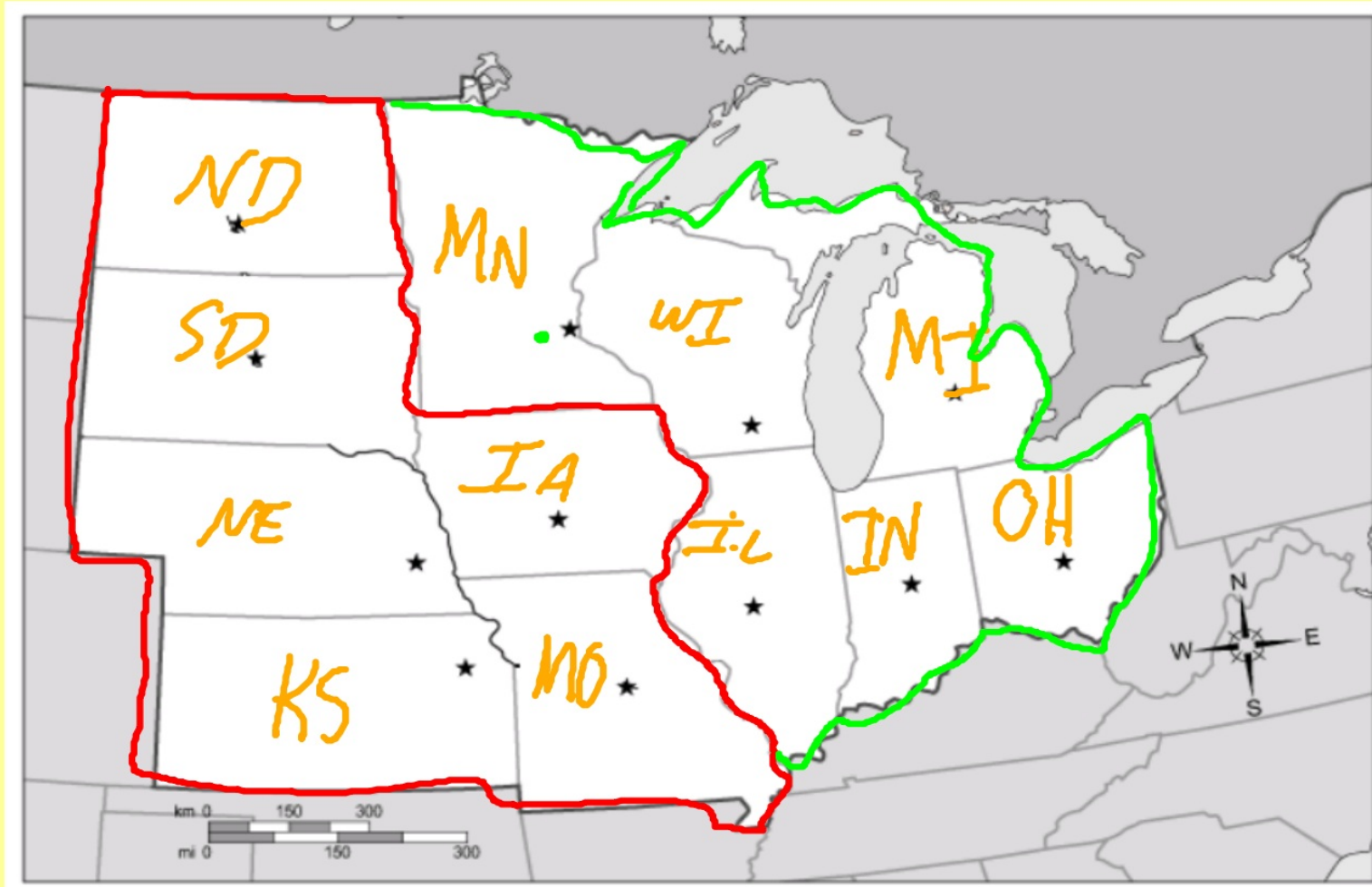


# EXPLORING THE MIDWEST



# PRAIRIE



On the wide, flat **prairie** of the Midwest, people have replaced most of the tall grasses with farmland.



