

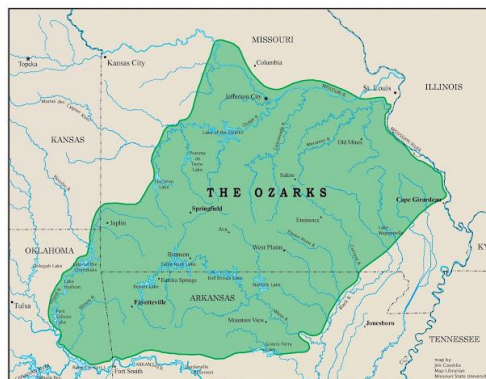
# The Ozarks

## Chapter 12



Ozark Plateau-  
higher than  
hills but lower  
than  
mountains.

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## Self-sufficient remoteness, “down in the Ozarks, and changes



## Physical Geography

- Remnant of 500 million year old inland sea
- Limestone and karst formations
  - Tourism-caves, springs
  - Water pollution problems because of porosity no filtering
- Ozark Plateau- higher than hills but lower than mountains.
- Core is St. Francois Mountains-volcanic rock-
  - Igneous knobs that peek through forest in SE Missouri

## Big Springs, Missouri Ozark National Scenic Riverways Van Buren

### Current River and Watercress



### Big Springs

- 276 million gallons per day



Tourism

## Ozark National Scenic Riverways

Donated by Missouri to National Park Service

Includes the Current River and Jack Fork River plus springs, caves, and trails.



**Hot Springs, Arkansas**

- Geothermal hot springs very popular before establishment of the FDA .
- Today used as tourism
- Geothermal areas potential use as energy source.



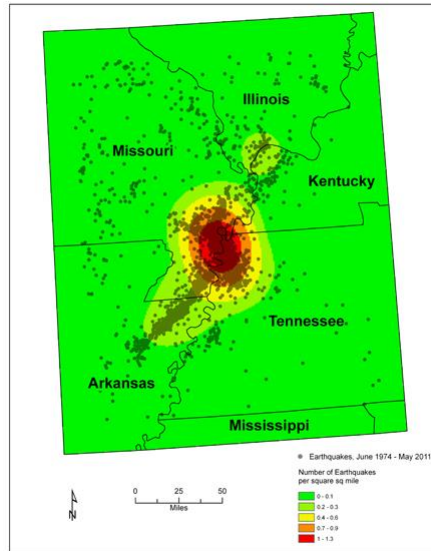
## Rivers

- Mississippi and Missouri rivers
- Many smaller rivers in Ozarks
- Second half of 20<sup>th</sup> century 18 dams on Ozark rivers.
- Wilderness morphed into second-home lakeside retreats

### New Madrid Earthquakes

However, during 1811-1812 more than 1,800 earthquakes, many in the 7 to 8 magnitude, occurred far from any plate boundaries, New Madrid.

The fault line was essentially a scarred weakness from a failed rift formed when Rodinia broke apart 750 million years ago.



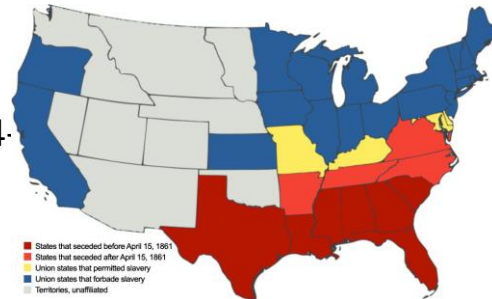
## Climate



- 4 distinct seasons
- Humid and rainy summers annual mean precipitation 40-48 inches
- 80 degrees in summer to 34 in winter
- Winter snows are brief.
- Growing season varies from 180-200 days

## Settlement

- Scots-Irish from Appalachian region
- Germans
- Civil war Missouri stayed in Union and Arkansas seceded.
- Allegiances divided
- Bald Knobbers-1864 to 1885.



## Cultural Perspectives

- Rural groups
- Self-sufficiency, reluctance to accept change, suspicion of outsiders, and political conservatism.
- Hunting, fishing, home crafts.
- Hillbilly music evolved from Celtic and English folk songs.

## Religion

- “Buckle of the Bible Belt.
- Pentecostal Christian religions often evangelical (emphasizing authority of Bible)-apocalyptic events reaching fanatical proportions.
- Pockets of faith-Buddhist and animist shamanism.



## Mountain Medicine Box 12.2

- Long preferred old-fashioned healing traditions over modern medicine.
- Some curative ingredients but many alcohol or opiates.
- “Taking the waters.” – geothermal springs
- Helped begin the Ozark tourism industry
- Even today some people favor natural medicine.



## Cultural Perspectives

- 95% Caucasian and 20% are 65 or older.
- Retirement communities in Bella Vista, Kimberling City, and Branson – favoring senior over family interests.

