



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.

- Slide 7 **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
- Slide 8 **Can you see some butterflies on the prairie?**
- Slide 9 **DRAW** some butterflies, bees, lizards, turtles, turkeys, hawks, deer and bison in your drawing.
- Slide 10 **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
- Slide 11 **An open prairie with just 1 tree** – trees are not normal on a prairie
- Slide 12 **Prairies change color!**
Can we guess what the season is from the pictures?
- Slide 13 **Spring** – the grass is just starting to grow and is very short
- Slide 14 **Summer** – the flowers are blooming
- Slide 15 **Fall** – the grass turns golden
- Slide 16 **Winter** – the grass turns red and there's snow
- Slide 17 Next, we'll learn about fire and how the prairie needs to be burned