# TRIBUTARY

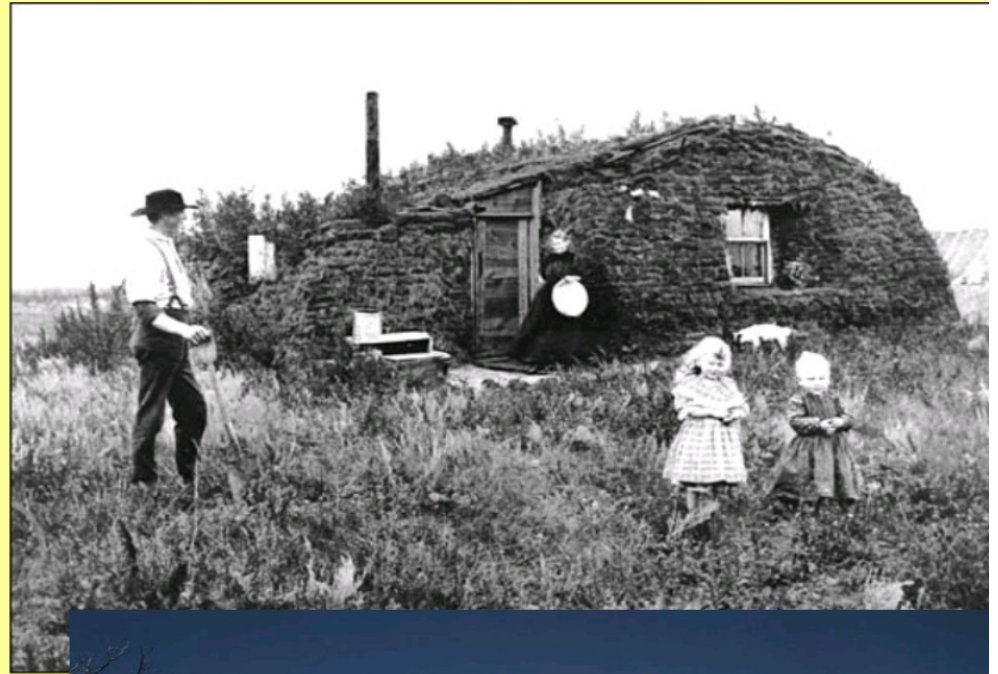


A **tributary** is a smaller river or stream that flows into a larger river or stream. Each major river has many tributaries that flow into it.



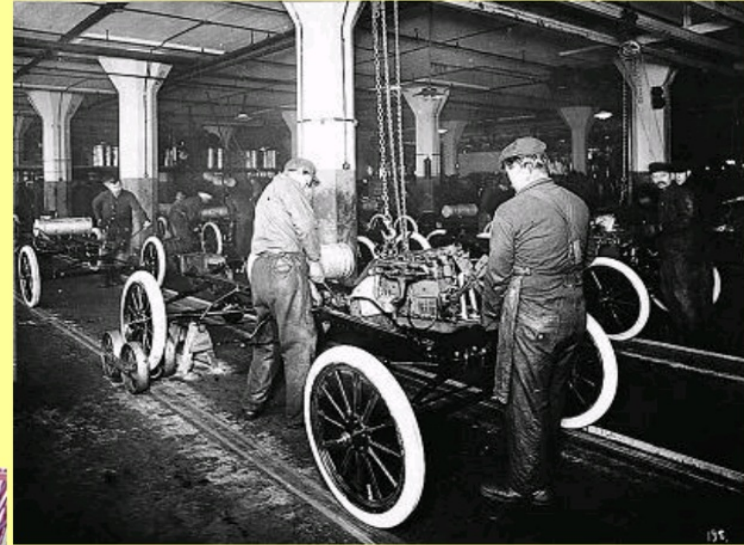
# HOMESTEAD

The government sold plots of land called **homesteads** to settlers. Many **homesteaders** built their houses from chunks of prairie earth called sod.

