

DID YOU KNOW CAPE COD MARKS THE BEGINNING OF THE ATLANTIC COASTAL PLAIN OF NORTH AMERICA?

I LOVE THE SMELL OF THE SEA AIR!

Welcome to Cape Cod

DO WE GET TO FLY IN A COASTAL PLANE?

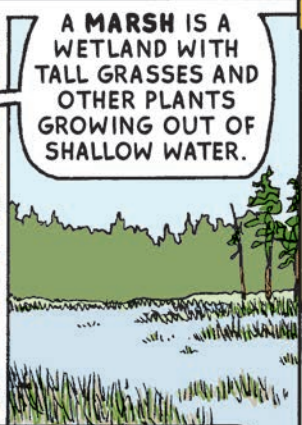
NO - A COASTAL PLAIN IS AN AREA OF FLAT, LOW-LYING LAND NEXT TO A SEACOAST. IT IS VERY WET AND INCLUDES RIVERS, MARSHES, AND SWAMPS.



AREN'T MARSHES AND SWAMPS THE SAME THING?

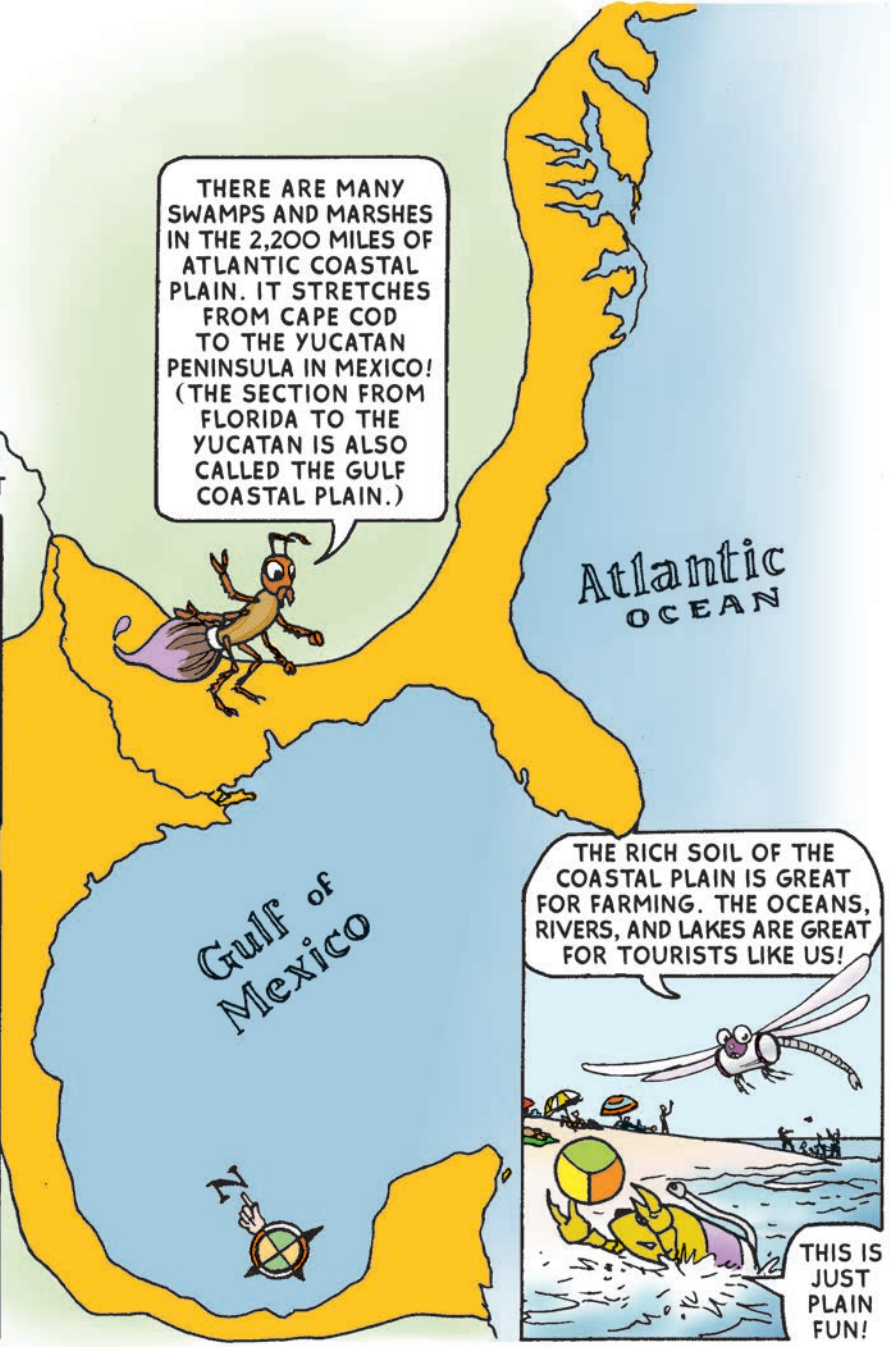


A SWAMP IS A WETLAND DOMINATED BY TREES THAT GROW OUT OF THE WATER.



