

Missouri: Gateway to the West

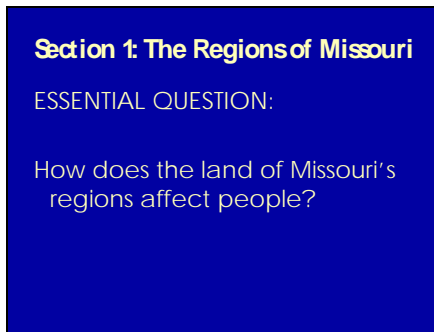
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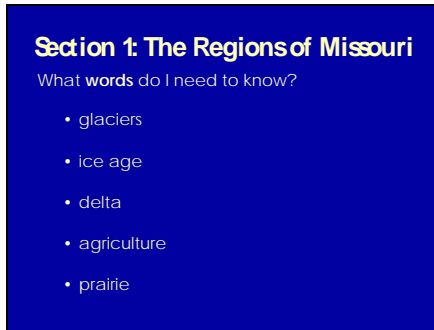
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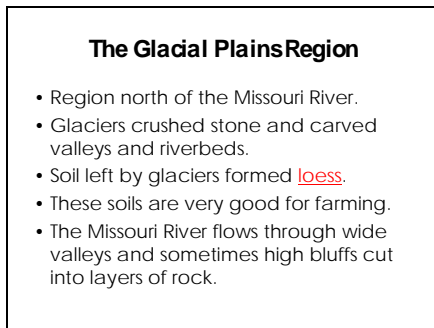
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The Ozark Highlands Region

- Land in this region was shaped by volcanoes and oceans.
- Sedimentary rock is formed when ocean creatures die and their bodies settle on the ocean floor.
- Over millions of years, these remains become a layered rock.
- Water seeping through these rocks creates caves (Missouri is known as "The Cave State.")
- Many natural springs come out of the rocks.

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The Ozark Highlands Region

- Igneous rocks are formed by cooling magma from volcanoes.
- Iron, lead, and granite are mined in this region as a result of the igneous rock.
- The Ozark Mountains have been worn down in size over millions of years.
- Taum Sauk Mountain is the state's highest point.
- Mining, lumbering, and recreation are important businesses here.

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The Southeast Lowlands Region

- This region is in the southeast corner of the state.
- Rivers have left rich soil behind in this area for thousands of years.
- The soil makes the area good for farming and has some of the state's best farmland.

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The Western Plains Region

- This region is on the eastern edge of the Great Plains that stretch to the Rocky Mountains in the west and to Texas in the south.
- Once covered by prairie (few trees and tall grasses).
- Sandstone, limestone, and clay are mined in this region.

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Section 2: The Climate of Missouri

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How does the climate of Missouri affect people?

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Section 2: The Climate of Missouri

What **words** do I need to know?

- weather
- climate
- precipitation
- tornado

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The Changing Seasons

- Weather: current temperature, precipitation, and wind.
- Climate: weather over a period of years.
- Missouri's climate is humid continental (located between the cold arctic and warm tropical regions)
- Missouri has four distinct seasons.
- Seasons are caused by the tilt of the earth
- Winter equinox is shortest day of the year.
- Summer solstice is longest day of the year.
- Cold arctic air can give us cold winter days. Moisture from the Gulf of Mexico can bring rains, snow, or ice.

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Storms

- Warm moist air from the south can collide with cold northern air to make violent storms, including tornadoes.
- Missouri ranks 8th in number of tornadoes in the U.S.
- Hot summers and rain make Missouri good for farming.

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Section 3: The Rivers and Lakes of Missouri

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How do the rivers and lakes of our state affect people?

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Section 3: The Rivers and Lakes of Missouri

What **words** do I need to know?

- headwaters
- hydroelectric
- dam
- lock
- tributary

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Missouri's Rivers

- **Rivers** and streams are important in Missouri.
- The headwaters of the **Missouri River** are in Montana.
- The river winds about 350 miles across the state.
- The **Mississippi River's** headwaters are in Minnesota.
- The Mississippi River runs along the eastern edge of Missouri.
- **Dams** on the rivers hold back water and keep the river deep enough for towboats and barges.
- **Locks** let barges and other boats go around dams.
- The Missouri River is known as the "Big Muddy" because it picks up lots of soil as it crosses the Great Plains.

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Missouri's Rivers

- Tributaries of the Missouri River: Platte River, Grand River, Chariton River, Osage, and Gasconade Rivers.
- Tributaries of the Mississippi River: Salt River, Meramec River, Black River, St. Francis River, and the Missouri River.
- The Jacks Fork, Current, and **Eleven Point** Rivers are known for canoeing and beautiful scenery.



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Missouri's Lakes

- Lakes created by dams provide electric power ([hydroelectric](#)), recreation, water for homes and businesses, and help control flooding.
- Important lakes include: [Truman Reservoir](#), Lake of the Ozarks, Lake Wappapello, and Mark Twain Lake.

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Section 4: The Plants and Animals of Missouri

ESSENTIAL QUESTION:

How are plants and animals used by people in Missouri?

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Section 4: The Plants and Animals of Missouri

What words do I need to know?

• flora	• endangered
• fauna	• habitat
• native species	• conservationist
• migrate	

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Plants

- There are over 2,000 kinds of flowers in Missouri.
- Some plants are "native."
- Some plants were brought to Missouri on purpose to see if they would grow well.
- Other plants were accidentally brought to the state and found fertile ground where they fell.
- Many people work for lumbering companies that harvest trees.
- The sap of maple trees is used for syrup.
- Fruit and nut trees are important sources of food.



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Birds and Mammals

- Many types of birds and mammals live in Missouri.
- They live in the woods and prairies, but also in our suburbs and cities.
- Migrating birds spend some time in Missouri as they fly to or return from their winter homes in the south.
- **Eagles** fly to Missouri as rivers and streams in the north freeze in winter.

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Fish, Amphibians, and Reptiles

- Fish, frogs, and turtles find homes in Missouri's lakes, rivers, and streams.
- Toads and snakes live here, too, and help control insect and rodent populations.
- Lizards, **skinks**, and salamanders also find habitats in our state.

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Endangered Species

- Some types of animals and plants are in danger of becoming extinct.
- Causes include: pollution, destruction of habitats, and overharvesting.
- **Hellbenders** are large salamanders that are endangered in Missouri.
- Conservationists work to protect the habitats of endangered animals and plants.

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