

The Life Cycle of the Cotton Plant



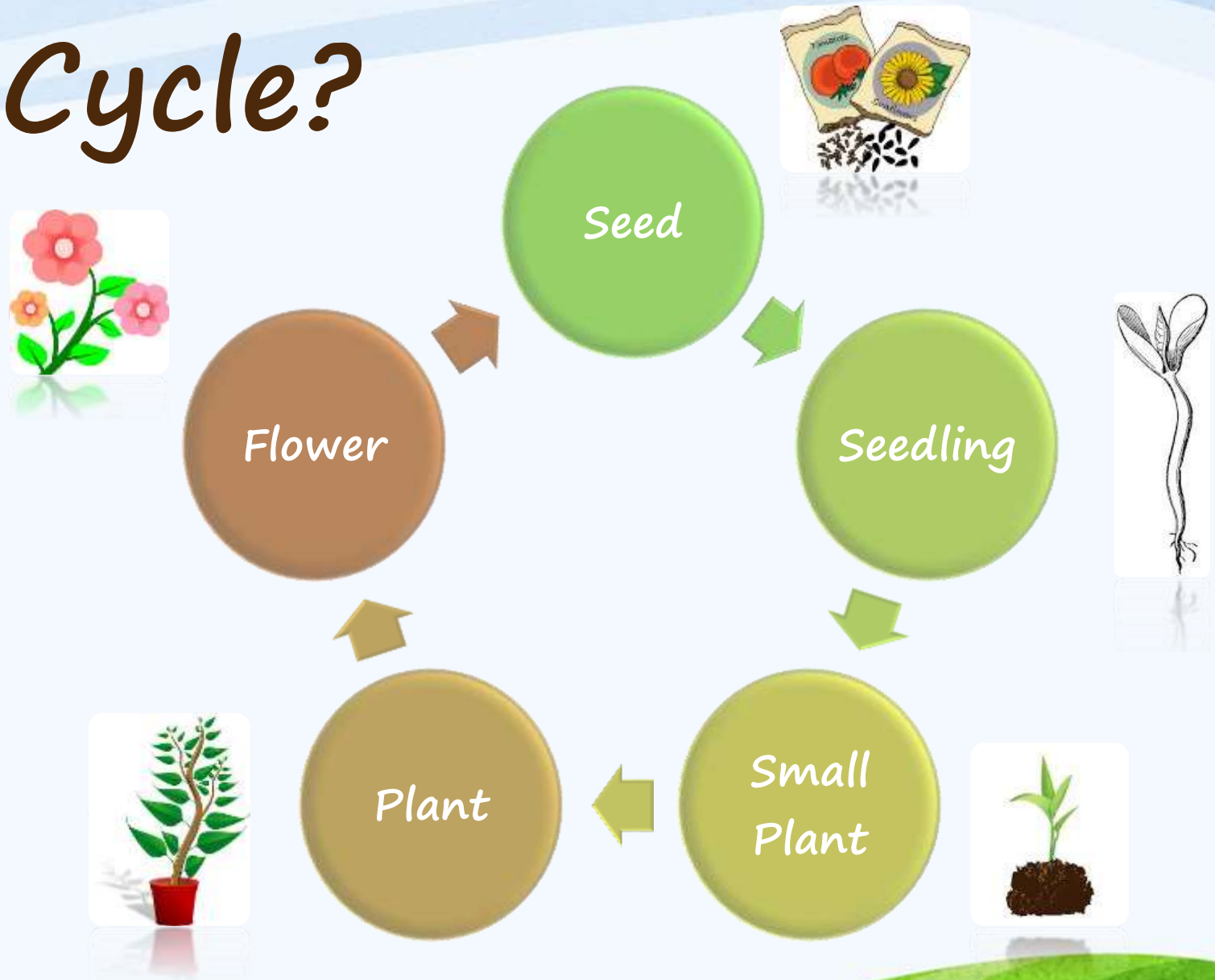
Essential Questions

- *What is a life cycle?*
- *How does cotton grow?*
- *In what climate does cotton grow best?*