A MARSH IS A WETLAND WITH TALL GRASSES AND OTHER PLANTS GROWING OUT OF SHALLOW WATER.

BOTH OF THESE ARE HOME TO MANY TYPES OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS.

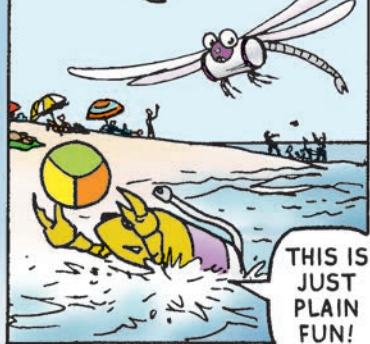


THERE ARE MANY SWAMPS AND MARSHES IN THE 2,200 MILES OF ATLANTIC COASTAL PLAIN. IT STRETCHES FROM CAPE COD TO THE YUCATAN PENINSULA IN MEXICO! (THE SECTION FROM FLORIDA TO THE YUCATAN IS ALSO CALLED THE GULF COASTAL PLAIN.)

Atlantic OCEAN

Gulf of Mexico

THE RICH SOIL OF THE COASTAL PLAIN IS GREAT FOR FARMING. THE OCEANS, RIVERS, AND LAKES ARE GREAT FOR TOURISTS LIKE US!



THIS IS JUST PLAIN FUN!



BOY, THIS ISN'T FLAT LIKE THE COASTAL PLAIN.

WE ARE ENTERING THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN REGION OF OUR CONTINENT. THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS ARE A SYSTEM THAT STRETCHES 1,500 MILES FROM NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR, CANADA, TO CENTRAL ALABAMA.

THE APPALACHIAN SYSTEM'S INDIVIDUAL MOUNTAINS AVERAGE ABOUT 3,000 FEET HIGH. THE TALLEST ONE IS HERE IN NORTH CAROLINA: MOUNT MITCHELL IS 6,684 FEET, THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE UNITED STATES EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



WOW - IT'S MORE THAN TWICE THE SIZE OF THE AVERAGE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN!

SOUTHERN SECTION

CENTRAL SECTION

NORTHERN SECTION

HUDSON RIVER

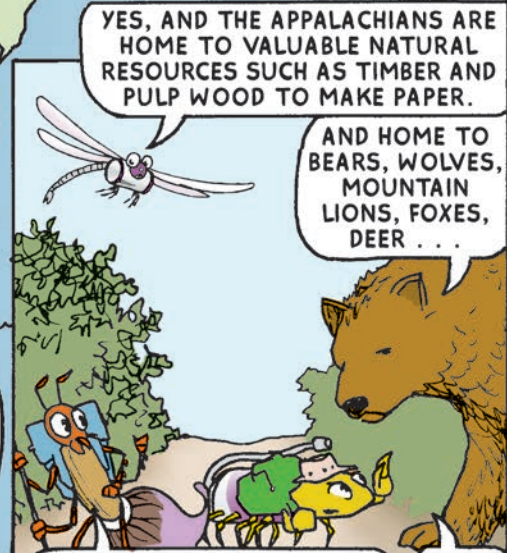
NEW RIVER

VIRGINIA

Atlantic OCEAN



HEY, THE APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS ARE CLOSE TO OUR HOME!



YES, AND THE APPALACHIANS ARE HOME TO VALUABLE NATURAL RESOURCES SUCH AS TIMBER AND PULP WOOD TO MAKE PAPER.

AND HOME TO BEARS, WOLVES, MOUNTAIN LIONS, FOXES, DEER . . .

WE CAN SEE A LOT ON THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL - 2,173 MILES FROM MAINE TO GEORGIA!

TAKE A HIKE, MAN!

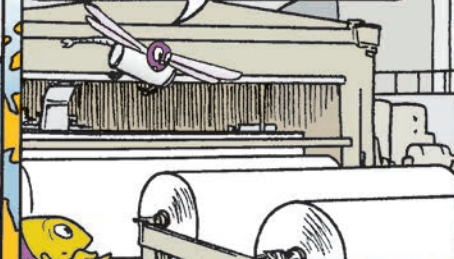
HEY, I KNOW THIS CITY - WE'RE IN ONTARIO!

YES, WE ARE IN THE CANADIAN SHIELD, LOCATED IN THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL PART OF CANADA NORTH OF THE UNITED STATES.

PAPER MANUFACTURING IS BIG BUSINESS IN THE CANADIAN SHIELD. WHAT NATURAL RESOURCE DO WE NEED TO MAKE PAPER, SCORPY?

I KNOW THIS ONE: TREES!

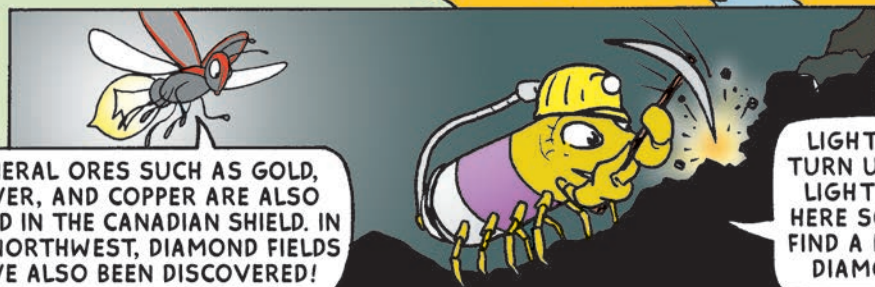
RIGHT! THIS REGION HAS MANY THICK FORESTS. TOURISM IS ALSO A BIG BUSINESS HERE; EACH YEAR PEOPLE VISIT THE FORESTS AND FLAT, ROCKY GROUND HERE TO GET AWAY FROM THE NOISE OF CITIES.



