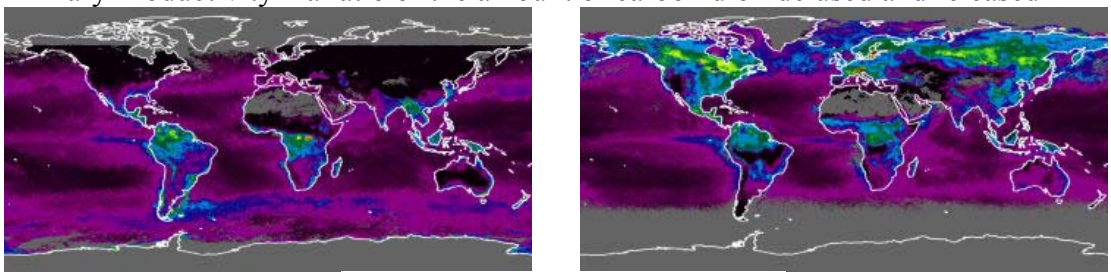
Precipitation – the estimated amount of rainfall



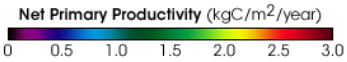
January 2002 *July 2002*



Primary Productivity – a ratio of the amount of carbon dioxide used and released



January 2002 *July 2002*



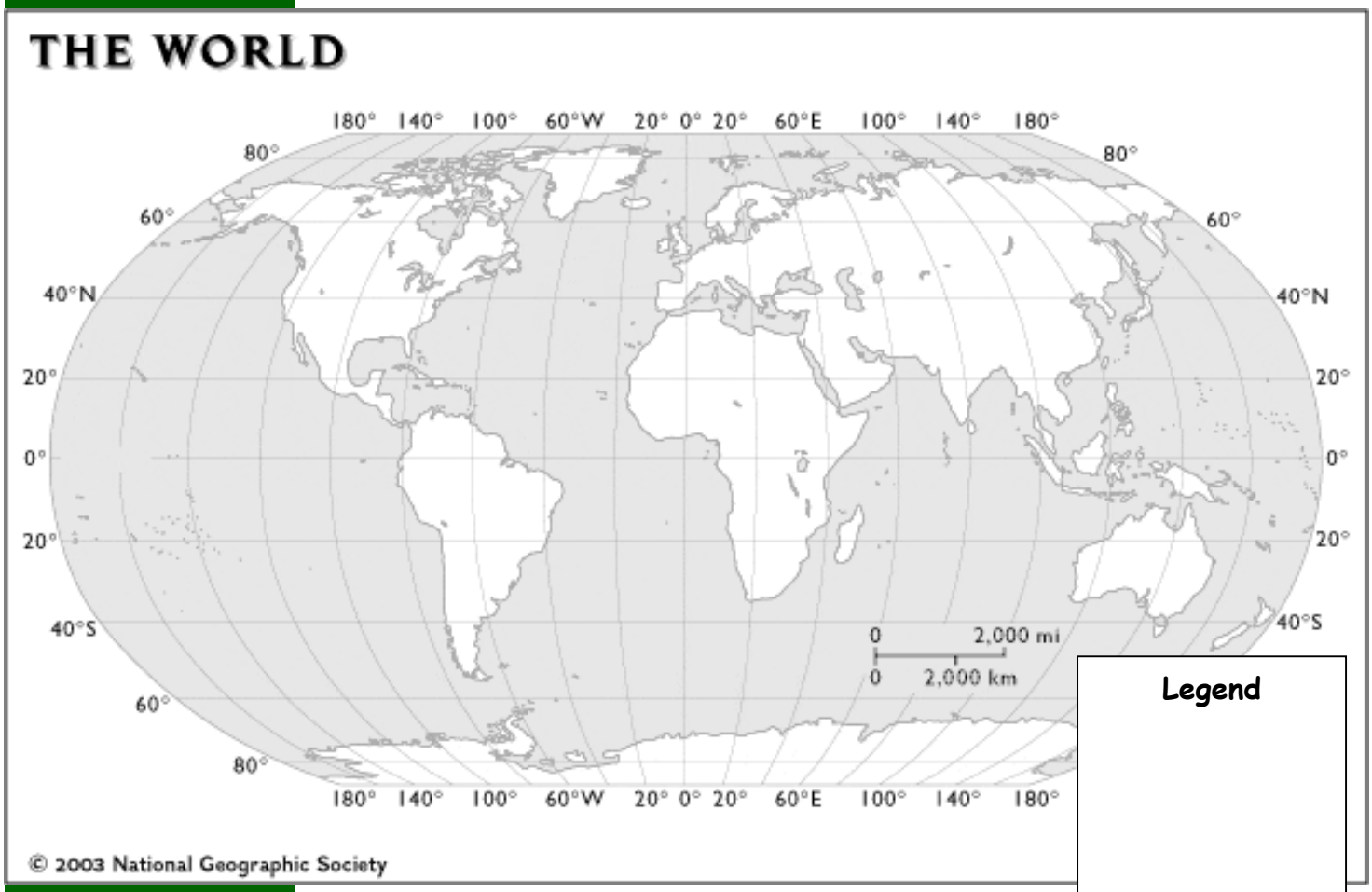
Exploring Biomes

Scientists define a biome as a large community of plants and animals. Biomes are primarily determined by similarities in climate.

The maps on the previous page are provided by http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov. They were developed using data collected by satellites and by Earth-based collection devices.

Use the maps to decide where the Earth's biomes are located. Look for areas with similar climate features. Divide the Earth into five to eight distinct biomes based on their similarities in climate. For the purposes of this activity, consider only land. Do not include the oceans!

Color the biomes on the map below, give the biomes a name, and make a legend.



Legend

Answer the following questions based on your map above.

1. Which biome is the largest? Approximately how many square miles is it?

2. Which biome is the smallest? Approximately how many square miles is it?

3. Explain briefly how you divided the biomes.