**Great Plains**

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*For other uses, see* [*Great Plains (disambiguation)*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Plains_%28disambiguation%29)*.*

*For the Canadian portion of the Great Plains, see* [*Canadian Prairies*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Prairies)*.*

[Coordinates](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geographic_coordinate_system): [37°N 97°W﻿ / ﻿37°N 97°W﻿ / 37; -97](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Great_Plains&params=37_N_97_W_region:US_type:landmark_dim:589934)



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| --- |
| **The Great Plains** |
| Region |
| View of the Great Plains near [Lincoln, Nebraska](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lincoln%2C_Nebraska) |
| **Countries** | [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States), [Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada), [Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico) |
|  |
| **Coordinates** | [37°N 97°W﻿ / ﻿37°N 97°W﻿ / 37; -97](http://toolserver.org/~geohack/geohack.php?pagename=Great_Plains&params=37_N_97_W_region:US_type:landmark_dim:589934) |
|  |
| **Length** | 3,200 km (1,988 mi) |
| **Width** | 800 km (497 mi) |
| **Area** | 1,300,000 km2 (501,933 sq mi) |
|  |
| Extent of the Great Plains |
| **Website:** [Library of Congress](http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/award97/ndfahtml/ngphome.html) |
|  |

The **Great Plains** are a broad expanse of flat land, much of it covered in [prairie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prairie), [steppe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Steppe) and [grassland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grassland), which lies west of the [Mississippi River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mississippi_River) and east of the [Rocky Mountains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rocky_Mountains) in the [United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States) and [Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada). This area covers parts of the [U.S. states](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/U.S._state) of [Colorado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado), [Kansas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kansas), [Montana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Montana), [Nebraska](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska), [New Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Mexico), [North Dakota](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Dakota), [Oklahoma](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma), [South Dakota](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Dakota), [Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas), and [Wyoming](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wyoming), and the [Canadian provinces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Provinces_and_territories_of_Canada) of [Alberta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alberta), [Manitoba](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manitoba) and [Saskatchewan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saskatchewan). The Canadian portion of the Plains is known as the [Prairies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Prairies). Some geographers include some territory of [Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico) in the Plains, but many stop at the [Rio Grande](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_Grande).

**Usage**

The term *Great Plains* is used in the United States to describe a sub-section of the even more vast [Interior Plains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interior_Plains) physiographic division, which covers much of the interior of North America. It also has currency as a region of human geography, referring to the [Plains Indians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plains_Indians) or the Plains States.

In Canada the term is little used; [Natural Resources Canada](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_Resources_Canada), the government department responsible for official mapping and equivalent to the [United States Geological Survey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Geological_Survey), treats the Interior Plains as one unit consisting of several related plateau and plains. There is no region referred to as the "Great Plains" in [*The Atlas of Canada*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Atlas_of_Canada). In terms of human geography, the term *prairie* is more commonly used in Canada, and the region is known as the [Prairie Provinces](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canadian_Prairies) or simply "the Prairies."

The [North American Environmental Atlas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_Environmental_Atlas), produced by the [Commission for Environmental Cooperation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Commission_for_Environmental_Cooperation), a NAFTA agency composed of the geographical agencies of the Mexican, American, and Canadian governments uses the "Great Plains" as a [ecoregion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ecoregion) synonymous with prairies and grasslands rather than as physiographic region defined by topography.

**Boundaries**

Short-grass prairie

[Mixed grass prairie](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mixed_grass_prairie)

Tall-grass prairie

The Great Plains before the native grasses were plowed under, [Haskell County, Kansas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haskell_County%2C_Kansas), 1897

The region is about 500 mi (800 km) east to west and 2,000 mi (3,200 km) north to south. Much of the region was home to [American Bison](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Bison) herds until they were hunted to near extinction during the mid/late 19th century. It has an area of approximately 1,300,000 km2 (500,000 sq mi). Current thinking regarding the geographic boundaries of the Great Plains is shown by this [map](http://www.unl.edu/plains/about/map.shtml) at the Center for Great Plains Studies, [University of Nebraska–Lincoln](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Nebraska%E2%80%93Lincoln).

The term "Great Plains", for the region west of about the [96th](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/96th_meridian_west) or [98th meridian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/98th_meridian_west) and east of the Rocky Mountains, was not generally used before the early 20th century. Nevin Fenneman's 1916 study, *Physiographic Subdivision of the United States*, brought the term Great Plains into more widespread usage. Before that the region was almost invariably called the High Plains, in contrast to the lower Prairie Plains of the Midwestern states. Today the term "[High Plains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Plains_%28United_States%29)" is used for a subregion of the Great Plains.

