

# THE GRASSLAND ECOSYSTEM

Generally, grasslands are regions of level, open land in both temperate and tropical climates. Whether these ecosystems are called pampas, prairies, steppes, or savannas, grasslands are found throughout the world, and on every continent with the exception of Antarctica.

Temperate grasslands with rich soil are found in Europe, Asia, North America, South America, and Australia. Tropical grasslands are found close to the equator in Australia, Africa, Asia, and South America. The dry, dusty soil in this type of grassland is less fertile.

## Grasslands of the World

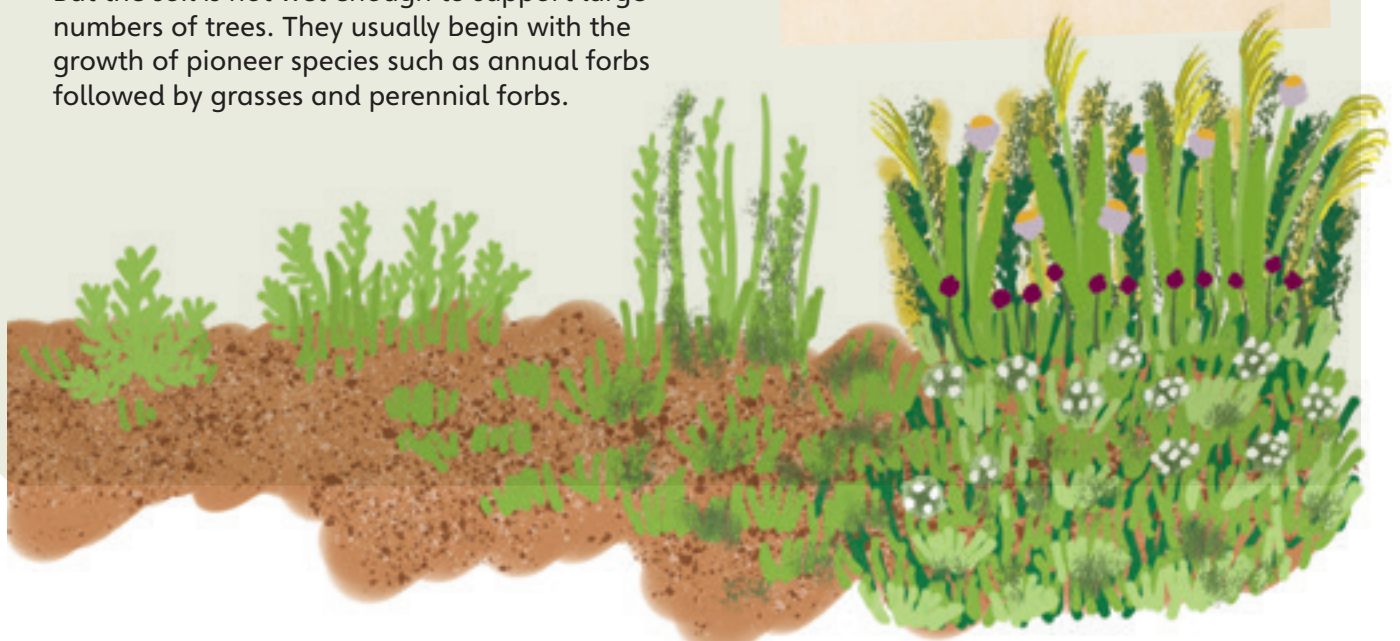


## FUN FACT

A large portion of Earth's land surface is covered by grasses. When these grasses are the dominant plant species in an ecosystem, it's called a grassland.

## Composition of a Grassland

Grasslands are plentiful in regions where it rains, but the soil is not wet enough to support large numbers of trees. They usually begin with the growth of pioneer species such as annual forbs followed by grasses and perennial forbs.



WEEDS

ANNUAL  
PLANTS

GRASSES AND  
BIENNIAL HERBS

PERENNIAL HERBS  
AND SHRUBS