



# HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 404

## GRASSLANDS

### CONTENTS

<b>I. UKRAINE</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Grasslands of the World</b> .....	<b>4</b>
<b>Breadbasket of Europe</b> .....	<b>9</b>
<b>Conquered Borderland</b> .....	<b>11</b>
<b>A New, Old Country</b> .....	<b>16</b>
<b>II. KENYA</b> .....	<b>22</b>
<b>Wild Savanna</b> .....	<b>23</b>
<b>Kenya's Story</b> .....	<b>27</b>
<b>Safari or Shambas</b> .....	<b>31</b>
<b>Changing Kenya</b> .....	<b>32</b>
<b>III. ARGENTINA</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>Gran Chaco to Ushuaia</b> .....	<b>37</b>
<b>Riches Lost</b> .....	<b>40</b>
<b>Porteños and Gauchos</b> .....	<b>45</b>

**Author:**

Editor:

Assistant Editor:

Graphic Design:

**Theresa K. Buskey, B.A., J.D.**

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

Annette M. Walker, B.S.

Mark Nunes, A.A.

Keith A. Piccolo, B.F.A.

Brian K. Ring, A.A.



Alpha Omega Publications®

804 N. 2nd Ave. E., Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

© MCMXCVIII by Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. All rights reserved.

LIFEPAC is a registered trademark of Alpha Omega Publications, Inc.

All trademarks and/or service marks referenced in this material are the property of their respective owners. Alpha Omega Publications, Inc. makes no claim of ownership to any trademarks and/or service marks other than their own and their affiliates', and makes no claim of affiliation to any companies whose trademarks may be listed in this material, other than their own.



# GRASSLANDS

There are four important areas of plant life in the world. They are forests, tundras, deserts, and grasslands. The grasslands are drier than the forests, warmer than the tundras, and wetter than the deserts. They are an especially important region to people.

Of the four areas, the grasslands are the best for growing food, for several reasons. Grasslands are usually flat, or nearly flat, which makes them easy to farm. The soil is usually very good for crops. Moreover, quite a bit more than half of the food people grow to feed

themselves is grass. Wheat, rice, corn, barley, millet, and sugar cane are all grasses. It makes sense that these crops grow well in areas where wild grasses grow. Thus, grasslands are very important to people.

In this LIFE PAC® you will study grasslands and three grassland countries. You will learn about the plants and animals of the grasslands. You will also study the Ukraine in Europe, Kenya in Africa, and Argentina in South America. You will learn about how the grasslands have been a part of those countries and their history.

---

---

## OBJECTIVES

**Read these objectives.** The objectives tell you what you should be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC.

When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Name and identify the different grasslands.
2. Explain why grasslands are important and where they are located.
3. Explain the geography, history, people, and life today in the three grassland countries.
4. Explain how the grasslands affected the countries you study.
5. Tell some of the products of the grassland countries.

## VOCABULARY

**Study these new words.** Learning the meanings of these words is a good study habit and will improve your understanding of this LIFE PAC.

**autocratic** (ô tə krat' ik). Having absolute power, ruling without limits.

**bauxite** (bôk' sīt). A mineral from which aluminum is obtained.

**bola** (bô' lə). A weapon made from rope tied with heavy balls at the end, used to throw at cattle and tangle their legs.