THIS IS THE LARGEST OF THE REGIONS, SO THE CLIMATE VARIES GREATLY ACROSS IT. THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE SHIELD HAS FOUR DISTINCT SEASONS LIKE WE DO IN VIRGINIA. THE NORTHERN PART IS A COLD TUNDRA WITH FEW TREES AND A SHORT GROWING SEASON.

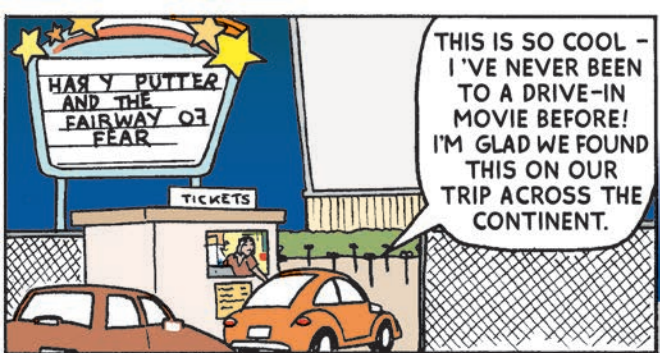


MINERAL ORES SUCH AS GOLD, SILVER, AND COPPER ARE ALSO FOUND IN THE CANADIAN SHIELD. IN THE NORTHWEST, DIAMOND FIELDS HAVE ALSO BEEN DISCOVERED!

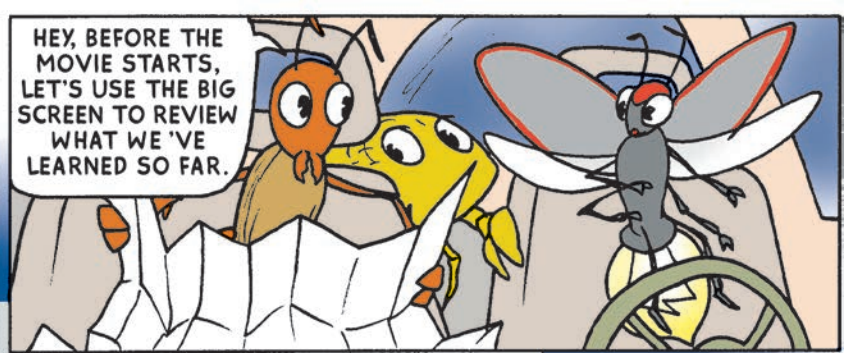


LIGHTNING, TURN UP YOUR LIGHT OVER HERE SO I CAN FIND A BIG OL' DIAMOND!!

