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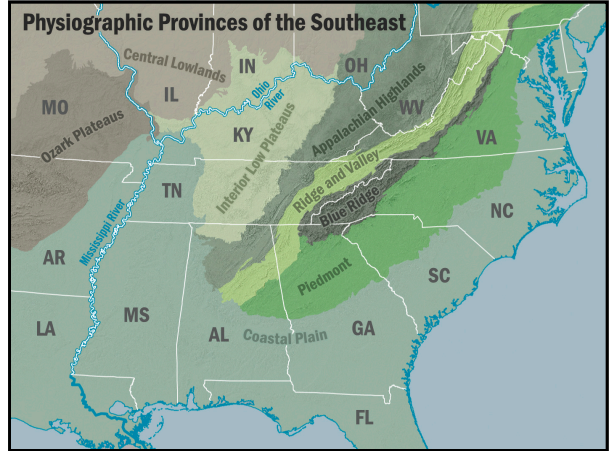
Objectives:

- Identify Kentucky's 3 physiographic provinces and 9 natural regions
- Explain the differences between natural regions
- Explain key factors influencing ecological diversity in Kentucky
- Recognize characteristic species/natural communities of each natural region

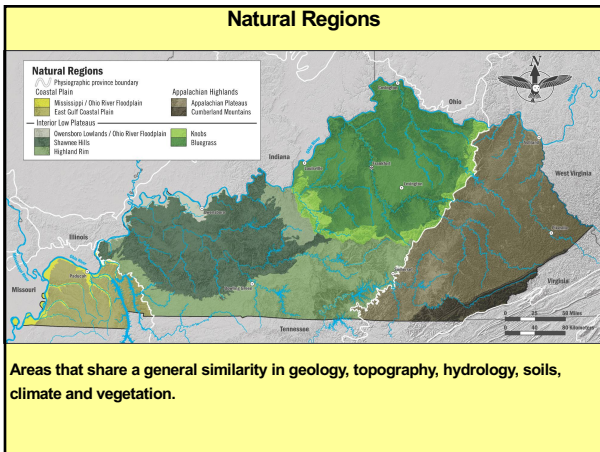
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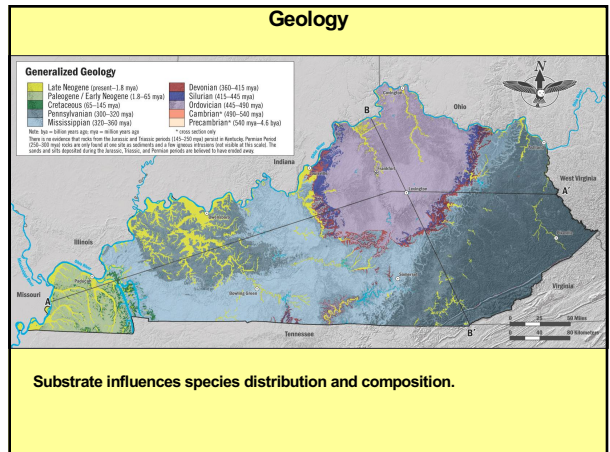
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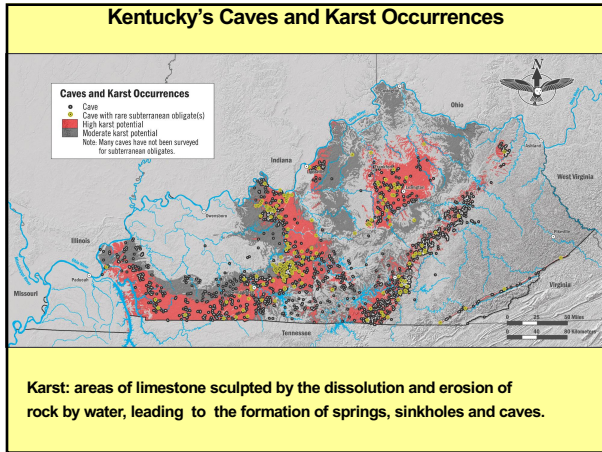
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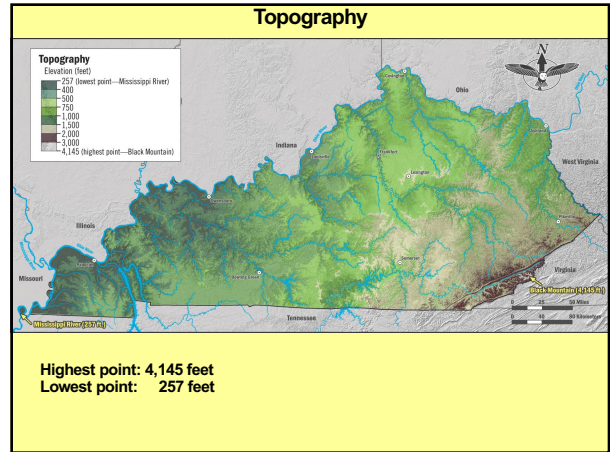
