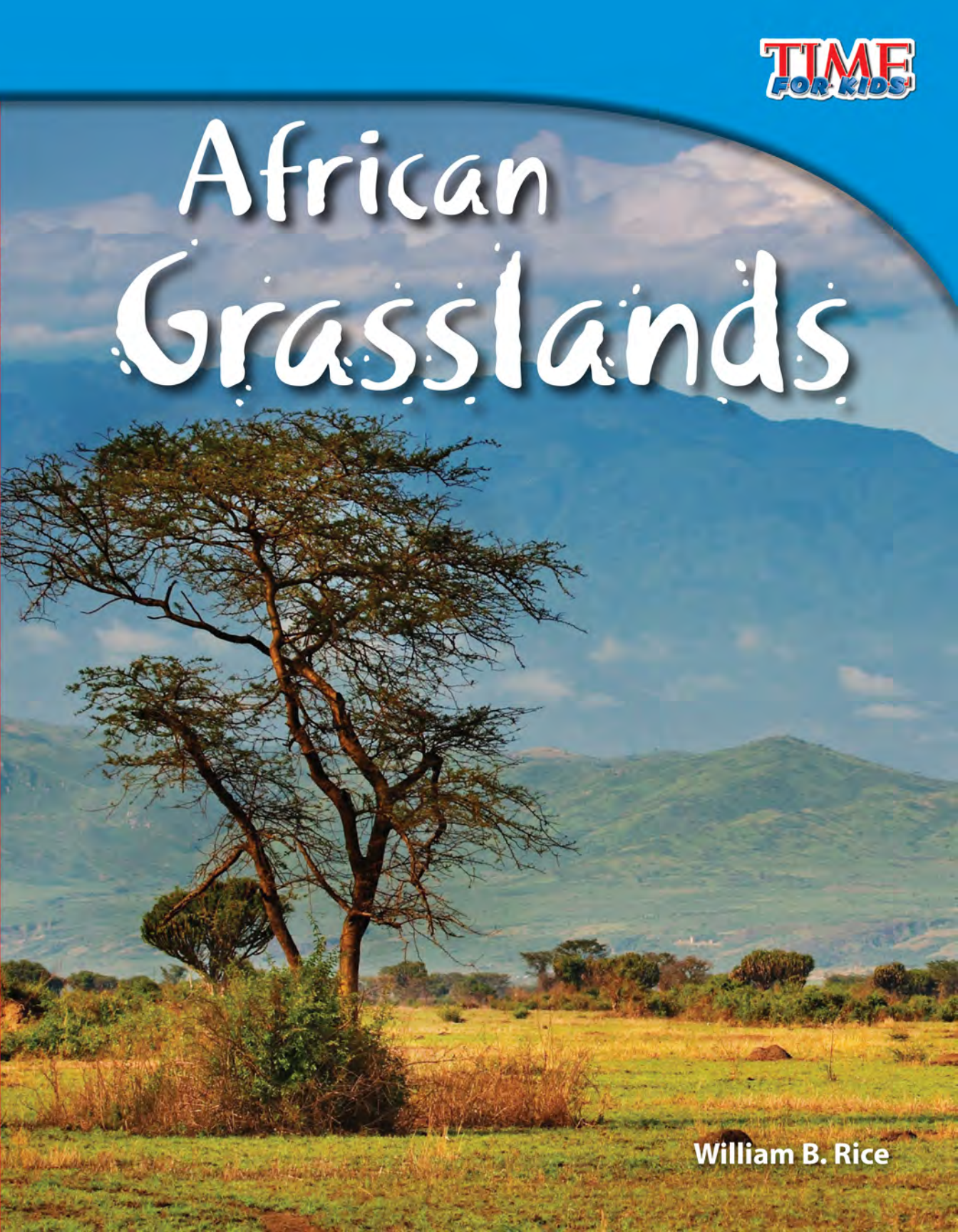
TIME FOR KIDS

African Grasslands



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Inside the Grasslands

Tall, thin grasses rustle and sway in the breeze. A herd of gazelles runs through the stalks in graceful bounds. Beside a sparkling pool of water, a long, lean lioness drinks with her cubs. In the distance, an elephant's trumpet sounds.

This is the world of the grasslands.





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There are several different places where grasslands exist in Africa. One of the most beautiful and famous places is the Serengeti (ser-uhn-GET-ee) Plains. It is found in Tanzania (tan-zuh-NEE-uh), a country in eastern Africa.





What Does It Mean?

The name *Serengeti* comes from the **Maasai** (mah-SAHY) language. It means "the place where land runs on forever."



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Geography and Climate

The Serengeti is usually warm and dry. However, it does rain from March to May and a little during October and November.

You are probably used to the coldest temperatures of the year being during September through March, but in the Serengeti, it is coldest between June and October.

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The Serengeti Plains get more than 20 inches of rain each year.

Reversed Seasons

Earth is divided in the middle by an invisible line called the *equator*. North of the equator is the Northern Hemisphere, and south is the Southern Hemisphere. The seasons in the two hemispheres are opposites of each other. The African grasslands are in the Southern Hemisphere, so when it is summer there, it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere.



Average Temperature

The average temperature in the Serengeti is between 55°F and 82°F.

Savannas

African grasslands are also called *savannas*.