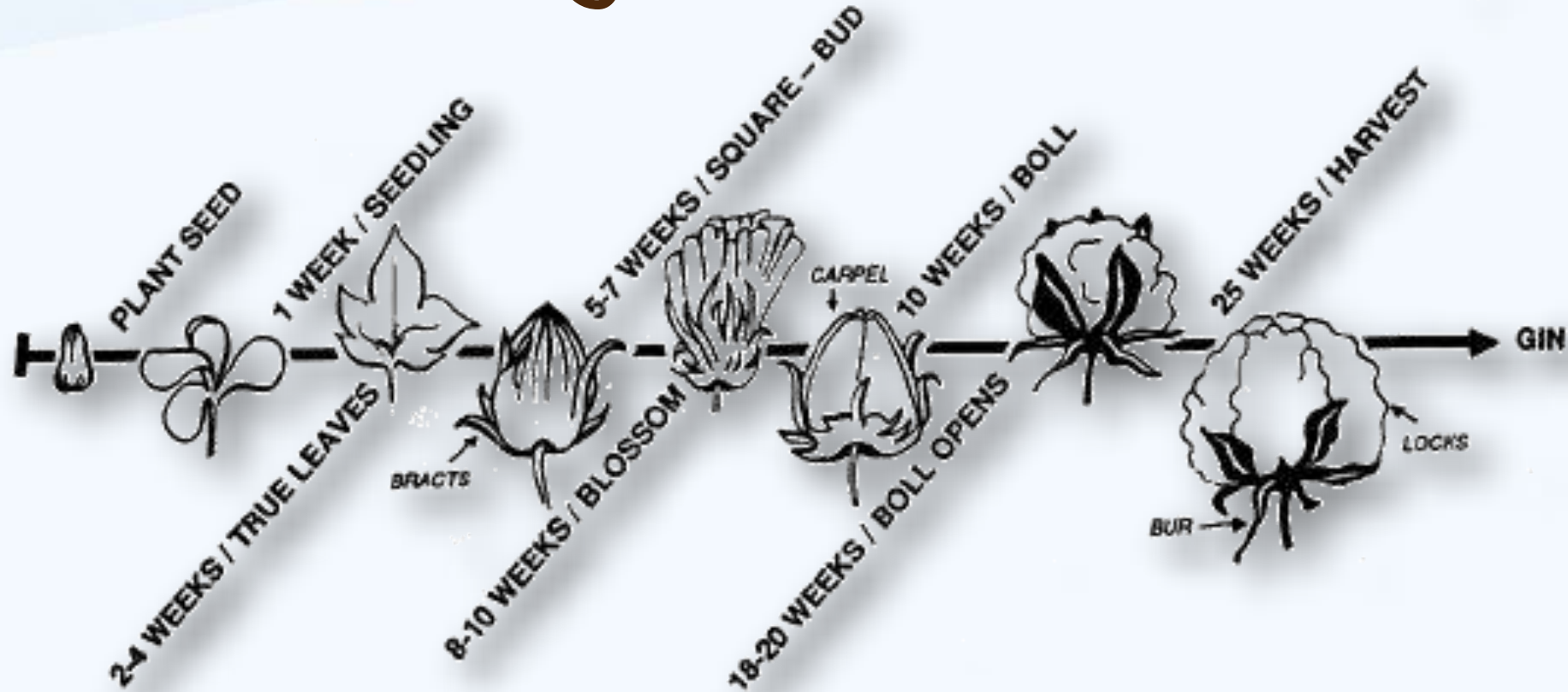


What is a Life Cycle?

- A life cycle is the series of changes in the life of an organism



The life cycle of Cotton



Did you know?

Cotton is a **slow-growing** plant that requires at least **160 frost-free days** to grow!

Germination

- After the seed is planted, it takes around **5- 10 days** to germinate and sprout
- The sprout will grow two small leaves called **cotyledons**, which help with **photosynthesis**