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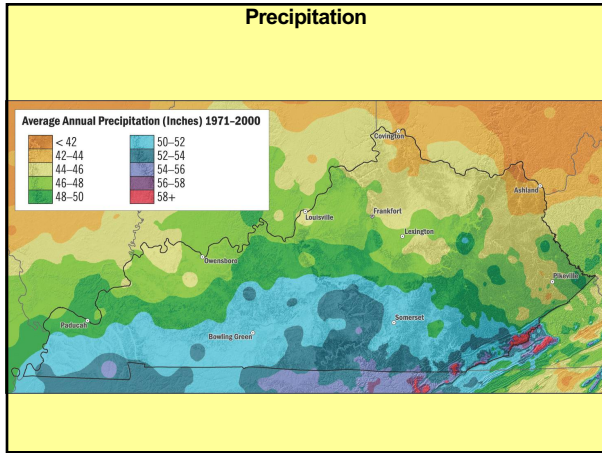
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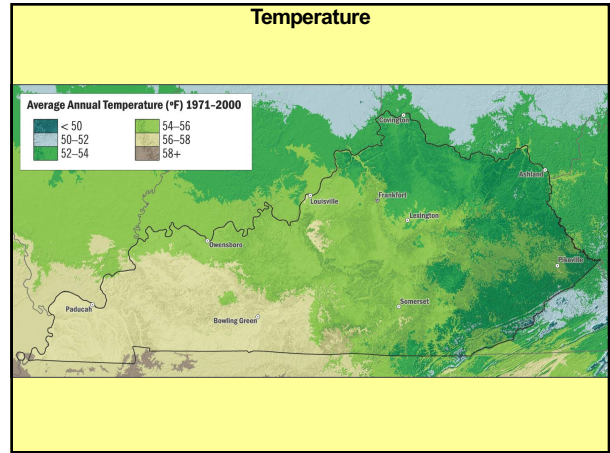
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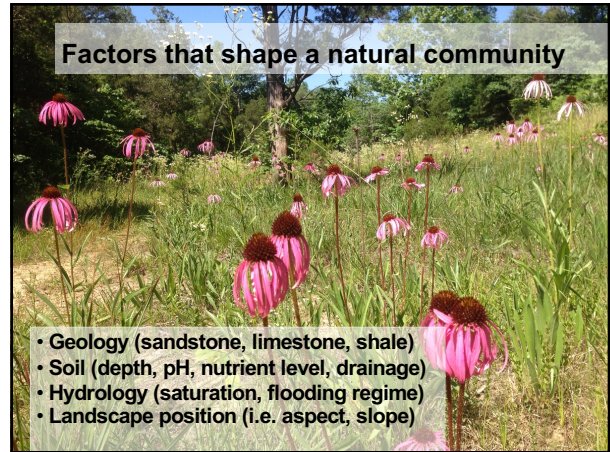
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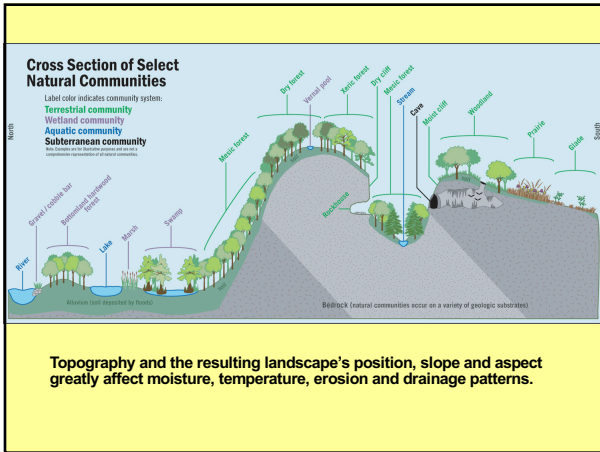
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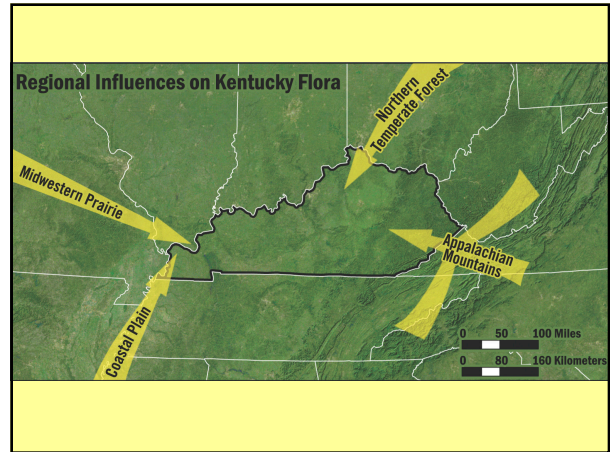
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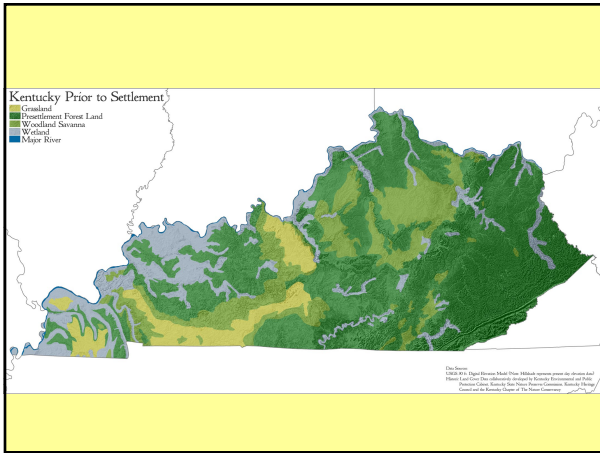
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2. Interior Low Plateaus Province