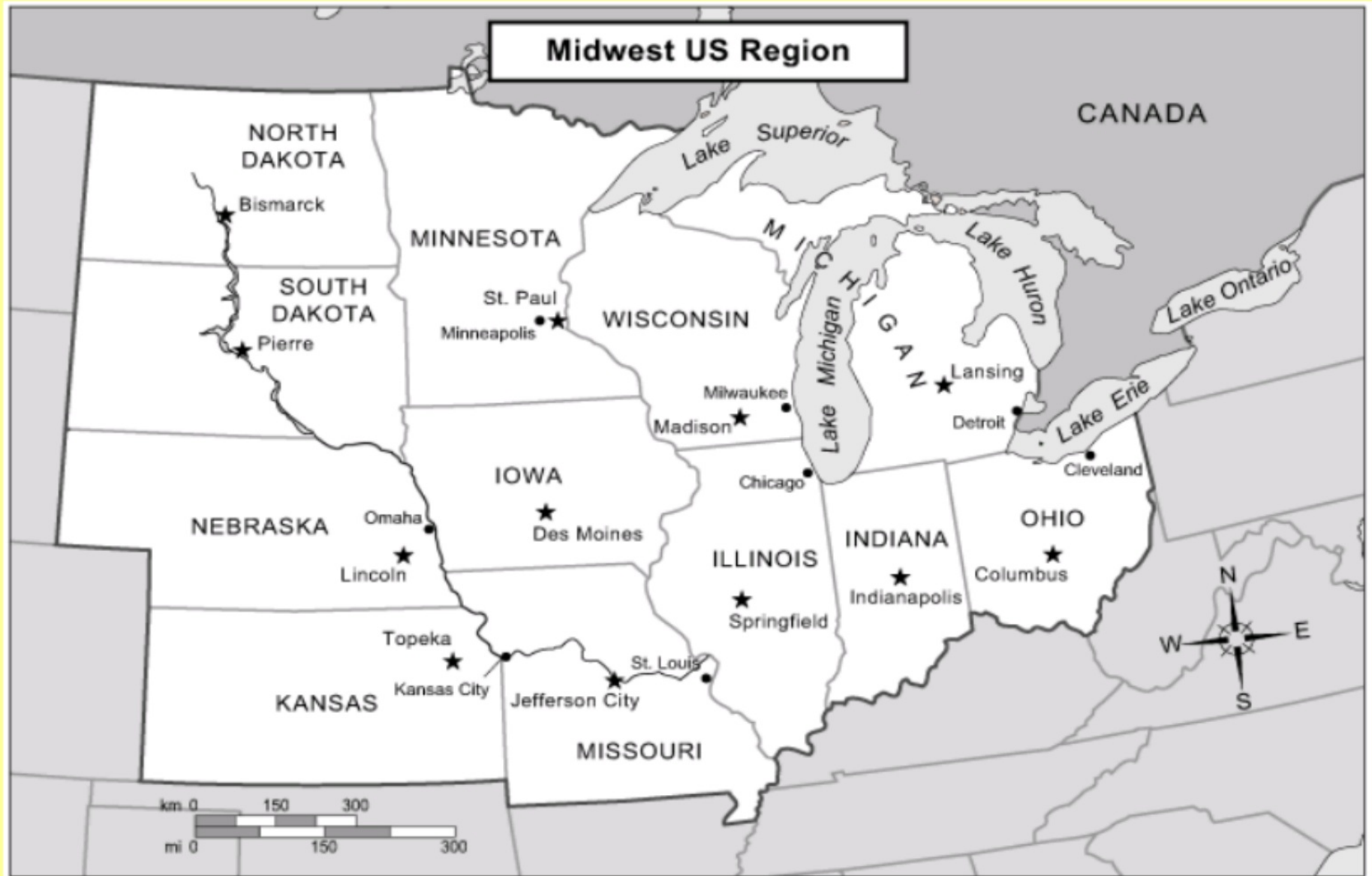


# ASSEMBLY LINE

On an **assembly line** each worker does only one small part of the manufacturing process. Goods can be made more quickly using an assembly line.