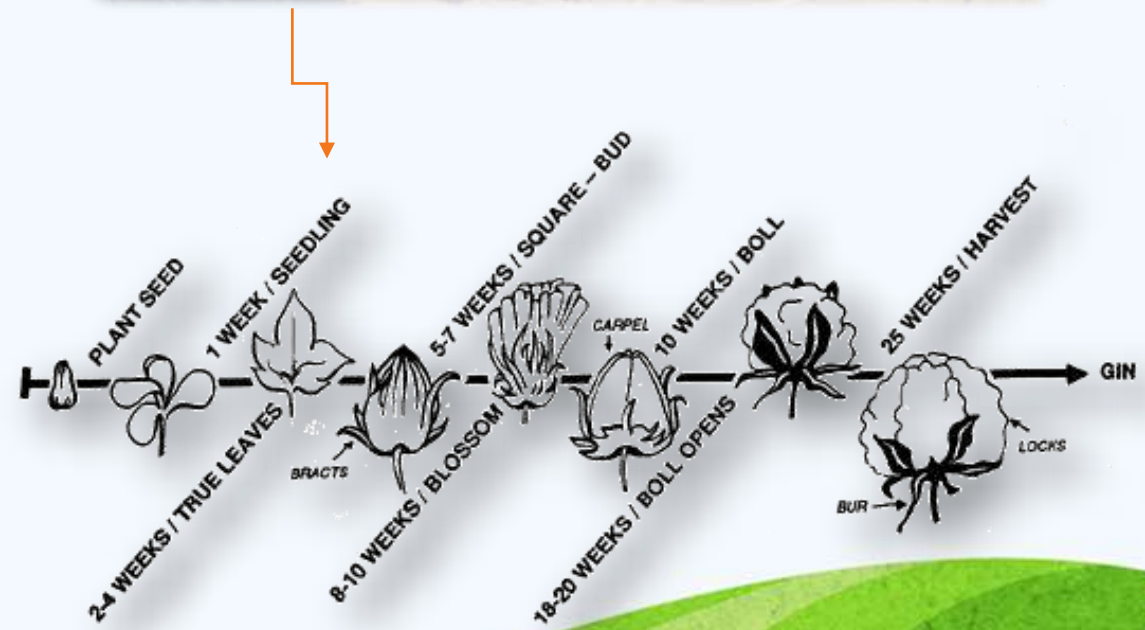
Photosynthesis is where a plant turns sunlight into energy and food for the plant!



Seedling

- The initial leaves (cotyledons) will help the **roots** to develop
- Once the root system has developed, more leaves begin to appear. **This will take 2-4 weeks.**

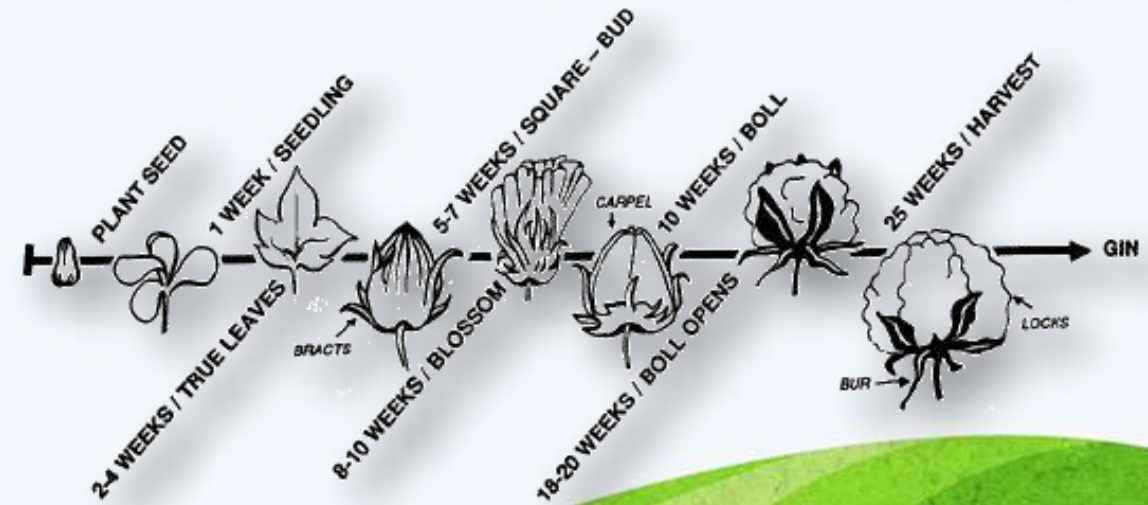
Now the plant will grow to be 2-5 feet tall!



