

PRAIRIES



LIFE IN TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS

CASE STUDY – PRAIRIES AND VELDTS

VELDS



LOCATION

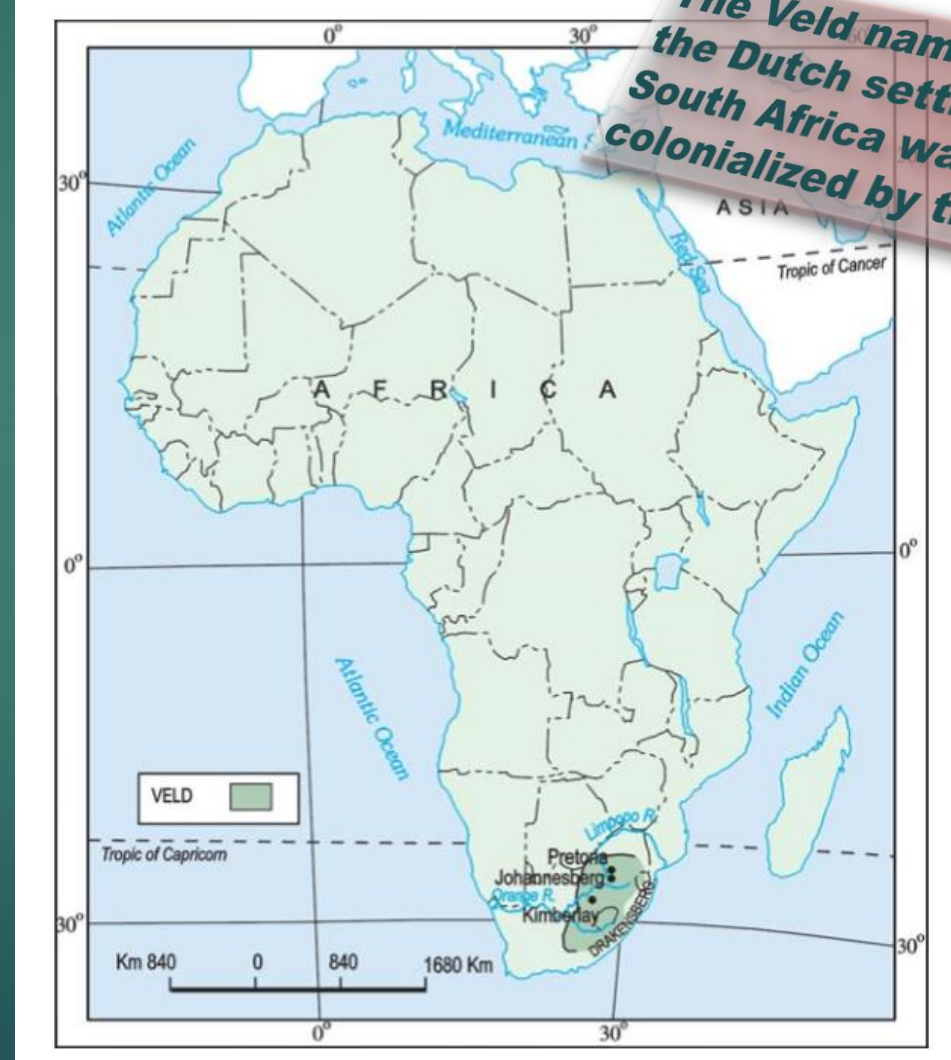
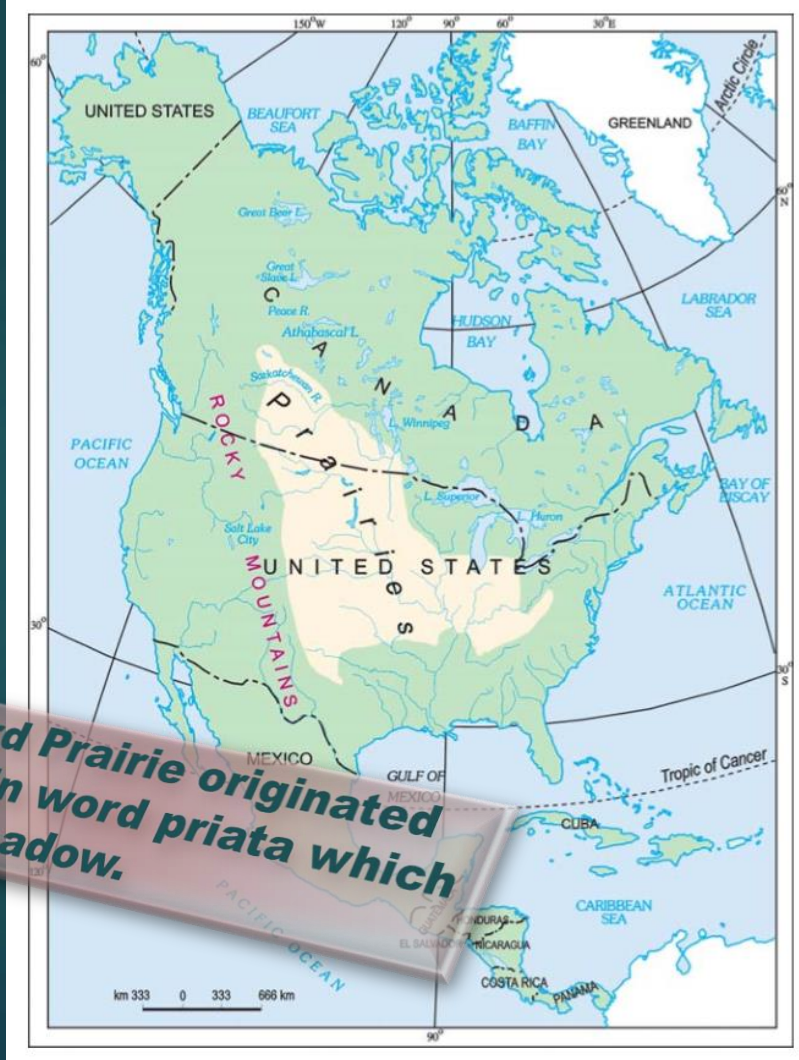
PRAIRIES

