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Wind and soil! The so-called man-made deserts of the Great Plains of late years are good examples of how wind can carry soil. It seems that this drifting of the soil does not occur over large areas all at once, but begins in spots on knolls or ridges from which it spreads rapidly. The finer particles are carried upward by the turbulent air, while the heavier particles are borne many miles from their source. Wind erosion arises when absence of vegetative covering is coupled with a dry period. The topography of a region helps: a large flat area offers the best setting for a dust or sand storm because of the lack of wind-slowing obstacles.

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