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Rain shadows! A sun shadow is where the sunshine is cut off by some obstruction but there may be diffused light. Similarly, a "rain shadow" is where there is much less rain than on the other side of the obstacle. There are many places in the world on the lee sides of mountains where the rainfall is small compared with that on the windward side. These are called rain shadows. Well-known examples are the semi-arid plateau east of the Rockies in the United States and Alberta in Canada. The explanation is that the moist air on the windward slopes rises, cools and leaves much of its moisture there, and is consequently much drier when it arrives on the lee sides.

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