# LAND AND WATER OF THE MIDWEST



# THE MIDWEST

- Middle of the country, with Canada to the north, Rocky mountains to the west, and Appalachian Mountains to the east.
- Great Lakes (northeastern part)
- Great Plains (western part)



## **GREAT LAKES STATES**

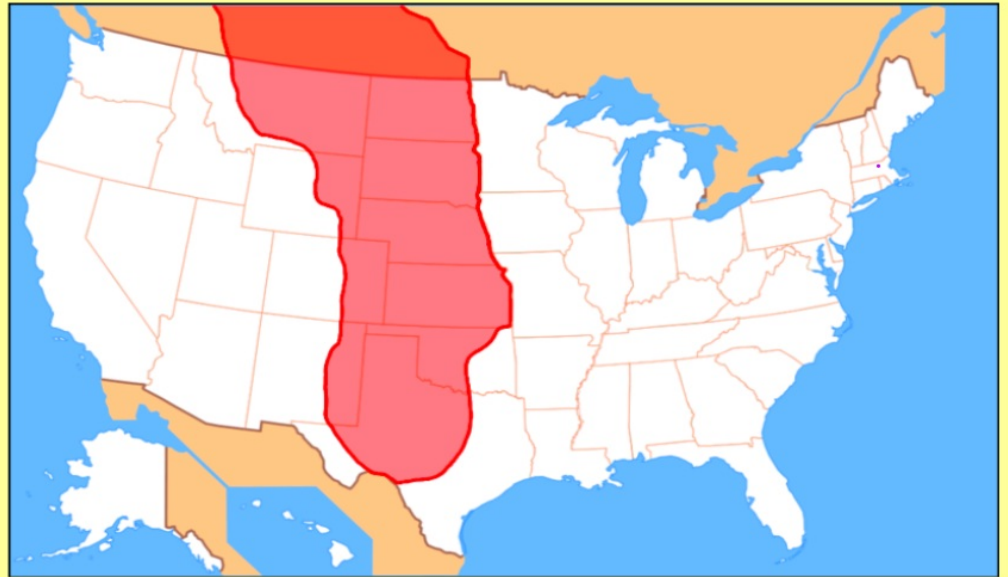
- 6 states that touch the Great Lakes: Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota
- Land is mostly flat, with some hilly areas
- Many forests
- Harsh climate: winters can be very cold and summers very hot