Square (Bud)

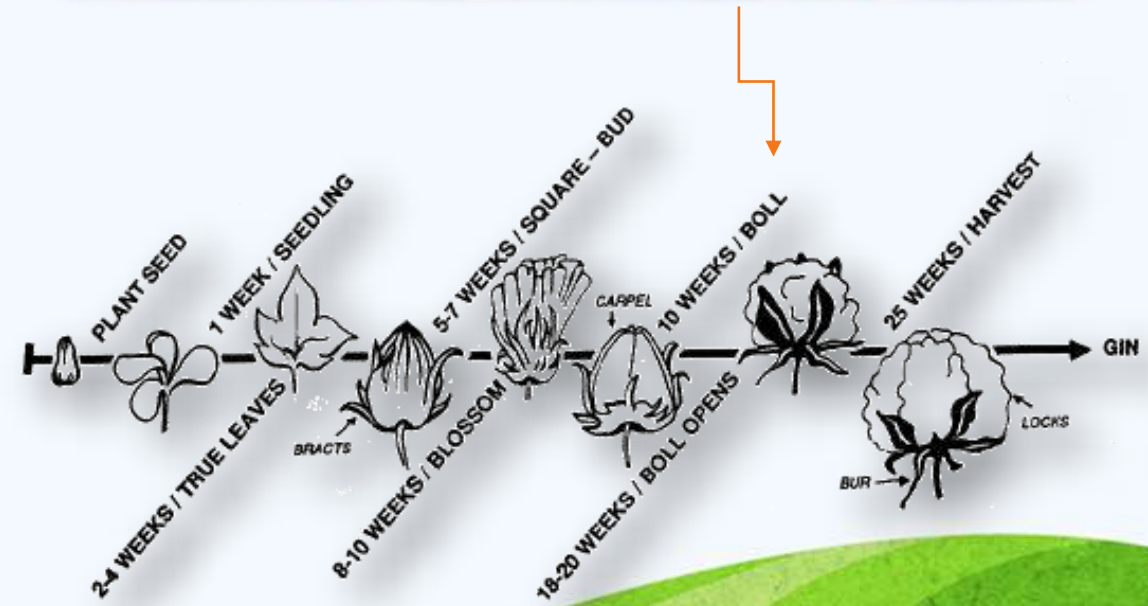
- Flower **buds**, called **squares** will appear on the plant within **5-7 weeks** after it is planted
- The **white flowers** signal the beginning of the **pollination** process, which begins within 24 hours of the bud's appearance

You need **dry, hot days** for **pollination** to occur!



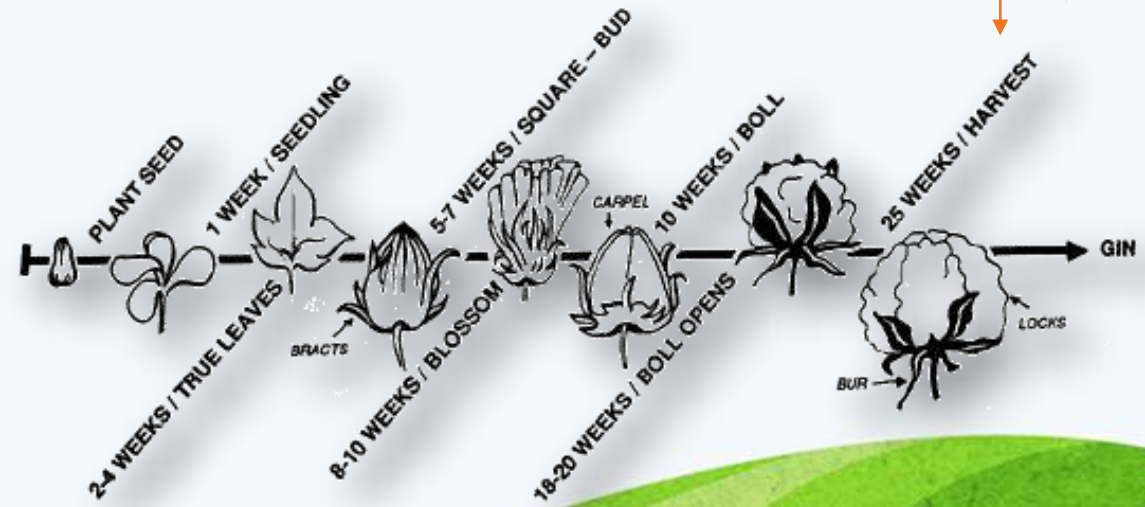
Boll

- Cotton fibers grow from the seeds inside the **boll**
- The **boll** begins to appear after germination
- After the boll stops growing, it will fill with **cellulose** (plant material)



Mature Plant

- After the **cellulose** has filled the **boll**, the boll bursts open, and **cotton** spills out
- Now 25 weeks after planting, the cotton is ready for **harvest**!