**Geology**

The Great Plains are the westernmost portion of the vast [North American](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_America) [Interior Plains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Interior_Plains), which extend east to the [Appalachian Plateau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appalachian_Plateau). The [United States Geological Survey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Geological_Survey) divides the Great Plains in the United States into ten physiographic subdivisions:

* [Coteau du Missouri](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Coteau_du_Missouri) or Missouri Plateau, glaciated – east-central South Dakota, northern and eastern North Dakota and northeastern Montana;
* Coteau du Missouri, unglaciated – western South Dakota, northeastern Wyoming, southwestern North Dakota and southeastern Montana;
* [Black Hills](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Hills) – western South Dakota;
* [High Plains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Plains_%28United_States%29) – [Eastern New Mexico](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_New_Mexico), northwestern Texas (including the [Llano Estacado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llano_Estacado) and [Texas Panhandle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Panhandle)), KFC, eastern Colorado, western Kansas, most of Nebraska (including the [Sand Hills](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sand_Hills_%28Nebraska%29)) and southeastern Wyoming;
* Plains Border – central Kansas and northern Oklahoma (including the [Flint](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flint_Hills), [Red](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Hills) and [Smoky Hills](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smoky_Hills));
* [Colorado Piedmont](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Colorado_Piedmont) – eastern Colorado;
* [Raton](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raton%2C_New_Mexico) section – northeastern New Mexico;
* [Pecos Valley](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pecos_River) – eastern New Mexico;
* [Edwards Plateau](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwards_Plateau) – south-central Texas; and
* [Central Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Central_Texas) section – central Texas.

The High Plains is used in a related, more general context to describe the elevated regions of the Great Plains, which are primarily west of the [100th meridian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/100th_meridian_west) in the US.

During the [Cretaceous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cretaceous) Period (145-65 million years ago), the Great Plains was covered by a shallow [inland sea](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inland_sea_%28geology%29) called the [Western Interior Seaway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Interior_Seaway). However, during the [Late Cretaceous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Late_Cretaceous) to the [Paleocene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleocene) (65-55 million years ago), the seaway had begun to recede, leaving behind thick marine deposits and a relatively flat terrain where the seaway had once occupied.

[Paleontological](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleontology) finds in the area have yielded bones of [woolly mammoths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Woolly_mammoth), [saber toothed tigers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smilodon) and other ancient animals, as well as dozens of other [megafauna](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Megafauna) (large animals over 100 lb. (45 kg)) – such as [giant sloths](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ground_sloth), [horses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evolution_of_the_horse), [mastodons](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mastodon), and [American lion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Lion) – that dominated the area of the ancient Great Plains for millions of years. The vast majority of these animals went extinct in North America around 13,000 years ago during the end of the [Pleistocene](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pleistocene).

**Climate**

A photo of bison at the [Tallgrass Prairie Preserve](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tallgrass_Prairie_Preserve) in Oklahoma

In general, the Great Plains have a wide variety of weather through the year, with very cold winters and very hot summers. Wind speeds are often very high. The prairies support an abundant wildlife in undisturbed settings. Humans have converted much of the prairies for agricultural purposes or to create pastures.

The 100th meridian roughly corresponds with the line that divides the Great Plains into an area that receive 20 inches (510 millimeters) or more of rainfall per year and an area that receives less than 20 in (510 mm). In this context, the High Plains, as well as [Southern Alberta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Alberta), south-western Saskatchewan and [Eastern Montana](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eastern_Montana) are mainly [semi hot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Semi-arid_climate) steppe land and are generally characterized by [rangeland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ranch) or marginal [farmland](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agriculture). The region (especially the High Plains) is periodically subjected to extended periods of [drought](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Drought); high winds in the region may then generate devastating [dust storms](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_storm). The eastern Great Plains near the eastern boundary falls in the [humid subtropical climate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humid_subtropical_climate) zone in the southern areas, and the northern and central areas fall in the [humid continental climate](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Humid_continental_climate).

**Flora**

The Great Plains are part of the floristic [North American Prairies Province](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_Prairies_Province), which extends from the Rocky Mountains to the [Appalachians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Appalachian_Mountains).

**History**

**Original American contact**

See also: [Paleo-Indians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleo-Indians)

Buffalo hunt under the wolf-skin mask, 1832–33.

The first Americans ([Paleo-Indians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paleo-Indians)) who arrived to the Great Plains were successive [indigenous](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indigenous_peoples_of_the_Americas) cultures who are known to have inhabited the Great Plains for thousands of years, perhaps 10,000 years. Humans entered the North American continent in waves of migration, mostly over [Beringia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Beringia), the [Bering Straits](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bering_Strait) [land bridge](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Land_bridge).