- ▶ The prairies are bound by the rocky mountains in the west and the great lakes in the east.
- ▶ The prairies cover parts of united states of America and parts of Canada
- ▶ In the USA, the area is drained by the tributaries of Mississippi and the Canadian prairies are drained by the tributaries of Saskatchewan Rivers.

VELDTS

- ▶ Veldts are rolling plateaus with varying heights ranging from 600 m to 1100 m.
- ▶ It is bound by the Drakensburg Mountains on the east.
- ▶ To its west lies the Kalahari desert. On the northeastern part, “high veldts” are located that attain a height of more than 1600 m, in some places.

THE TEMPERATE GRASSLANDS OF NORTH AMERICA ARE KNOWN AS PRAIRIES AND THAT OF SOUTH AFRICA ARE VELDTS/ VELDS.



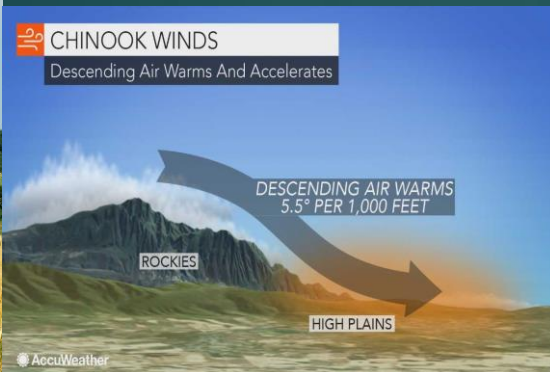
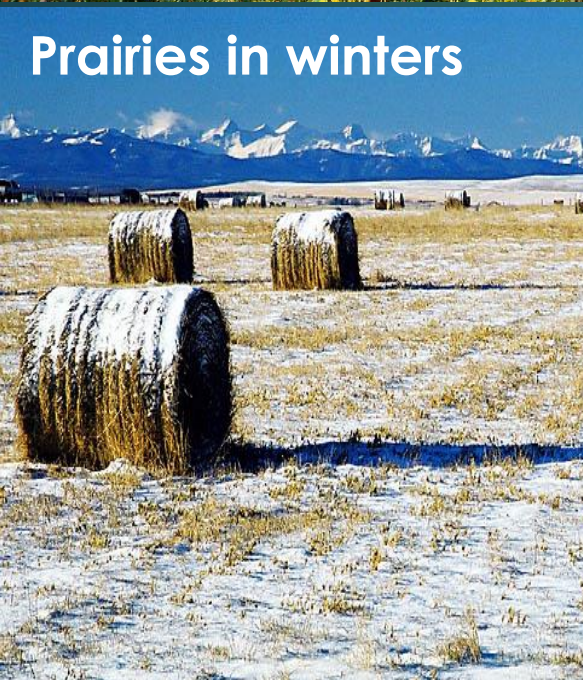
CLIMATE