How many species of cotton are there?

Here are 5 major species
grown throughout the
world:

- Cotton belongs to the genus *Gossypium*
 - There are around 50 species in the *Gossypium* genus, so there are around **50 different species of cotton**

Upland

American
Pima

Sea Island

Egyptian

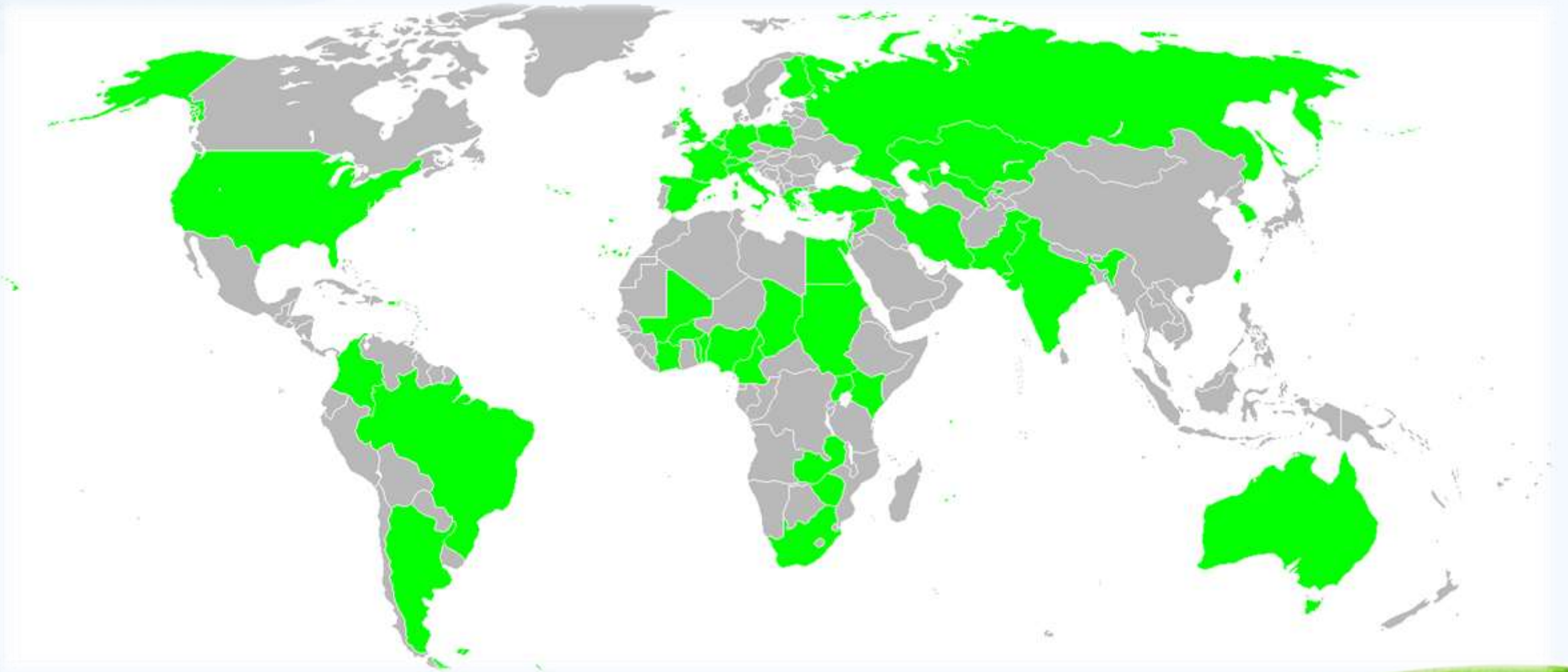
Asiatic

Where does cotton grow?

- Cotton grows best in warm climates
- Most of the world's cotton comes from:
 - China
 - India
 - United States
 - Uzbekistan
- Other cotton-growing countries include:
 - Brazil
 - Pakistan
 - Turkey



Look at all the places cotton grows!