Natural Regions

- Physiographic province boundary
- Crestal Plain
- Mississippi/Ohio River Floodplain
- East Gulf Coastal Plain
- Interior Low Plateaus
- Owensboro Lowlands/Ohio River Floodplain
- Shawnee Hills
- Highland Rim
- Appalachian Highlands
- Appalachian Plateau
- Cumberland Mountains
- Knobs
- Bluegrass

Composed of a series of plateaus, bluffs, basins, and domes, often separated by distinct escarpments. Parts of the province are hilly, while others are flat to rolling.

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Owensboro Lowlands/Ohio River Floodplain

Bottomland Forest
Usually found on flat bottomlands adjacent to large streams or rivers

Herbaceous layer is hydrophytic vegetation, often forb and sedge species

Hydric:
Soil that is very poorly drained; water table is at or above the surface most of the time.

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Shawnee Hills

Pennsylvanian-age sandstone bluffs characterize portions of the region.

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Acidic xeric forest/woodland

Common canopy species

- chestnut oak
- post oak
- blackjack oak
- scarlet oak
- pignut hickory
- eastern red cedar
- Virginia pine

Common understory species

- sassafras
- sourwood
- poverty
- oat grass
- lichens/moss

canopy trees stunted and gnarly

thin soils with bedrock at or near the surface

Common in Shawnee Hills, Knobs, Cliff section

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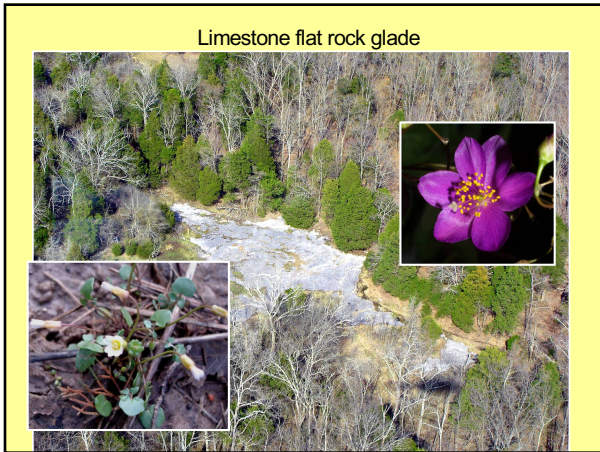
Sandstone Glade Shawnee Hills

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Highland Rim

Prairie remnant in the Big Barrens area. Historically, fires would have swept the landscape due to few surface streams to halt their progress. Mississippian-age limestones predominate here.