Historically the Great Plains were the range of the bison and of the culture of the [Plains Indians](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plains_Indians), whose tribes included the [Blackfoot](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackfoot), [Crow](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crow_Nation), [Sioux](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sioux), [Cheyenne](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cheyenne), [Arapaho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arapaho), [Comanche](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comanche), and others. Eastern portions of the Great Plains were inhabited by tribes who lived in semipermanent villages of [earth lodges](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth_house), such as the [Arikara](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arikara), [Mandan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mandan), [Pawnee](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pawnee_people) and [Wichita](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wichita_%28tribe%29).

**European contact**

Great Plains in North Dakota c.2007, where communities began settling in the 1870s.

With the arrival of [Francisco Vázquez de Coronado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francisco_V%C3%A1zquez_de_Coronado), a Spanish [conquistador](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Conquistador), the first recorded history of encounter between Europeans and Native Americans in the Great Plains occurred in Texas, Kansas and Nebraska from 1540-1542. In that same time period, [Hernando de Soto](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hernando_de_Soto) crossed a west-northwest direction in what is now Oklahoma and Texas. Today this is known as the De Soto Trail. The Spanish thought the Great Plains were the location of the mythological [*Quivira*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quivira) *and* [*Cíbola*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zuni-Cibola_Complex), a place said to be rich in gold.

Over the next one hundred years, founding of the [fur trade](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fur_trade) brought thousands of ethnic Europeans into the Great Plains. Fur trappers from France, Spain, Britain, Russia and the young United States made their way across much of the region, making regular contacts with Native Americans. After the United States acquired the Louisiana Purchase in 1803 and conducted the [Lewis and Clark Expedition](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lewis_and_Clark_Expedition) in 1804-1806, more information about the Plains became available and various pioneers entered the areas. [Manuel Lisa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Manuel_Lisa), based in [St. Louis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Louis%2C_Missouri), established a major fur trading site at his [Fort Lisa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Lisa_%28Nebraska%29) on the [Missouri River](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Missouri_River) in Nebraska. Fur trading posts were often the basis of later settlements. Through the 19th century, more European Americans and Europeans migrated to the Great Plains as part of a vast [westward expansion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Territorial_changes_of_the_United_States) of population. New settlements became dotted across the Great Plains.

The new immigrants also brought diseases against which the Native Americans had no resistance. According to the Institute of Medicine (IOM), "between one-half and two-thirds of the Plains Indians had died of [smallpox](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Smallpox) by the time of the [Louisiana Purchase](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Louisiana_Purchase)."

**Early European settlements on the Great Plains**

**French**

*Further information:* [*List of French forts in North America*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_French_forts_in_North_America)

**British**

*Further information:* [*List of Hudson's Bay Company trading posts*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Hudson%27s_Bay_Company_trading_posts)

**American**

[Homesteaders](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homestead_Act) in central [Nebraska](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nebraska) in 1886

[Wheat](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wheat) field on Dutch flats near Mitchell, Nebraska

* [Fort Lisa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Lisa_%28North_Dakota%29) (1809), North Dakota
* [Fort Lisa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fort_Lisa_%28Nebraska%29) (1812), Nebraska
* [Fontenelle's Post](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fontenelle%27s_Post) (1822), Nebraska
* [Cabanne's Trading Post](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cabanne%27s_Trading_Post) (1822), Nebraska

**Pioneer settlement**

Cattle herd and cowboy, circa 1902

After 1870, using the new [railroads across the Plains](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_rail_transport_in_the_United_States) killed off almost all the Bison for their hides. The railroads offered attractive packages of land and transportation to European farmers, who rushed to settle the land. They (and Americans as well) also took advantage of the homestead laws to obtain free farms.

Much of the Great Plains became [open range](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Open_range), hosting ranching operations where anyone was theoretically free to run cattle. In the spring and fall, ranchers held roundups where their cowboys branded new calves, treated animals and sorted the cattle for sale. Such ranching began in Texas and gradually moved northward. In 1866-95, cowboys herded 10 million cattle north to rail heads such as [Dodge City, Kansas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dodge_City%2C_Kansas) and [Ogallala, Nebraska](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogallala%2C_Nebraska); from there, cattle were shipped eastward.

See also: [Cattle drives in the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cattle_drives_in_the_United_States)

Many foreign, especially British, investors financed the great ranches of the era. Overstocking of the range and the terrible winter of 1886 resulted in a disaster, with many cattle starved and frozen to death. [Theodore Roosevelt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Theodore_Roosevelt), a rancher in the Dakotas, lost his entire investment; he returned east to reenter politics. From then on, ranchers generally raised feed to ensure they could keep their cattle alive over winter.