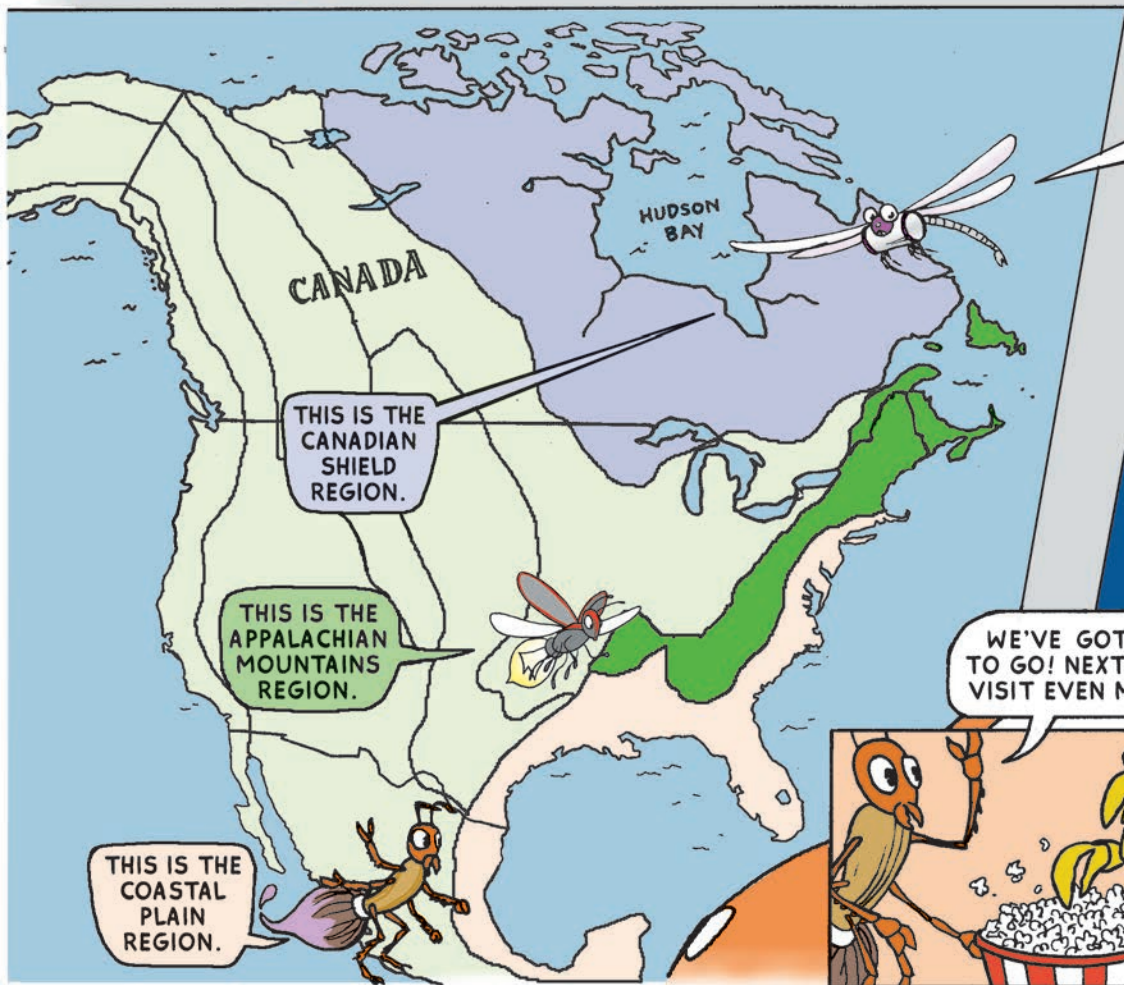
Atlantic OCEAN



THIS IS SO COOL - I'VE NEVER BEEN TO A DRIVE-IN MOVIE BEFORE! I'M GLAD WE FOUND THIS ON OUR TRIP ACROSS THE CONTINENT.



HEY, BEFORE THE MOVIE STARTS, LET'S USE THE BIG SCREEN TO REVIEW WHAT WE'VE LEARNED SO FAR.



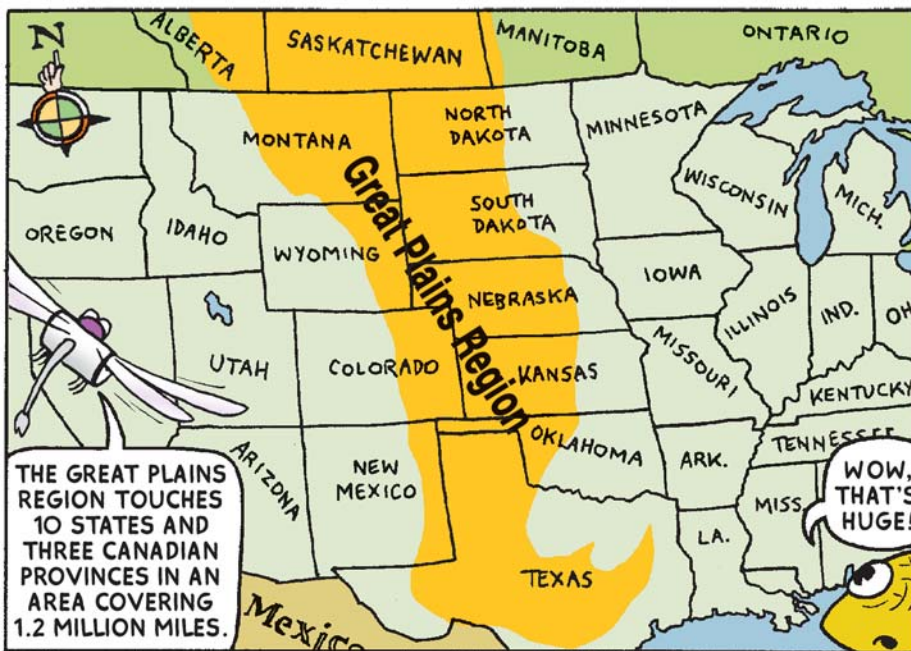
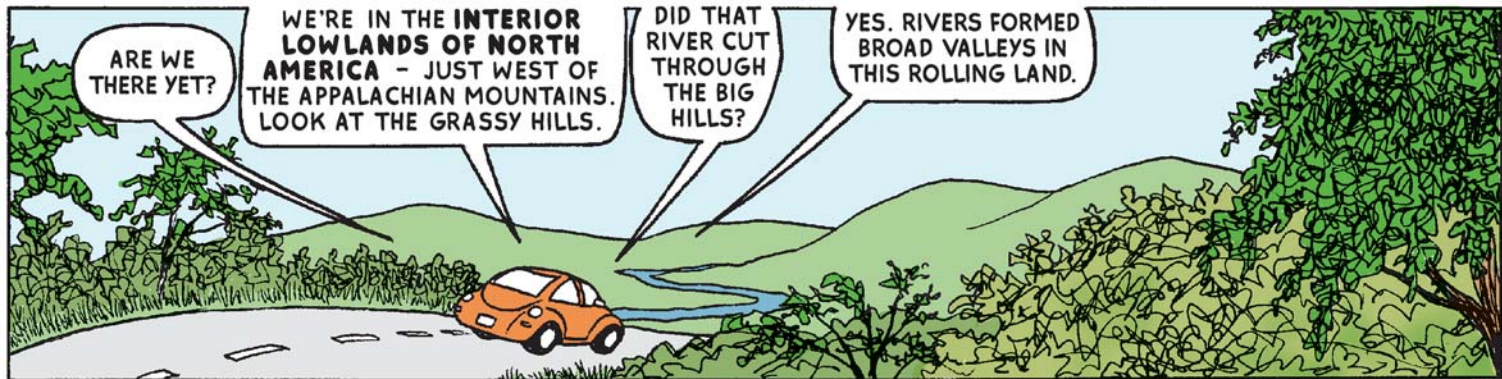
THE CONTINENT OF NORTH AMERICA IS SO LARGE THAT GEOGRAPHERS DIVIDE IT INTO REGIONS. CAN YOU REMEMBER WHICH ONES WE'VE ALREADY VISITED?