Today, the major cotton-producing states are:

1. Texas

2. Georgia

3. Arkansas

4. Mississippi

5. North Carolina

6. Tennessee

7. Arizona

8. Missouri

9. Alabama

10. California

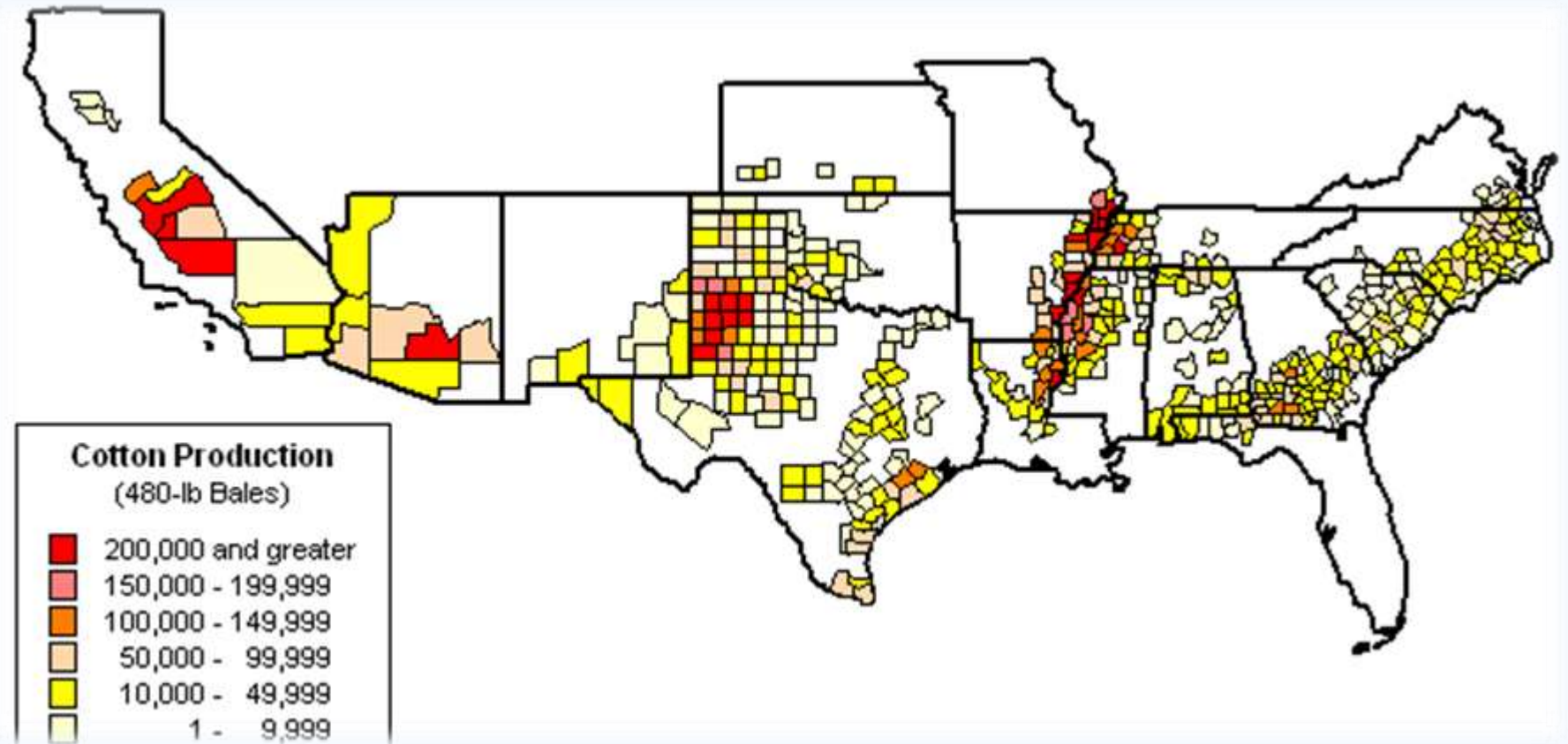
11. South Carolina

12. Louisiana



United States Cotton Production

*Cotton is
grown all
across the
country!*



The End!