## Cities

- Poplar Bluff- Gateway to the Ozarks.
- Bentonville, Arkansas- Home to Wal-Mart which is world's largest retail chain.
- Springdale, Arkansas- Home to Tyson
- Lowell, Arkansas- J.B. Hunt







▲ est. in 1935 and employs 115,000 people. In addition, it works with 6,729 ind. contract chicken growers (CAFO). **\$33billion**



▲ est. in 1945 and employs 2,200,000 employees. **\$475billion**



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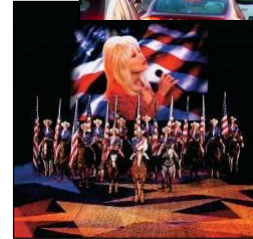
### St Louis, Missouri MSA 2016: 2.9 million

- Mississippi and Missouri Rivers
- Good relative location
- 1764 French traders gateway to the West.
- After Civil War major distribution center for Missouri Iron Belt
- Today 18<sup>th</sup> largest metro area
- Wholesale outlet for the Ozarks.
- Poor air quality and needs a recycling program- only recycle 3%



## Branson, Missouri

- Pop. of 11,500
- 7 million visitors
- “Live Entertainment Capital of the World”
- Unlike Nashville has smaller theaters-



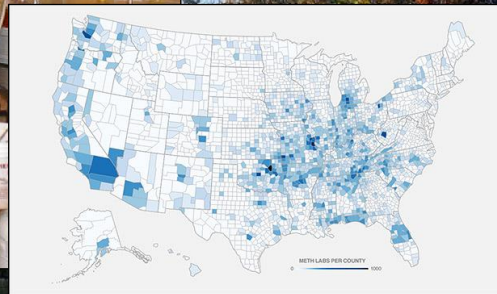
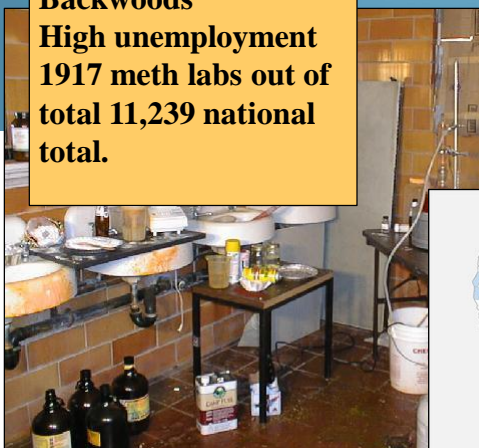
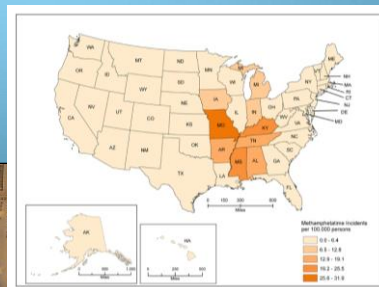
“With the always rising cost of gas, having a family vacation destination located in the middle of the country is convenient”



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## Methamphetamine capital of the world

**Backwoods**  
**High unemployment**  
**1917 meth labs out of total 11,239 national total.**



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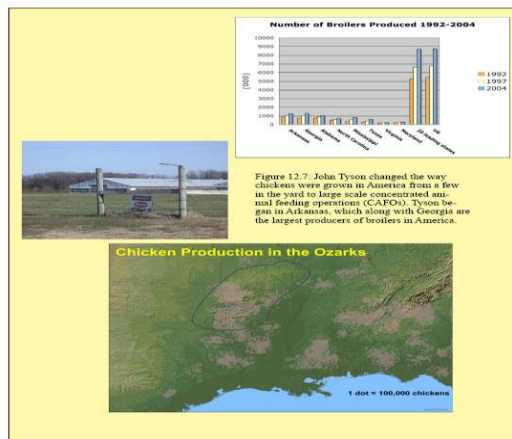
## Economy

- Only 10% of the Ozarks is good cropland, 20% used for livestock and hay, 70% forested.
- Tyson's chicken production saved many poor farmers.
- Environmental problems
  - Nutrient load fertilizer
  - Carcinogenic matter in manure dust
  - Antibiotic resistance



## Economy

- Arkansas produces 1.2 billion broilers annually



## Economy

- Mineral resources
- Lead and zinc for 250 years- original used in ammunition and pewter but today batteries and protection from radioactivity and X-rays.
- Have affected local residential yards along trucking route- 2005 EPA began clean of lead contaminated sites.

## Logging

- Only 3% are intact from when Europeans arrived.
- Shortleaf pine---to Loblolly pine plantations.
- Environmental problems
  - Shorten harvest rotation which leads to depleted nutrients in soil, polluted waterways, and destruction of wildlife and fishery habitats.

## Logging

- Creation of National Forest System preserve the Ozarks but many forests are privately owned.
- 1990s chip mill logging
- Grind entire forest (including immature trees) into chips and furnish the pulp and paper industry with low-grade fiber for particle board and grocery bags.



## Economy

- Clear-cutting of forest
- Increase erosion and decrease soil fertility.
- Wal Mart- energy efficient procedures but accused of paying women less for years.

# Sustainability



Traditional poor self-sufficient economy lesson in a sustainable economy?