

# Grasslands

## What is a Grassland?

Grasslands are large, open areas which are covered almost entirely by grass. They are very flat areas and are usually located between deserts and forests. Grasslands are found on every continent except for Antarctica. Tropical grasslands, often referred to as savannas, are located close to the equator. Temperate grasslands are located farther from the equator.

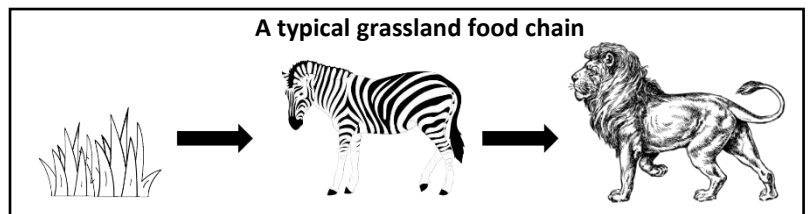


## Climate

Grasslands can be very cold in winters and very hot in summers. They are dry regions, with more rain than deserts but not enough to support forests.

## Fauna

Grasslands are home to many grazing animals such as zebras and bison. This is because of the abundance of grass within these regions. These grazing animals support large predators such as lions, cheetahs and coyotes.



As grasslands are wide open spaces with few obstacles to get in the way, many grassland animals are very fast. Owls and many other large birds also live in grasslands. They hunt the many fast rodent animals that scurry around. Many grassland animals also have paws that allow them to dig burrows easily. This is because grasslands lack protection from weather and predators. Some animals, such as the prairie dog, dig underground tunnel systems for protection.



A baobab tree

## Flora

Grassland flora consists largely of different species of grass. The species of grass depends on the type of grassland. Buffalo grass, foxtail and switchgrass are just some of the different species that grow. Some trees and shrubs do grow in grasslands. A number of these trees have fire-resistant bark and are able to retain moisture effectively. Acacia trees and baobab trees are two examples of trees that manage to survive in grassland environments.