

Grassland biome



Quick summary



Grasslands are wide expanses of land filled with low-growing plants such as grasses and wildflowers. The amount of precipitation is not enough to grow tall trees and produce a forest. Across the world, 25 per cent of land is in the grassland biome.

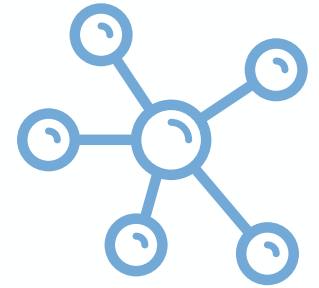


Vocabulary

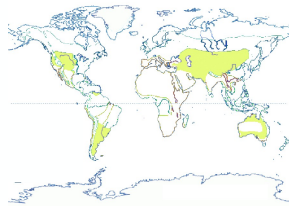
expanses: large areas

precipitation: rain, snow, sleet or hail

fertile: supports growth well



Location



Grasslands are found north of the Tropic of Cancer and south of the Tropic of Capricorn. They are known by different names in different parts of the world: steppes in **Asia**; prairies in **North America**; pampas, llanos and cerrados in **South America**; and rangelands in **Australia**.



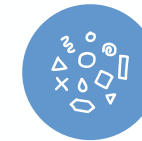
Physical features

The soil in the grasslands is deep and dark. It is also very fertile and so it is good farm land. In northern areas, the grass stays short because these areas have cold winters and dry, hot summers. In southern climates, the grass grows tall because these areas have warmer weather and periods of very wet weather.



Human processes

Most of the world's food is grown in areas that were once grasslands.



Diversity

There are many grasses and flowers in all areas of grassland. The **Asian steppes** are home to the the Saiga antelope, Przewalski's horse, the Bactrian camel, the Goitered gazelle and the Ustyard urial – a wild sheep. In the **North American prairies**, the animals are bison, antelope, birds, gophers, prairie dogs, coyotes and insects. In the **South American pampas**, the animals are foxes, skunks, small herds of guanaco, viscachas and bush dogs. In the **Australian rangelands** there are bison, elk, pronghorn and deer.



Location



Physical features



Human features



Diversity



Physical processes



Human processes



Techniques