IT'S COOL HOW EACH REGION IS SO DIFFERENT, YET THEY ARE ALL PART OF THE SAME CONTINENT.

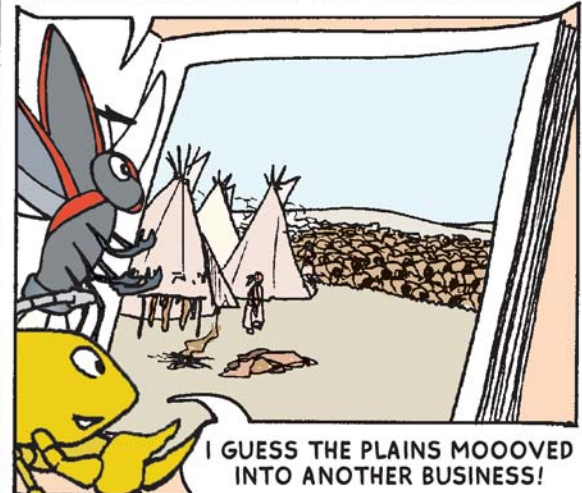
WE'VE GOT A LONG WAY TO GO! NEXT WEEK WE WILL VISIT EVEN MORE REGIONS.



GREAT! BUT NOW I'M HUNGRY FOR POPCORN. INSTEAD OF A DRIVE-IN, I THINK I WILL DIVE IN!



HISTORICALLY THE GREAT PLAINS WERE HOME TO LARGE HERDS OF BISON AND NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES SUCH AS THE BLACKFEET, CROW, AND SIOUX. TODAY OIL, NATURAL GAS, AND COAL ARE THE PRIMARY NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE GRASSLANDS ARE GREAT FOR CATTLE RANCHES.



WOAH -
I'M GETTING
DIZZY! HOW
HIGH UP
ARE WE?!

THIS REGION IS KNOWN FOR ITS HIGH
ELEVATIONS. WE'RE ENTERING THE
ROCKY MOUNTAINS REGION OF
NORTH AMERICA - JUST WEST
OF THE GREAT PLAINS AND EAST OF
THE BASIN AND RANGE REGION.

TOURISM BASED ON NATURE IS
IMPORTANT TO THIS REGION. MAJOR
RIVERS SUCH AS THE RIO GRANDE,
THE SNAKE, AND THIS ONE - THE
COLORADO - ARE FUN TO VISIT!

COWABUNGA!

THESE HIGH,
RUGGED
MOUNTAINS
EXTEND FROM
ALASKA TO
MEXICO.

AND IT HAS THE **CONTINENTAL
DIVIDE** - A RIDGE OF MOUNTAINS
THAT SEPARATES THE RIVERS
FLOWING TO THE EAST FROM
RIVERS FLOWING TO THE WEST.

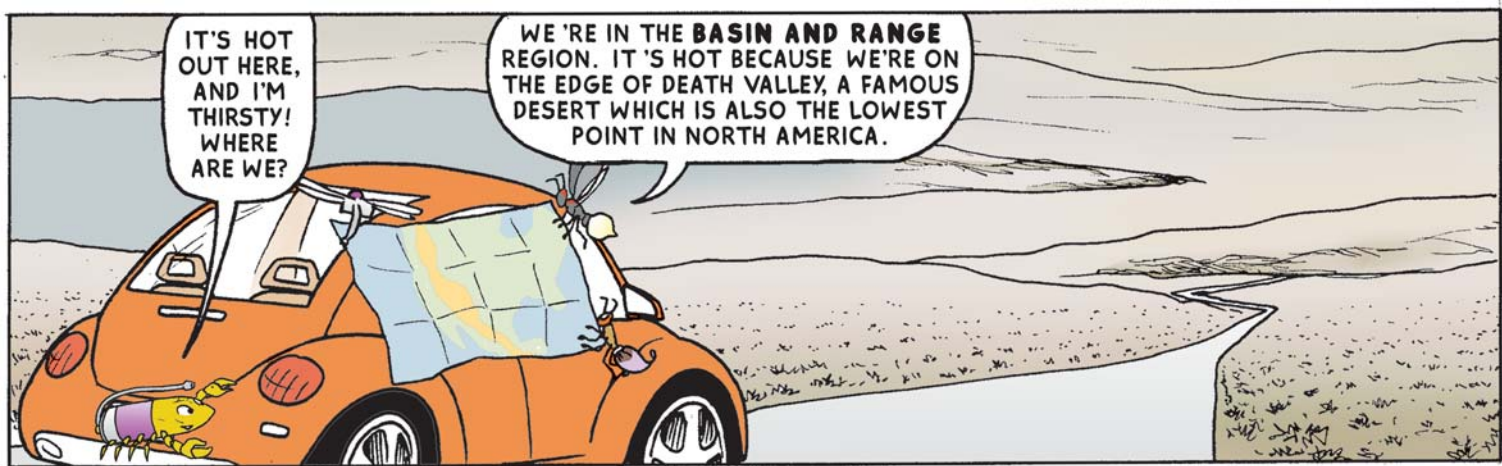
IN THE WINTER,
SKI RESORTS IN
COLORADO ARE
POPULAR. IN THE
SUMMER, PARKS
SUCH AS
YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL PARK
BECOME BUSY
DESTINATIONS!

