

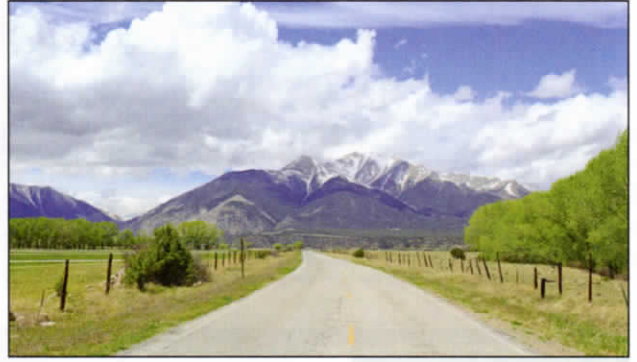


4 Great Plains

The Great Plains have rich soil and are good for farming.

By the Numbers

There are more than 150 types of grass in the Great Plains.

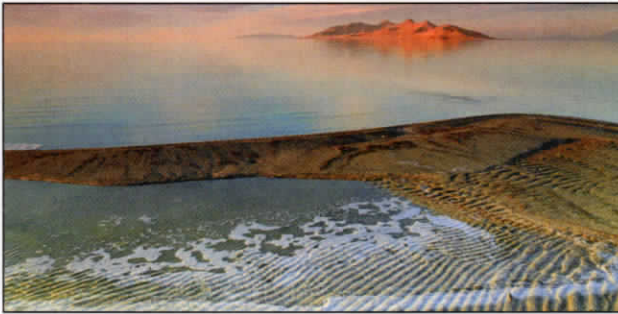


5 Rocky Mountains and Plateaus

The Rockies extend about 3,000 miles, from Canada down to New Mexico. They are made up of about 100 separate ranges. Some of the high peaks have snow year-round.

By the Numbers

Colorado's Mount Elbert is the highest peak in the Rockies. It's about half as high as Mount Everest, the world's tallest mountain.



6 Great Basin

This dry desert region includes Death Valley, the hottest place in the United States.

Changing Earth

Utah's Great Salt Lake can be as big as 2,400 square miles or as small as 950 square miles. It depends on how much water flows into it.



7 Sierra Nevada and Cascades Mountains

The Sierra Nevada are granite mountains. The rainy Cascades contain a string of volcanoes.

Changing Earth

Volcanoes can destroy mountains. Mount St. Helens, in Washington, erupted in 1980. It will never look the same!



8 Pacific Coast

Unlike the low-lying Atlantic Coast, mountain ranges along this coast make steep cliffs that drop sharply to the water.

By the Numbers

There are about 450 beaches in California.