Prairie Curriculum

PRAIRIE WEEK – DAY 1
“What is the Prairie?”

TEACHER’s GUIDE
Kindergarten – 3rd Grade

Time needed: 30 minutes
Materials needed: Paper, pencil, colored pencils, crayons

Background: This PowerPoint presentation will introduce students to what a prairie is, where we find prairie, and the different kinds of plants and animals that live on a prairie.

Slide 1 The prairie is found in Kansas - where YOU live. Have you ever seen the prairie?

Slide 2 What do you think a prairie looks like?
   DRAW – what they think a prairie looks like
   VIDEO clip – of the prairie in the spring – 40 seconds

Slide 3 5 different pictures – all of them are prairies. Some have just grass, some have grass and wildflowers.

Slide 4 What kinds of plants do we find in the prairie?
   Answer: Mainly grass and wildflowers
   DRAW – add grasses and wildflowers to your picture

Slide 5 Photos of grass and wildflowers

Slide 6 What kinds of animals do we find living in the prairie?
   Answer: Many! Lots of butterflies and bees because they love the wildflowers. Lots of lizards and turtles, and lots of birds. Bison are a big part of the prairie.
   VIDEO clip – of a bison herd on the prairie - from a distance.
Photos of some of the animals that live on the prairie.
- Bee with pollen on his legs
- Bison – bull (boy)
- Beetle – dung beetle with bison dung
- Butterfly – monarch
- Lizard – Collared Lizard

Can you see some butterflies on the prairie?

DRAW some butterflies, bees, lizards, turtles, turkeys, hawks, deer and bison in your drawing.

Prairies have LOTS of grass and wildflowers. What kind of plant do we NOT find in a prairie? It has bark, but it isn't a dog...
- Trees

An open prairie with just 1 tree – trees are not normal on a prairie

Prairies change color!
Can we guess what the season is from the pictures?
- Spring – the grass is just starting to grow and is very short
- Summer – the flowers are blooming
- Fall – the grass turns golden
- Winter – the grass turns red and there’s snow

Next, we’ll learn about fire and how the prairie needs to be burned