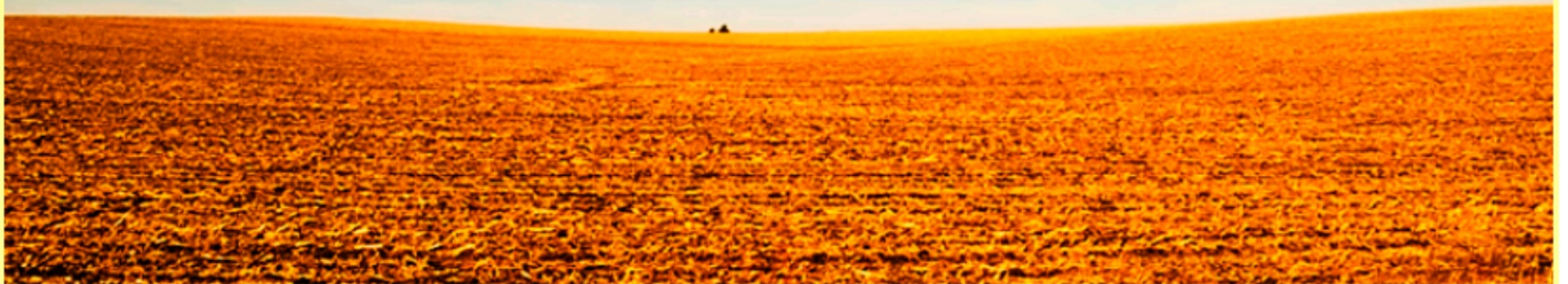


## **PLAINS STATES**

- 6 states: North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and Missouri
- Prairie: dry, mostly flat grassland with few trees
- Farmland: most of the nation's wheat and corn
- Drier climate



