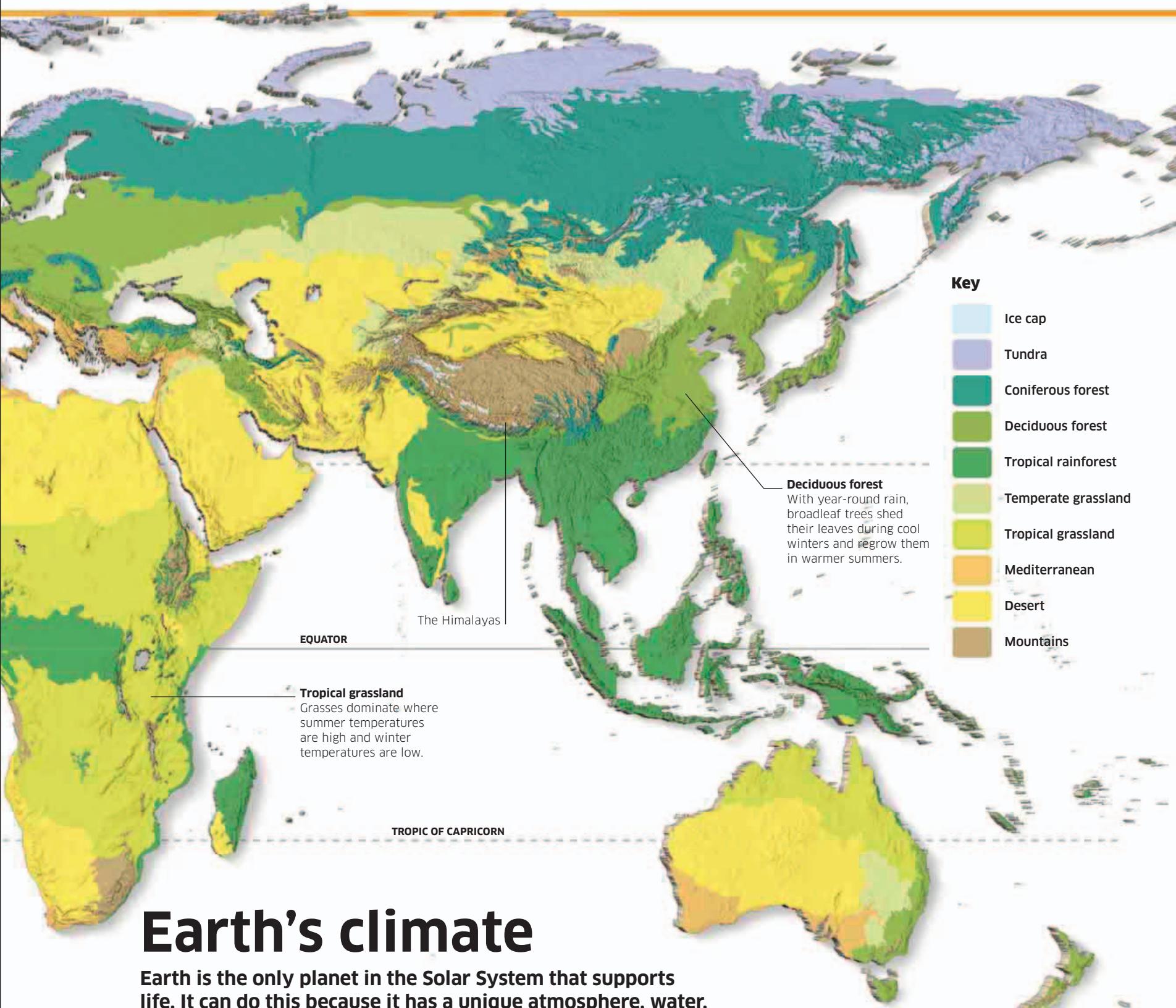


0.7 in (2 cm)—average annual rainfall in the Sahara Desert, compared with 70 in (180 cm) a year in a tropical rainforest.

57°F (14°C)—the average temperature on Earth's surface.

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## Earth's climate

Earth is the only planet in the Solar System that supports life. It can do this because it has a unique atmosphere, water, and weather that living organisms can survive in.

Almost every part of our planet is occupied by some form of life—from the deepest oceans to the highest mountains. However, the different climates across the world affect how many and what type of species live in each place. Tropical regions are teeming with life while only extreme survivors can live in polar wastes and deserts.