To allow for agricultural development of the Great Plains and house a growing population, the US passed the [Homestead Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Homestead_Act) of 1862: it allowed a settler to claim up to 160 acres (65 ha) of land, provided that he lived on it for a period of five years and cultivated it. The provisions were expanded under the [Kinkaid Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kinkaid_Act) to include a homestead of an entire [section](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Section_%28United_States_land_surveying%29). Hundreds of thousands of people claimed such homesteads, sometimes building [sod houses](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sod_house) out of the very [turf](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sod) of their land. Many of them were not skilled [dryland farmers](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dryland_farming) and failures were frequent. Much of the Plains were settled during relatively wet years. Government experts did not understand how farmers should cultivate the prairies and gave advice counter to what would have worked. [Germans from Russia](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Germans_from_Russia) who had previously farmed in familiar circumstances in what is now [Ukraine](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ukraine) were marginally more successful than the average homesteader. The [Dominion Lands Act](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dominion_Lands_Act) of 1871 served a similar function for establishing homesteads on the prairies in Canada.

Withdrawal rates from the [Ogallala Aquifer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogallala_Aquifer)

**After 1900**

The region roughly centered on the [Oklahoma Panhandle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oklahoma_Panhandle), including southeastern Colorado, southwestern Kansas, the [Texas Panhandle](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Texas_Panhandle), and extreme northeastern New Mexico was known as the [Dust Bowl](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dust_Bowl) during the late 1920s and early 1930s. The effect of an extended drought, inappropriate cultivation, and financial crises of the [Great Depression](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Depression), forced many farmers off the land throughout the Great Plains.

From the 1950s on, many areas of the Great Plains have become productive crop-growing areas because of extensive [irrigation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irrigation) on large landholdings. The United States is a major exporter of agricultural products. The southern portion of the Great Plains lies over the [Ogallala Aquifer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ogallala_Aquifer), a huge underground layer of water-bearing strata dating from the [last ice age](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quaternary_glaciation). [Center pivot irrigation](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Center_pivot_irrigation) is used extensively in drier sections of the Great Plains, resulting in [aquifer](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aquifer) depletion at a rate that is greater than the ground's ability to recharge.

The rural Plains have lost a third of their population since 1920. Several hundred thousand square miles of the Great Plains have fewer than six persons per square mile—the density standard [Frederick Jackson Turner](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Jackson_Turner) used to declare the [American frontier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frontier) "closed" in 1893. Many have fewer than two persons per square mile. There are more than 6,000 [ghost towns](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ghost_town) in the state of Kansas alone, according to Kansas historian [Daniel Fitzgerald](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Fitzgerald_%28writer%29). This problem is often exacerbated by the consolidation of farms and the difficulty of attracting modern industry to the region. In addition, the smaller school-age population has forced the consolidation of school districts and the closure of high schools in some communities. The continuing population loss has led some to suggest that the current use of the drier parts of the Great Plains is not sustainable.

[Wind farm](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_farm) in the plains of [West Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Texas)

Abandoned gas station west of [North Platte, Nebraska](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_Platte%2C_Nebraska)

**Wind power**

The Great Plains contribute substantially to [wind power in the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_power_in_the_United_States). In July 2008, oilman turned wind-farm developer, [T. Boone Pickens](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/T._Boone_Pickens), called for the U.S. to invest $1 trillion to build an additional 200,000 MW of [wind power](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_power) [nameplate capacity](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Intermittent_energy_source#Terminology) in the Plains, as part of his [Pickens Plan](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pickens_Plan). Pickens cited [Sweetwater, Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sweetwater%2C_Texas) as an example of economic revitalization driven by wind power development. Sweetwater was a struggling town typical of the Plains, steadily losing businesses and population, until [wind turbines](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_turbine) came to the surrounding [Nolan County](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nolan_County%2C_Texas). Wind power brought jobs to local residents, along with royalty payments to landowners who leased sites for turbines, reversing the town's population decline. Pickens claims the same economic benefits are possible throughout the Plains, which he refers to as North America's "wind corridor."

**See also**

|  |  |
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| * [1837–1838 smallpox epidemic](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1837%E2%80%931838_smallpox_epidemic)
* [Cerrado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cerrado), Brazil
* [Eurasian Steppe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eurasian_Steppe)
* [Great American Desert](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_American_Desert)
* [Great bison belt](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_bison_belt)
* [Great Plains Art Museum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Great_Plains_Art_Museum)
* [High Plains (Australia)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/High_Plains_%28Australia%29)
 | * [Kazakh Steppe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kazakh_Steppe)
* [Llano Estacado](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Llano_Estacado)
* [Llanos](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Los_Llanos%2C_Venezuela), Colombia and Venezuela
* [Pampa](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pampa), Argentina, Uruguay, Brazil
* [Pontic-Caspian steppe](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pontic-Caspian_steppe)
* [Puszta](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Puszta)
* [Wind power in Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wind_power_in_Texas)
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