DEPOSITS SUCH AS LEAD,
ZINC, SILVER, AND GOLD
ARE ALSO MINED HERE.

TIME TO GO FOR THE GOLD!

IT'S HOT OUT HERE, AND I'M THIRSTY! WHERE ARE WE?

WE'RE IN THE **Basin and Range** REGION. IT'S HOT BECAUSE WE'RE ON THE EDGE OF DEATH VALLEY, A FAMOUS DESERT WHICH IS ALSO THE LOWEST POINT IN NORTH AMERICA.



THIS REGION IS WEST OF THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS AND EAST OF THE SIERRA NEVADAS AND THE CASCADES.

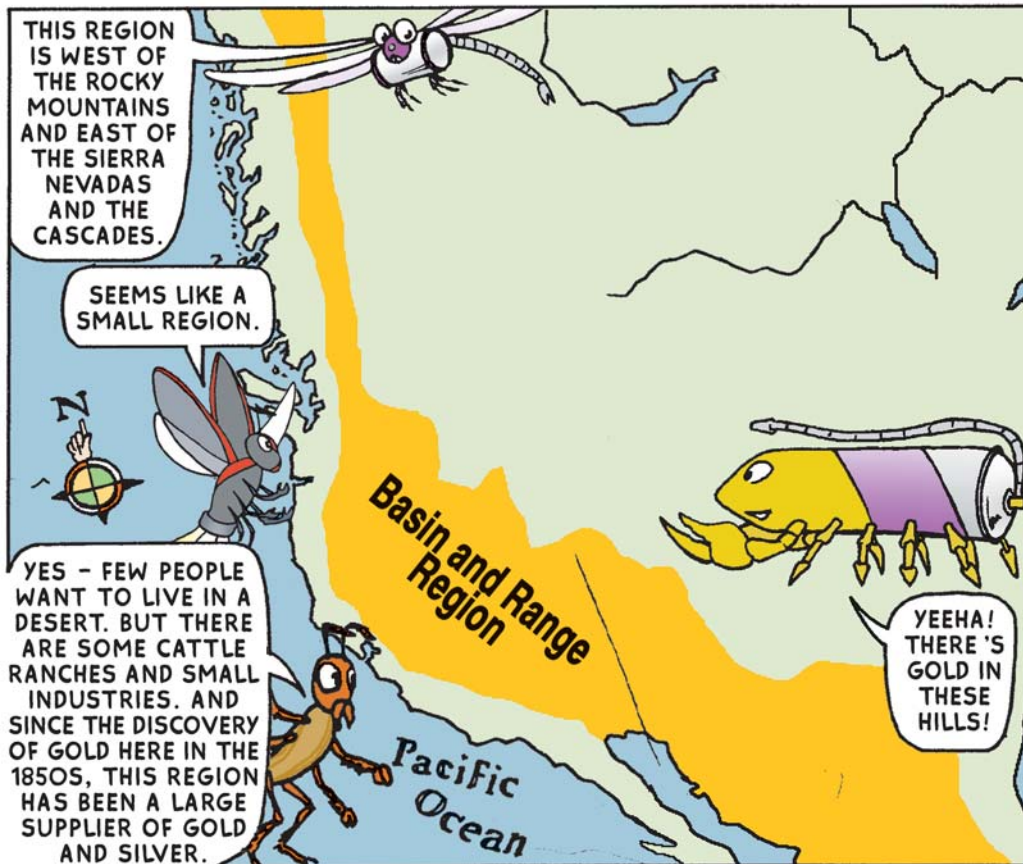
SEEMS LIKE A SMALL REGION.

YES - FEW PEOPLE WANT TO LIVE IN A DESERT. BUT THERE ARE SOME CATTLE RANCHES AND SMALL INDUSTRIES. AND SINCE THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD HERE IN THE 1850S, THIS REGION HAS BEEN A LARGE SUPPLIER OF GOLD AND SILVER.

