

Focus points for review of *Large Wind Shift on the Great Plains during the Medieval Warm Period*

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1. Distinguish between direct and indirect evidence of past changes in atmospheric circulation (wind direction and velocity).
2. When was the last main period of dune activity in the Great Plains?
3. When was the most recent period of widespread dune activity in the Great Plains?
4. What are the two main wind directions that dominate the Great Plains today?
5. How do the different wind directions affect region climate?
6. What are the main methods used in this study?
7. How do the authors develop hypothetical dunes for modern conditions and why do they do this?
8. What was the drift direction for Medieval sand dunes in the Great Plains, and how was this determined?
9. How have wind directions changed since the Medieval Warm Period?
10. What is the paleo-wind direction significance of transverse versus longitudinal dunes?
11. What effect on climate might have been caused by the change in past wind directions?
12. Describe a feedback that might have promoted large scale dune reactivation during Medieval times on the Great Plains.
13. How was the extended drought of the Medieval Warm Period different from the droughts of the 20th Century?
14. What might have been some of the larger scale forcing factors that caused the MWP?