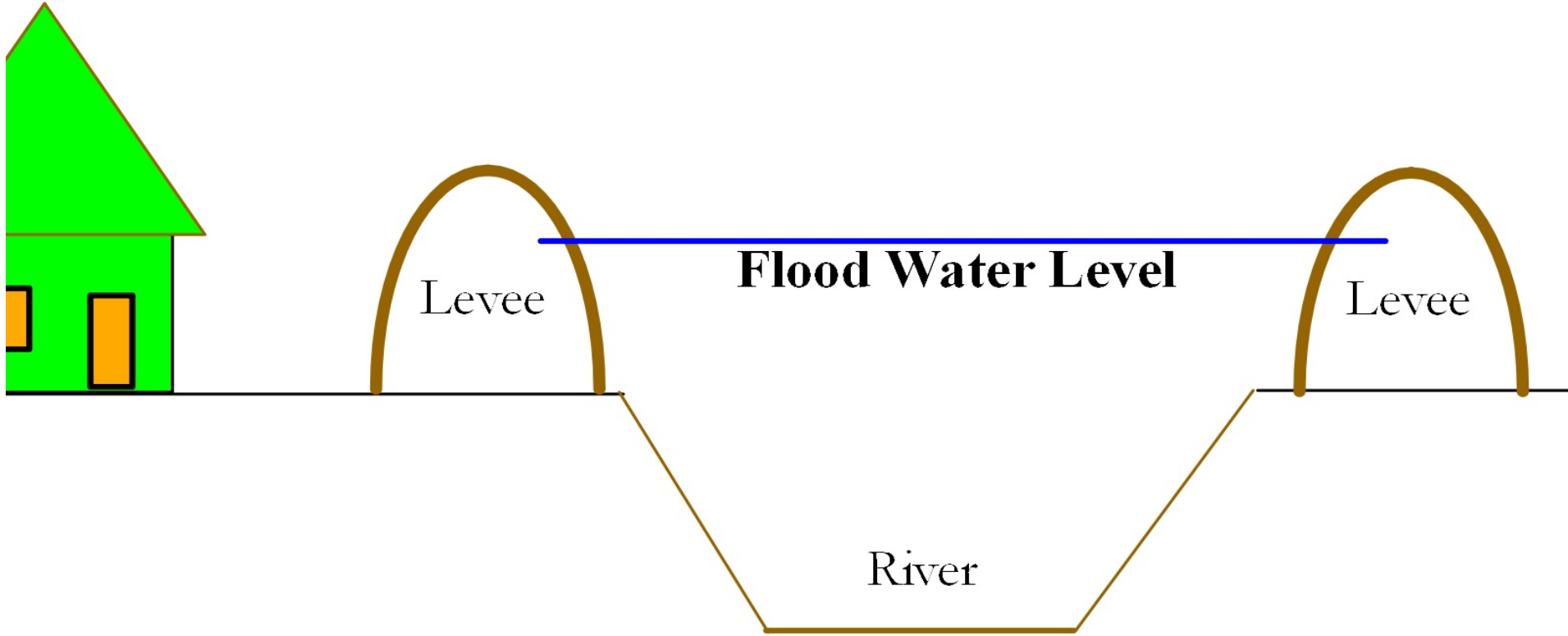
# PRAIRIE



# WATER RESOURCES

- Two main waterways in the Midwest
  - Great Lakes
  - Mississippi River

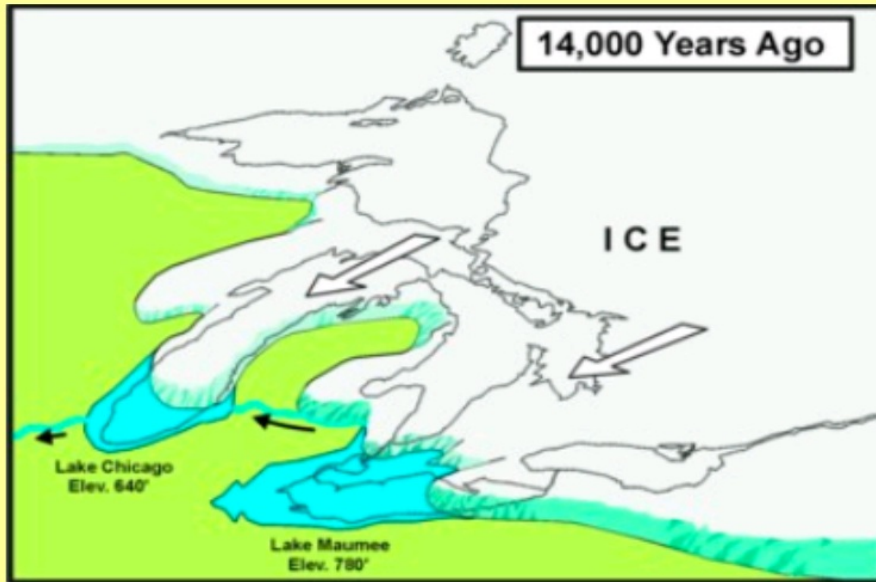




# THE GREAT LAKES



# HOW THE GREAT LAKES WERE FORMED...



# MISSISSIPPI RIVER

- The largest river system in the United States
- Main Tributaries: Missouri and Ohio Rivers



