

Steppe Climate Type: Temperate Continental Climate

Climate (Temperature & Precipitation)

- Climate is continental with extremes of temperature.
- Summers are very warm in North America.
- Winters are very cold in the continental steppes of Eurasia.
- In the Southern hemisphere, the steppe type of climate is never severe because of the moderating effects of oceans.
- The great annual range of temperature.
- There is a tremendous difference between the annual temperature range of the northern and southern hemispheres because of continentality.
- Annual precipitation is light about 20 inches, varies from 10 to 30 inches according to location.
- June and July are the months of heaviest rainfall.
- Occasional depressions of Westerlies bring little precipitation and in the form of snow, in Winters.
- In the Southern hemisphere, annual precipitation is more because of maritime influence.

Distribution

- They lie in interiors of continents, bordering deserts and away from the Mediterranean region.
- Placed under the Westerly wind belt.
- In the northern hemisphere, grasslands are entirely continental and extensive.
- In Eurasia, they are called Steppes stretched from shores of the Black sea eastwards to foothills of the Altai Mountains.
- Grasslands are known by different names as given below:

Region	Grassland
Hungary and plains of Manchuria	Pustaz
North America	Prairies
Argentina and Uruguay	Pampas
Northern South Africa	Bush-Veld (more tropical)
Southern South Africa	High Veld (more Temperate)
Murray-Darling basin of Australia	Downs



New Zealand	Canterbury
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Vegetation & Wildlife

- Steppes are practically treeless and grasses are much shorter.
- Long Prairie grass is tall, fresh and nutritious. They are found in regions like Russian Ukraine and some areas of Asiatic Steppes.
- Short Steppe type of grass prevails in continental interiors of Asia.
- Temperate grasslands vary in their appearance with seasons.
- Towards equator, steppe grass becomes shorter and sparser, till it merges into the desert with thorny scrub.
- With an increase in precipitation polewards, it gives rise to wooded steppes.

Major Tribes

- Kirghiz, Kazakhs, Kalmuk in Asiatic Steppes, Red Indians in North America.