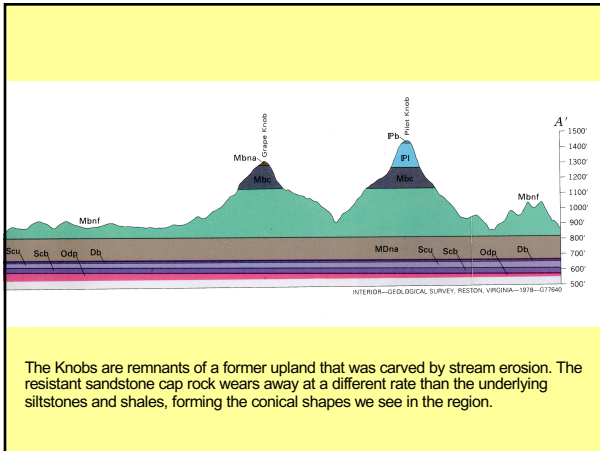
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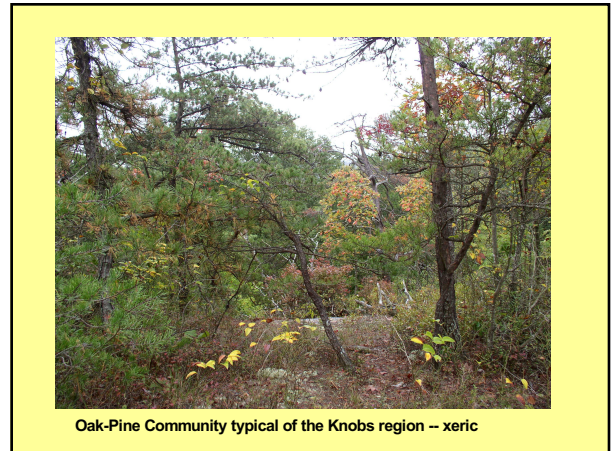
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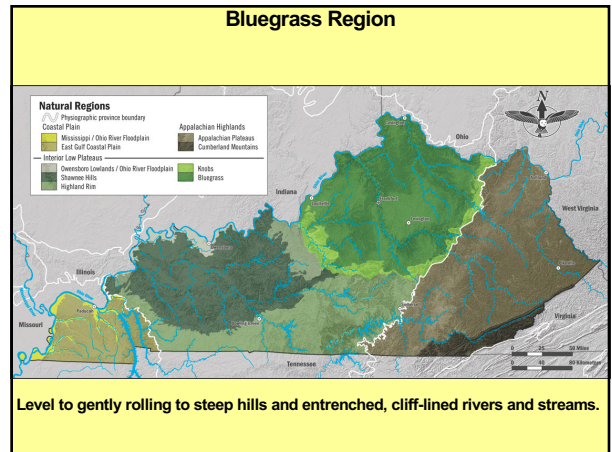
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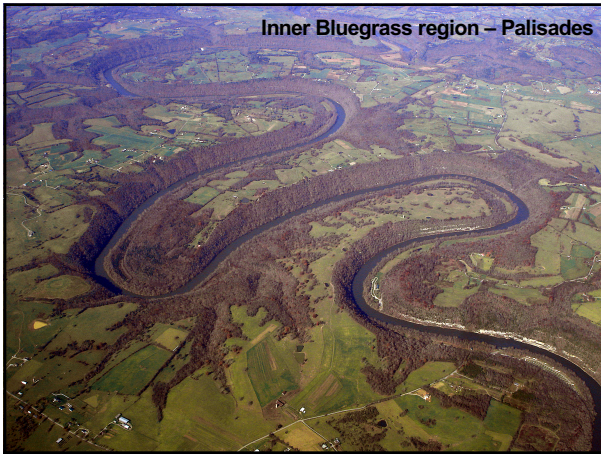
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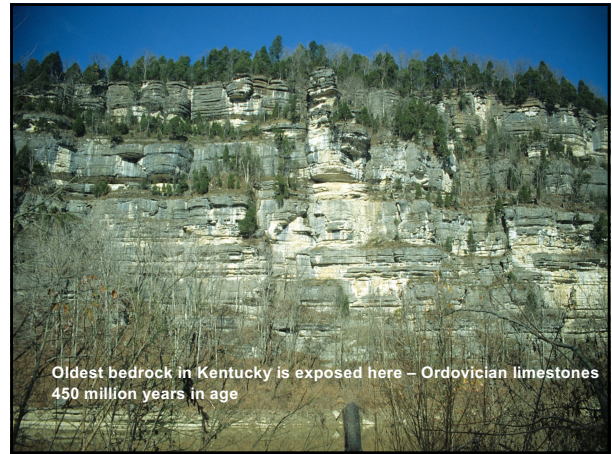