**THERE ARE LOTS OF RIVERS IN THE MIDWEST!**

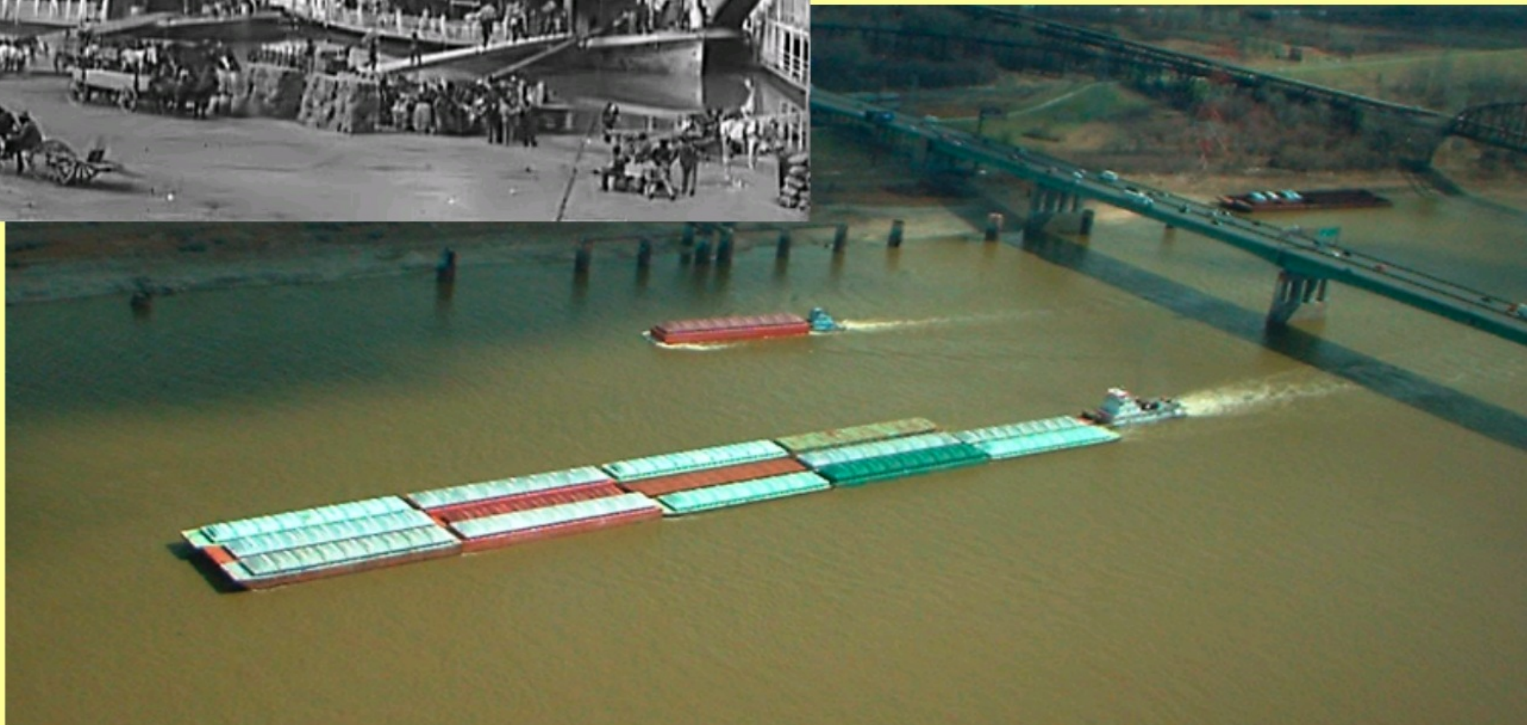




# **WATER TRANSPORTATION**



- Before railroads, river travel was faster and cheaper than land travel.
- Many cities were built along the waterways: Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Cleveland, Kansas City, St. Paul, and Minneapolis



# RIVER LOCK

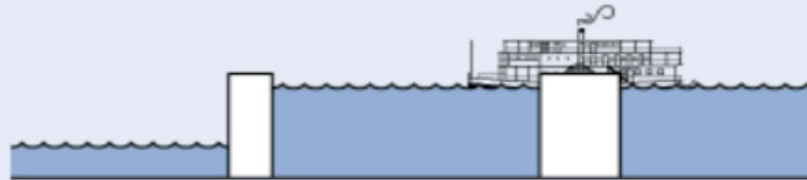


- Locks help ships get past waterfalls.
- Locks are part of a waterway closed off by gates.

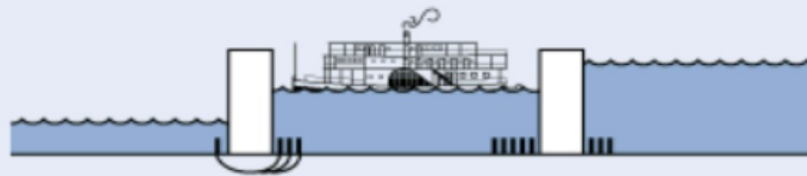


**U. S. ENGINEERS**  
Miss. River Lock & Dam  
(Locks)  
Naval Reserves boat and Str  
locking thru Main lock the  
day of operation. Looking e  
416-121.41 Aug. 17

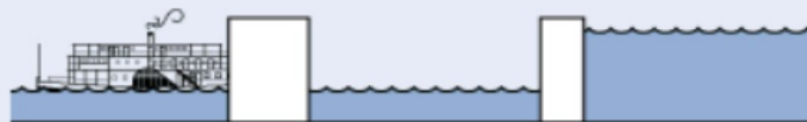
## How a lock works



Upstream gates open as a vessel enters the lock chamber



Upstream gates close  
Water is released downstream through butterfly valves  
Water in lock chamber lowers