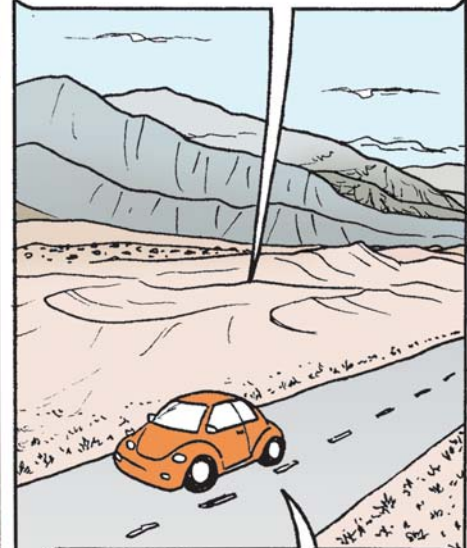
Basin and Range Region

Pacific Ocean

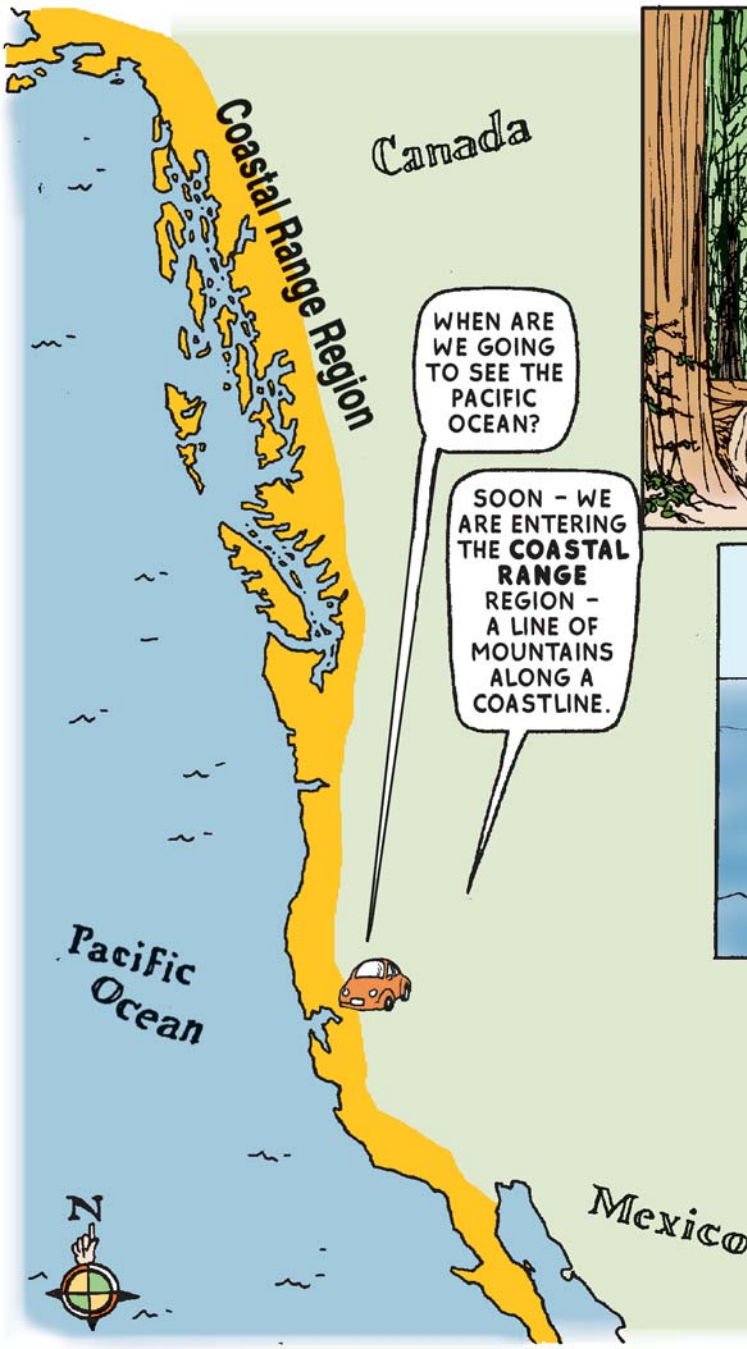
YEEHA! THERE'S GOLD IN THESE HILLS!



ALTHOUGH THE BASIN AND RANGE REGION'S CONDITIONS MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR PEOPLE AND PLANTS TO THRIVE IN, IT IS STILL A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR CONTINENT.