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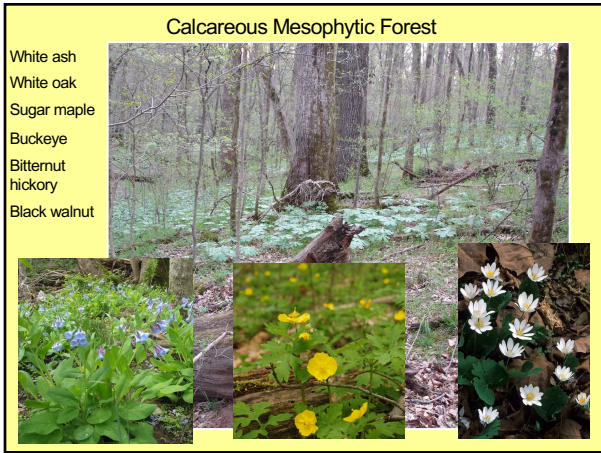
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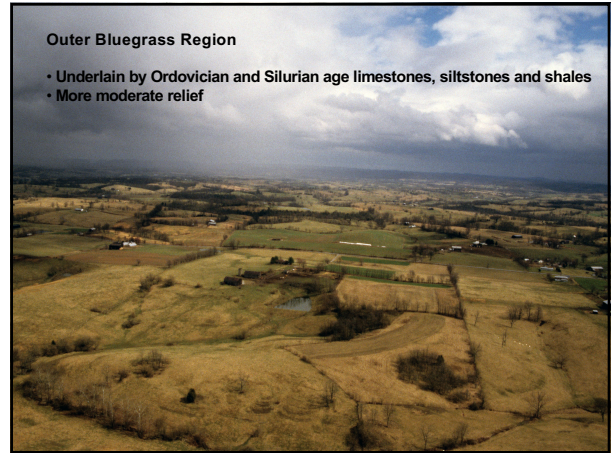
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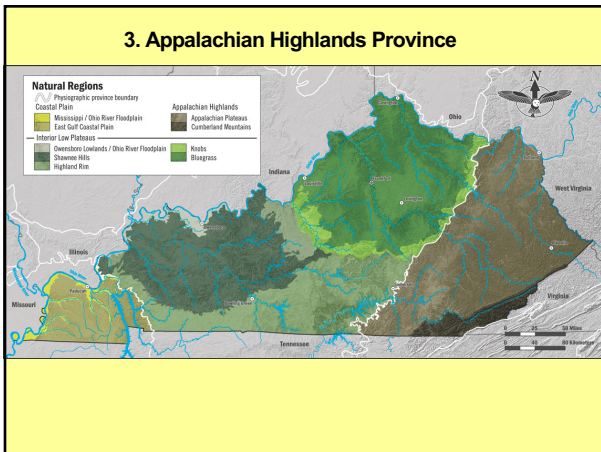
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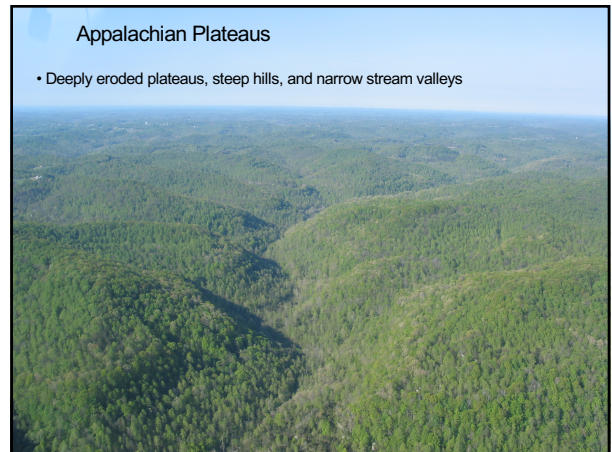