When water levels are equal downstream gates open

# **CLIMATE**

- The location of the Midwest has a big effect on its climate.
- The ocean "warms" the land in the winter and cools it in the summer, so the climate is very different from coastal regions
- Temperatures can vary as much as 100 degrees Fahrenheit between winter and summer

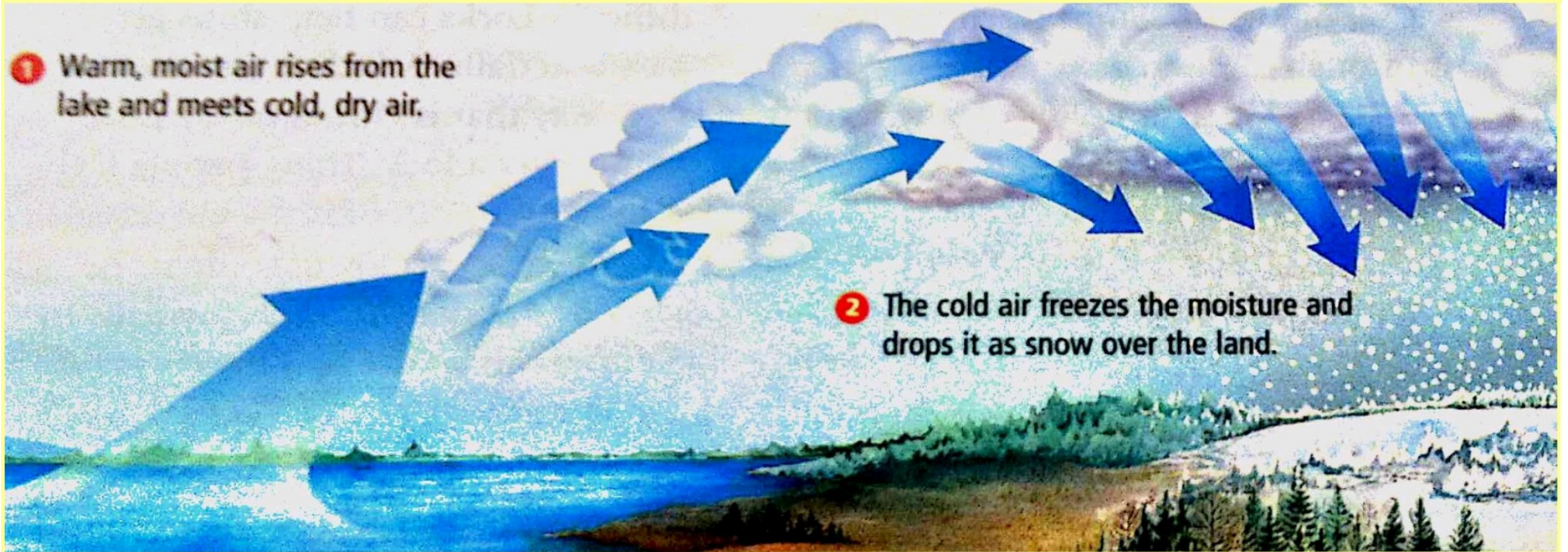
## Extreme Temperatures in the Midwest

State	Highest	Lowest
Illinois	117°F	-36°F
Indiana	116°F	-36°F
Iowa	118°F	-47°F
Kansas	121°F	-40°F
Michigan	112°F	-51°F
Minnesota	114°F	-60°F
Missouri	118°F	-40°F
Nebraska	118°F	-47°F
North Dakota	121°F	-60°F
Ohio	113°F	-39°F
South Dakota	120°F	-58°F
Wisconsin	114°F	-55°F

# LAKE EFFECT SNOW

1 Warm, moist air rises from the lake and meets cold, dry air.

2 The cold air freezes the moisture and drops it as snow over the land.





# **BLIZZARDS**



# TORNADOES





# PLANT AND ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS



# BISON