PRAIRIES

- ▶ Being located in the heart of a continent, the climate is of continental type with extreme temperatures.
- ▶ The summers are warm with temperatures of around 20°C, while in winter -20°C has been recorded in Winnipeg, Canada.
- ▶ In winters a thick blanket of snow covers this region.
- ▶ The annual rainfall is moderate and is ideal for the growth of grass.
- ▶ Due to the absence of the north-south barrier, a local wind “Chinook” blows here.

VELDTS

- ▶ The veldts have a mild climate due to the influence of the Indian Ocean.
- ▶ Winters are cold and dry. Temperatures vary between 5°C and 10°C and July is the coldest month.
- ▶ Summers are short and warm. Johannesburg records about 20°C temperature in the summer.
- ▶ The velds receive rainfall mainly in the summer months from November to February. This is mainly because of the warm ocean currents that wash the shores of the velds.



Chinook is a hot wind that blows in winter and therefore raises the temperature within a short time. This increase in temperature results in the melting of snow, making pasture land available for grazing of animals.

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The velds have a mild climate due to the influence of the Indian Ocean.



Summers in Veldts

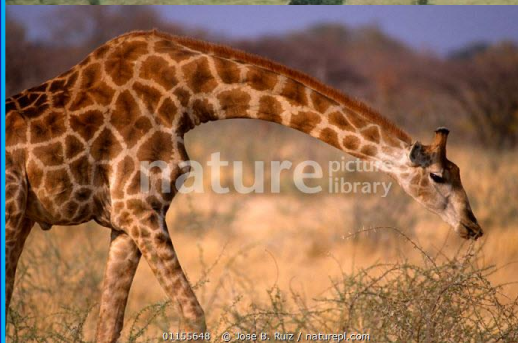
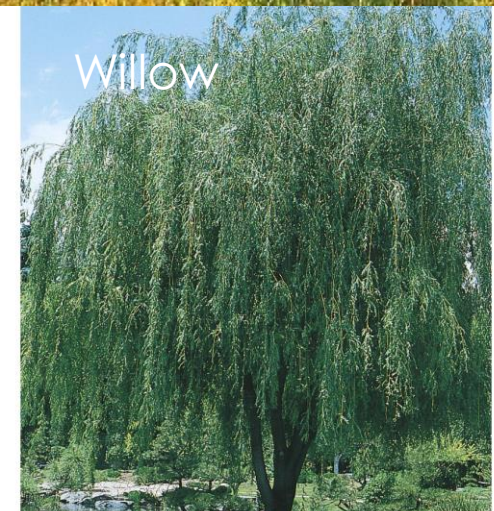
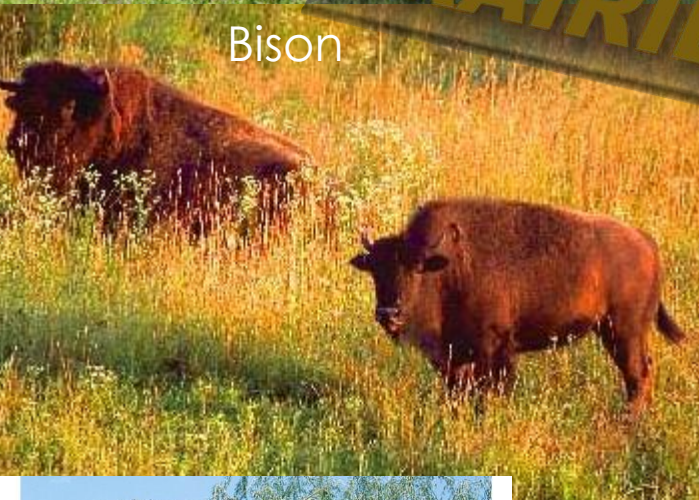
NATURAL VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE

PRAIRIES

- ▶ Prairies are practically tree-less. Where water is available, trees such as willows, alders and poplars grow.
- ▶ Areas where rainfall is very little or unreliable, grasses are short and sparse.
- ▶ Bison or the American buffalo is the most important animal of this region. The other animals found in this region are rabbits, coyotes, gophers and Prairie dog.