**city-state** (sit' ē stāt'). An independent state (country) with one major city that is in control.

**communism** (kom' yə niz' əm). A system in which most or all property is owned by the state and is shared by all.

**corrupt** (kə rupt'). Influenced by bribes; dishonest.

**dairy** (dār' ē). Having to do with milk and products made from milk.

**debt** (det). Owing something to another, often money.

**embroidery** (em broi' dər ē). Ornamental designs sewn in cloth or leather with a needle.

**establish** (e stab' lish). To set up and keep going for a long time.

**estuary** (es' chü er ē). A wide mouth of a river whose current meets the tides of the sea.

**expose** (ek spōz'). To lay open; uncover; leave without protection.

**famine** (fam' ən). A lack of food in a place; a time of starving.

**fertile** (fēr' təl). Able to produce much; producing crops easily.

**flax** (flaks). A slender, upright plant. Its seeds are used for linseed oil, and linen is made from its stems.

**folklore** (fôk' lôr). The beliefs, stories, legends, and customs of a people.

**gaucho** (gou' chō). Cowboy of the South American pampas (plains).

**gourd** (gôrd). The fruit of a vine whose hard, dried shell is used for cups, bowls, and other utensils.

**herbivore** (hēr' bə vôr). Plant-eating animal.

**manganese** (mang' gə nēz). A hard, brittle grayish-white metal used in making steel.

**mestizo** (mes tē' zō). A South American of mixed ancestry, often Indian and Spanish.

**nuclear** (nü' klē ər). Of or having to do with atomic energy or atomic weapons.

**peasant** (pez' ənt). A farmer of the working class in Europe.

**persecution** (pér' sə kyü' shən). Being treated badly, especially because of one's beliefs.

**plateau** (pla tō). A plain in the mountains or high above sea level.

**polo** (pō' lō). A game like hockey, played on horseback with long-handled mallets and a wooden ball.

**poncho** (pon' chō). A large piece of cloth or other material with a slit in the middle for the head to go through.

**population** (pop yə lā' shən). The people of a city, country, or district.

**prosper** (pros' pər). To be successful; have good fortune.

**province** (prov' ins). One of the main divisions of a country. Argentina is divided into provinces instead of into states.

**rift** (rift). A split; break; crack.

**safari** (sə fä' rē). A journey or hunting expedition in eastern Africa.

**serf** (sèrf). A slave who could not be sold off the land, but passed from one owner to another with the land.

**smuggle** (smug' əl). To bring in or take out of a country secretly and against the law.

**sub-arctic** (sub ärk' tik). The area around the outside the Arctic and Antarctic Circles.

**suburb** (sub' érb). A district, town, or village just outside or near a city.

**terrorist** (ter' ər ist). A person who uses violence and terror to get his way on some matter, especially political matters; for example, to try to overthrow a government or force it to act in a certain way.

**thatch** (thach). Straw, rushes, or the like, used as a roof or covering.

**titanium** (tī tā' nē um). A lightweight, strong metal that has many uses including airplanes, tools, and armor plate.

**uranium** (yù rā' nē əm). A heavy, white, radioactive metal used as a source of atomic energy.

**Note:** These words appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used in this LIFEPAK. If you are unsure of the meaning when you are reading, review the definition.

**Pronunciation Key:** hat, āge, cāre, fā; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ôrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /ə/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

# I. UKRAINE

This section of the LIFE PAC will teach you about the many grasslands all over the world. You will learn some of their names, the animals that live on them, and where they are. Then, you will study the country of Ukraine, which is located in

eastern Europe on the grasslands of Eurasia. It is a new country that was created when the Soviet Union split apart in 1991. But the land is old, even if the country is new. You will learn about both.

**Review these objectives.** When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Name and identify the different grasslands.
2. Explain why grasslands are important and where they are located.
3. Explain the geography, history, people, and life today in the three grassland countries.
4. Explain how the grasslands affected the countries you study.
5. Tell some of the products of the grassland countries.

**Review these words.**

autocratic	bauxite	communism	dairy
embroidery	expose	famine	fertile
flax	herbivore	manganese	nuclear
peasant	persecution	serf	titanium
uranium			

---

---

## Grasslands of the World

Small areas of grass can be found in many places, including, perhaps, your back yard. But when they speak of *grasslands*, geographers are talking about large regions that were once covered with wild grass. These are found on every continent except Antarctica.

In North America, the grasslands are called the Great Plains. They stretch from Canada to Texas in the center of the continent. In South America, the *llanos* (yă' nōs) are north and south of the Amazon rain forest, while the *pampas* are further south, in Argentina and Uruguay. In Africa, the savanna winds around the outside of the rain forests near the

equator. In South Africa, the treeless grassland was named the *veld* by Dutch settlers. In Europe and Asia the grasslands are called the *steppes*, and stretch across the center of the two continents. In Australia, the grasslands circle the central desert.

Grasslands can be divided into three different types: prairie, steppes, and savanna. Prairie comes from the French word for meadow. It was used by the French explorers who first saw the tall grasses of the Great Plains. Prairie grass is often taller than a man's waist.

Steppes have shorter grass than prairies because they get less rain.