Frederic Clements was born on September 16, 1874 in Lincoln, Nebraska. He received his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctorate in botany from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Clements served as a botany professor at UNL from 1905 to 1907. During this time, he developed many of his ecological theories that would go on to shape much of his work in the burgeoning field of ecology. It was at this time that Clements developed the idea of plant communities. Between 1907 and 1917, Clements was a professor at the University of Minnesota where he expanded on his earlier work and came up with the concept of plant succession. Later ecologists would go on to apply Clements’ succession idea to entire ecosystems. Clements became a research associate at the Carnegie Institution of Washington in 1917, doing research in Colorado and Arizona. Clements also introduced the new field of experimental taxonomy. He died on July 26, 1945.

Primary Source

*Environment and Life in the Great Plains* by Frederic Clements

Secondary Source

*Frederic Clements, Climatology, and Conservation in the 1930s* by Christophe Masutti

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