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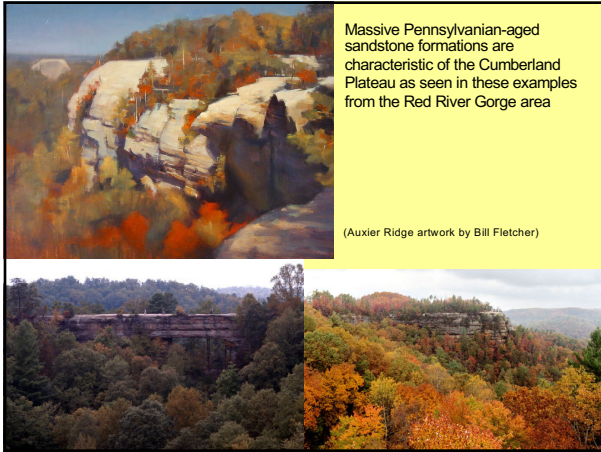
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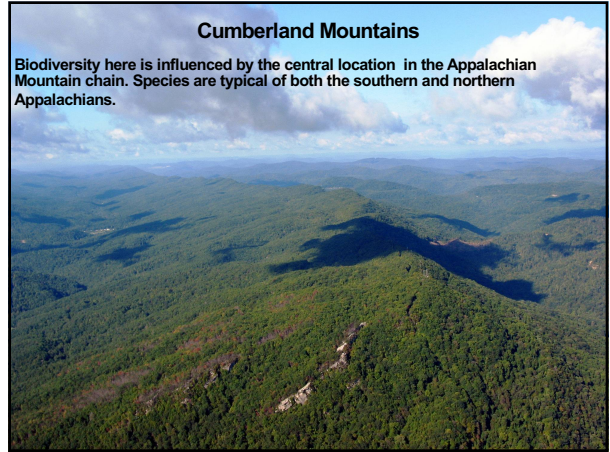
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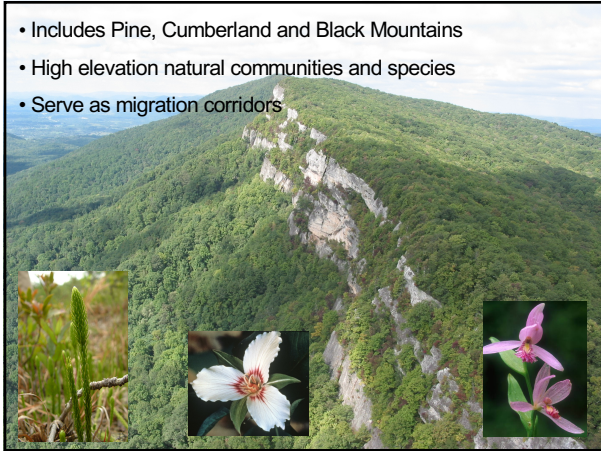
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