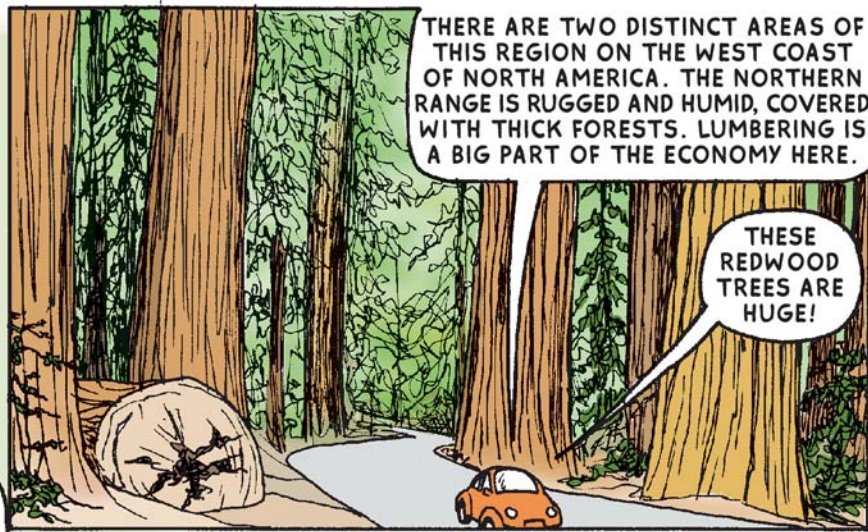
THE ONLY CONDITION I CARE ABOUT NOW IS THE AIR CONDITIONING! CRANK IT UP FOR DESERT DRIVING!



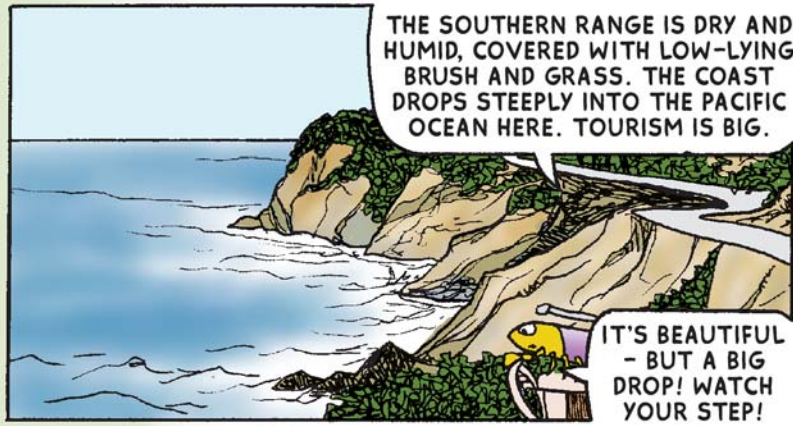
WHEN ARE WE GOING TO SEE THE PACIFIC OCEAN?

SOON - WE ARE ENTERING THE **COASTAL RANGE** REGION - A LINE OF MOUNTAINS ALONG A COASTLINE.

THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT AREAS OF THIS REGION ON THE WEST COAST OF NORTH AMERICA. THE NORTHERN RANGE IS RUGGED AND HUMID, COVERED WITH THICK FORESTS. LUMBERING IS A BIG PART OF THE ECONOMY HERE.

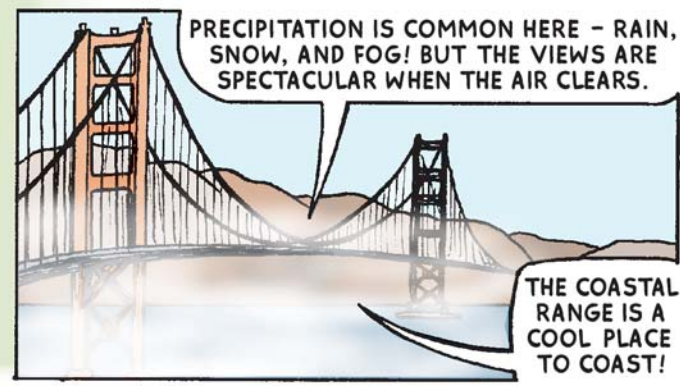


THESE REDWOOD TREES ARE HUGE!



THE SOUTHERN RANGE IS DRY AND HUMID, COVERED WITH LOW-LYING BRUSH AND GRASS. THE COAST DROPS STEEPLY INTO THE PACIFIC OCEAN HERE. TOURISM IS BIG.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL - BUT A BIG DROP! WATCH YOUR STEP!



PRECIPITATION IS COMMON HERE - RAIN, SNOW, AND FOG! BUT THE VIEWS ARE SPECTACULAR WHEN THE AIR CLEARS.

THE COASTAL RANGE IS A COOL PLACE TO COAST!

THAT WAS AN AWESOME TRIP! WE SAW SO MANY DIFFERENT REGIONS! I LIKED THE GREEN, GREEN VALLEYS OF THE INTERIOR LOWLANDS.

BASIN AND RANGE

ROCKY MOUNTAINS

CANADA

COASTAL RANGE

Pacific Ocean

GREAT PLAINS

INTERIOR LOWLANDS

MY FAVORITE PART WAS THE GREAT PLAINS REGION WHERE THE FLAT GRASSLANDS GRADUALLY ROSE AS WE WENT WESTWARD.

IT'S WEIRD THAT SUCH FLAT LAND IS NEXT TO THE REGION OF THE BIG ROCKY MOUNTAINS, HOME TO THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE!

I'M JUST GLAD WE MADE IT THROUGH THE BASIN AND RIDGE REGION WITH ITS DEATH VALLEY!

THE REWARD WAS BIG - THE BEAUTIFUL COASTAL RANGE REGION! THE SURFING IN THE PACIFIC OCEAN WAS SO CHOICE!

WE SURE ARE AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL!