

Geography Alive: Stage 2 (Topic 2: The Earth's Environment)

Lesson 7: Temperate Grasslands		
<p>Content focus:</p> <p>In this lesson, students investigate the characteristics of the temperate grasslands and the animals that live there. In doing so, students investigate the adaptations of animals and plants to the temperate grassland environment.</p>		<p>Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>YouTube video: Grasslands of the world</i> [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nohuNF4j7c] • <i>Resource Sheet 1: Temperate Grasslands</i> • <i>PowerPoint 1: Temperate Grasslands</i> • <i>Worksheet 1: World Map</i>
<p>Key inquiry questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What makes temperate grasslands unique? • What plants animals live in temperate grasslands? • How have these plants and animals adapted to the climate of temperate grasslands? 	<p>Outcomes:</p> <p><i>A student:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • describes the characteristics that make temperate grasslands unique • describes the climate of the temperate grasslands • identifies plants and animals that live in the temperate grasslands • explains, in simple terms, how selected plants and animals have adapted to the temperate grassland climate. 	<p>Lesson sequence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Step 1: Students watch and listen to the YouTube video: Grasslands of the world. (Please note: This video has been created by a student for a school project and may have some spelling and grammatical errors). Ask students to respond to the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What did all the grasslands in the video have in common? - What type of vegetation did you see in the grasslands in the video? - Why do you think it is hard for trees to grow in a grassland? • Step 2: Ask students to study Resource Sheet 1 and PowerPoint 1. Ask students to discuss the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Where are temperate grasslands are located? - What is the climate like in temperate grassland? - Why is it very difficult for trees and shrubs to grow in temperate grasslands? - What types of plants and animals are found in temperate grasslands? - Why does nature maintain a balance between herbivores and carnivores in the savanna grasslands of Africa? • Step 3: Ask the students to mark on the location of temperate grasslands on Worksheet 1. Students are encouraged to use the one world map worksheet for lessons 1–5. Monitor and support the students as they complete the mapping activity. As they are working, remind the students to be as accurate as possible when locating and shading the areas of temperate grassland around the world. • Step 4: Once the students have completed their maps gather the class together. Encourage the students to use their maps to identify some of the countries around the world where temperate grasslands are located. Review with students the animals that are found in grasslands and discuss how they can survive in the environment. • Step 5: In students' workbooks they can draw and label some animals that can be found in temperate grasslands. Ask students to describe their habitat. <p>Extending Students: Encourage the more capable students to complete their maps without the assistance of the Resource Sheet or PowerPoint. Supporting Students: Allow less confident students to complete their maps in a small group with the support of the teacher or teacher aide.</p>