VELDTS

- ▶ The vegetation cover is sparse. Grasses dominate the landscape. Red grass grows in bush velds.
- ▶ In the high velds acacia and maroola are seen to be growing.
- ▶ The animals of the velds are primarily lions, leopards, cheetah and kudu



Prairie dogs

Acacia

Bison

coyotes

Poplars

Willow

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VELDTS

PRAIRIES

nature picture library

PEOPLE AND THEIR OCCUPATION

PRAIRIES

- ▶ The people of this region have successfully harnessed technology to utilize their natural resources.
- ▶ The Prairies are also known as the “Granaries of the world,” due to the huge surplus of wheat production.
- ▶ The major crop of this area is maize, other crops including potatoes, soybean, cotton and alfa-alfa are also grown.
- ▶ These areas are suitable for cattle rearing. Large cattle farms called ranches are looked after by sturdy men called cowboys

VELDTS

- ▶ Where the land is fertile crops are grown. The main crops are maize, wheat, barley, oats and potato. Cash crops like tobacco, sugarcane and cotton are also grown.
- ▶ Sheep rearing is the most important occupation of the people.
- ▶ Sheep is bred mainly for wool and has given rise to the wool industry in the veldts.

- ▶ Dairy farming is another major industry that extends from the Great Lakes to the Atlantic Coast in the east.
- ▶ Large mineral deposits particularly coal and iron and a good network of roads, railways and canals in this region have made it the most industrialised region in the world.

- ▶ Dairy farming is the next important occupation. Cattle are reared in the warmer and wetter regions and the dairy products like butter, cheese are produced for both domestic supply and also for export.
- ▶ The velds have rich reserve of minerals. Iron and steel industry has developed where coal and iron are present. Gold and diamond mining are major occupations of people of this region.

Graineries of the world



Cowboys herding cattle



Dairy farming



Industries



Farming in Veldts



Merino sheep rearing



Gold Mine
Johannesburg



Diamond mine Kimberley



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IMPORTANT CITIES

PRAIRIES

- ▶ Important cities in the American prairies are Chicago, Minneapolis, Indianapolis, Kansas and Denver.
- ▶ In the Canadian prairies the important cities are Edmonton, Saskatoon, Calgary and Winnipeg.

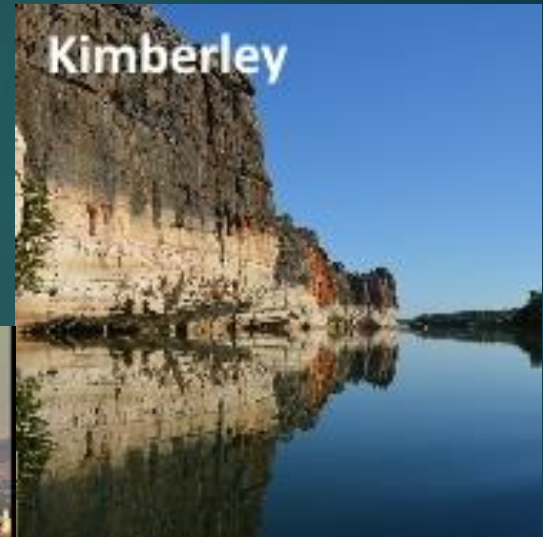
VELDTS

- ▶ Johannesburg is known for being the gold capital of the world.
- ▶ Kimberley is famous for its diamond mines



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DID YOU KNOW....???

The grasslands of Prairies were the home of native Americans often called “Red Indians”. They were the actual habitants of the continent. The Prairies were home of other tribes also like the Apache, the Crow, the Cree and the Pawnee.



- ▶ Velds lie in the Southern hemisphere. The seasons in southern hemisphere are reversed to those of Northern Hemisphere. That is why July is the coldest month in Veldts and summer rains are from November to February.

