African Savanna
Location
Facts about location

1. Has a greater variety of large animals than anywhere else in the world.
2. It is located in Africa.
3. It covers almost half of Africa.
Producers

The main producer is **elephant grass**. It is a tall grass that came from Africa in 1913. It can grow up to ten feet. It grows along lake beds and rivers. Local farmers cut it and bring it home for their animals.
Producers

Another producer is **Bermuda grass**. It grows in areas where there are disturbances like fires and flooding. It creeps along the ground wherever the node touches the ground. Therefore it is called creeping grass.
Producers

*Baobab* is a tree that is a producer. It can grow up to twenty five meters tall and can live for several thousands of years. You can eat the root, leaves, and fruit pulp.
Producers

Jackal berry tree. Its wood is almost termite resistant after it has been cut down. It can grow up to eighty feet tall. The fruit is a favorite to many animals.
Producers

Senegal gum acacia is a tree that can grow up to twenty feet tall. The leaves are a gray-green color. The flowers are a yellow or cream color.
Producers

Red Oat grass is a bluish greenish grass. It is tough and can grow over three feet tall. It has very low nutritive value.
Producers

The abal is a shrub found in the African savanna. Its flowers can be eaten, and contains high levels of nitrogen and sugar.
Producers

The **Umbrella Thorn Acacia** is easy to identify. The leaves can be eaten and the tree can survive 122 degrees during the day and freezing temperatures at night.
Producers

The beech tree is a tree that produces edible beech nuts. Which have a high oil content and a sweet flavor.
Rhodes grass is native to Africa. Animals graze on it and can prevent soil erosion. It also tends to smother weeds.
Consumers

The main consumer of the African savanna is the **African Elephant**. It is the largest walking animal on earth. Their long ears let them radiate excess heat. They are a herbivore.
Consumers

The **giraffe** is a consumer that can grow eighteen to twenty feet. They are herbivores and most of their water comes from the plants they eat.
Consumer

A Zebra is also another consumer. It is a herbivore. They are four to five feet tall at the shoulder.
Consumer

The antelope is one of many medium sized mammals holding the African food chain together. It grazes on grasses but is a big food source for lions and hyenas.
Gazelles roam open grass plains in the savannas but avoid areas of high grass. They eat short grasses, leaves from shrubs, and herbs. They also get water from their food.
Gnu graze in grasslands and are always moving to find new pastures. Their main predator is the lion. They graze mostly in mornings and evenings and rest during the hot part of the day.
The **lion** mainly sleeps during the day and hunts at night. The gnu, antelope, zebra, small elephants, and giraffe are some of its prey. The female lions do most of the hunting.
A cheetah knocks its prey to the ground and suffocates it by biting its neck. They hunt smaller antelopes, rabbits, and birds.
Young **leopards** learn to hunt small animals like rabbits and rodents. As they grow, their prey’s size increases, for example, antelopes.
Hyenas are scavengers. They eat freshly dead or rotting animals that have been killed by another animal first. They hunt mostly at night and eat all parts of the prey leaving little remains.
4 step food chain

Elephant grass--> elephant--> lion--> hyena
Climate

Climate: The african savannah has 2 seasons, the wet and dry season. It is dry during the winter and wet during the summer.
*It receives a total of 100 inches of rain a year.
*It has a temperature range from 68 to 86 degrees.
Disturbances

There are scattered trees in the African savanna because of floods, fires, and low rainfall. The animals also eat the new tree shoots before they grow too large. Sometimes people set fire to the savanna to clear it for farmland.
Vocabulary:

Ranching
Community
Agriculture
Nutrient
Biome

Transpiration
Ecology
Biogeography
Terrestrial