

Video summary	Before watching the video	During the video
<p><b>Focusing on tropical grasslands in Africa, along with its plants and animals.</b></p> <p>Ferne Corrigan looks in-depth at the climate of the African savanna grasslands, describing the rainfall distribution and the benefits of fires in the dry season.</p> <p>The adaptations made by the baobab tree to survive in the Savanna are explained.</p> <p>The focus then shifts to the unique features of different types of grass, along with the survival skills developed and adaptations made by lions, the black mamba and the mongoose.</p> <p>A final look is taken at how humans have used the savanna grasslands.</p>	<p>Look at a map of the distribution of tropical savannas. Ask students to look for a pattern in the distribution and discuss why the tropical savanna is located where it is.</p> <p>Ask students about the types of animals that they think might live in the tropical savanna and what type of climate they live in.</p> <p>Students could make predictions, which they could then add to once they have watched the film.</p> <p>Introduce key terms such as:  <b>Savanna:</b> A grassland in tropical and subtropical areas, for example the Serengeti in Kenya and Tanzania.  <b>Seasonal rainfall:</b> Rainfall that only occurs in one part of the year.  <b>Adaptation:</b> A characteristic that enables an animal to survive in particular location or climate.  <b>Grazing:</b> Allowing livestock such as cows to feed on the vegetation in a location.</p>	<p>You may wish to stop at relevant points during this short film to pose questions and check understanding or wait until the end. Useful questions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where are tropical savannas found?</li> <li>• What type of climate does the tropical savanna have?</li> <li>• Why are there fires in the tropical savanna?</li> <li>• What are the benefits of the fires?</li> <li>• What conditions do the trees have to cope with?</li> <li>• How are the baobab trees adapted to living in the tropical savanna?</li> <li>• What animals live in the tropical savanna?</li> <li>• How are the animals adapted to living in the tropical savanna?</li> <li>• How do humans use the tropical savanna?</li> </ul>
<b>After watching</b>		
<p>Ask students to look back at their predictions, were they right about what they thought they would see in the tropical savanna? Students could complete a spider diagram to note down the basic information about each of the tropical savanna characteristics: vegetation, climate, animals and human uses.</p>		

Give students an image of the baobab tree and ask them to annotate it with the adaptation, for example the thick corky bark and the lack of leaves for 9 months of the year. Discuss with students how those adaptations enable the trees to survive in the climate of the savanna. Students could also compare this to another tree found in the tropical savanna, called the acacia tree. What similarities and differences do the two trees have?

Discuss the human uses of the tropical savanna. Ask students whether they think those uses are good for the savanna or if they will cause issues. Students could then rank the uses from most damaging to least damaging using their opinion and then writing up their decision.

Curriculum notes	Where next?	Links
<p>This clip will be relevant for teaching Geography at KS3 and GCSE.</p> <p>This topic appears in OCR, Edexcel, AQA, WJEC KS4/GCSE in England and Wales, CCEA GCSE in Northern Ireland and SOA National 4/5 in Scotland.</p>	<p>Compare the tropical savanna to a contrasting biome such as the tundra or the boreal forest.</p> <p>Students could compare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animals</li> <li>• Vegetation</li> <li>• Climate</li> <li>• Human uses</li> </ul> <p>A case study could be built for the savanna using a real-life example such as the Serengeti. This could form a research task which students could then present to the class.</p>	<p>Food chain challenge:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zh9c47h">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zh9c47h</a></p> <p>Meet the animals of the Serengeti:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfjp7nb">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zfjp7nb</a></p> <p>Distribution of ecosystems:  <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztcch39/revision/3">https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztcch39/revision/3</a></p>