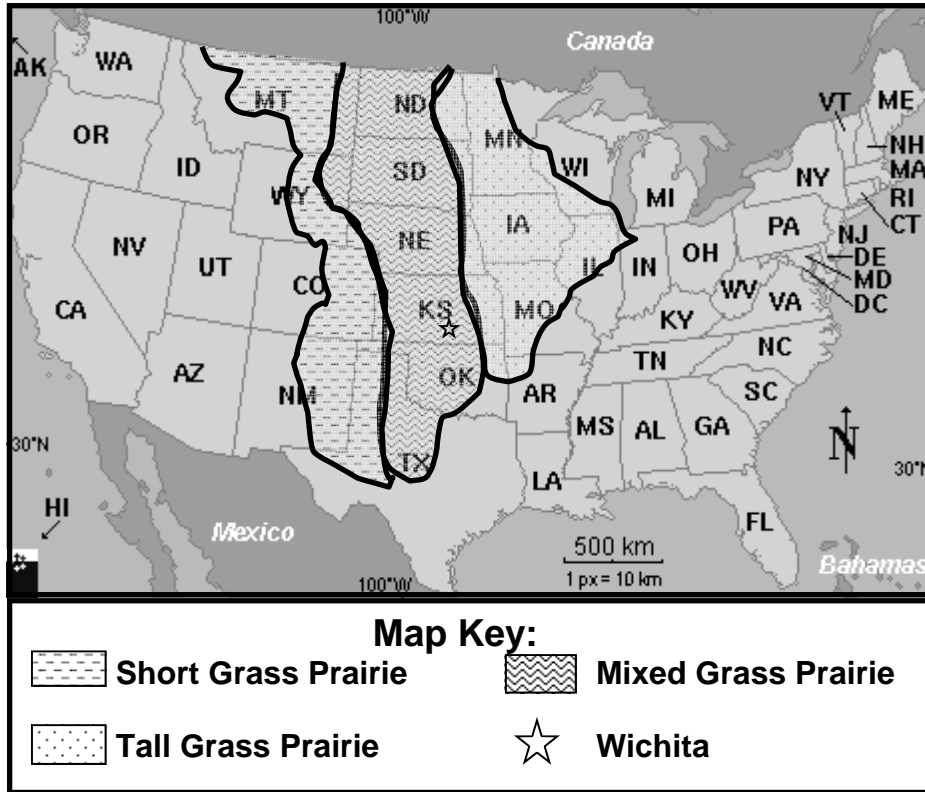




A Sea of Grass

A prairie is an ecosystem that is usually flat or has rolling hills. The main plants that grow on the prairie are grasses, and there are not many trees.

Use the map below to answer the following questions.



How many states have short grass prairie?

8 50 9 13

How many states have tall grass prairie?

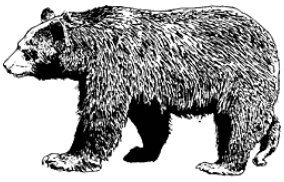
12 7 23 42

How many states have all three kinds of prairie?

3 18 36 27

What kind of prairie is Wichita in?

Write your answer in the blank below.



Black Bear Necessities

Black bears are officially called **carnivores**.

Carnivores are animals that **eat meat**.

Below are three other words that tell us about animal eating habits. Match the words on the left with the best definition on the right.

Omnivore _____

1. Eats insects

Herbivore _____

2. Eats vegetation (fruit and leaves)

Insectivore _____

3. Eats meat and vegetation

Black bears are excellent climbers: they climb trees to look for food and escape danger. What tools do you think they use to climb trees? *Circle the best answer below.*

Sticky pads on their feet

Strong claws, and powerful muscles

Great jumping ability

A full grown black bear can be 5 1/2 feet long from the tip of its nose to the tip of its tail!

Using the tape measure in your backpack, measure the height of three people in your group.

Write the measurements in the boxes below.

Draw a circle around the tallest measurement.

Measurement

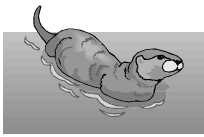
1

Measurement

2

Measurement

3



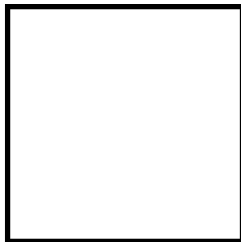
A Habitat Fit for an Otter

All animals need a safe and healthy habitat to survive. A good habitat always has four things. These four things are;

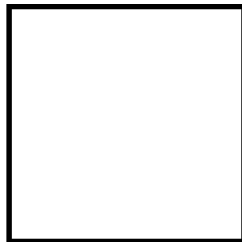
Food, Water, Shelter and Space

Carefully examine the otter exhibit and otters if you can see them.

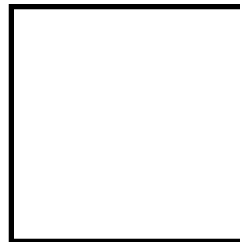
After examining the exhibit, draw a picture of the four habitat components in the otter exhibit in the boxes below.



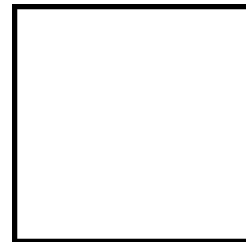
Food



Water



Shelter



Space

Otters are mammals. Test your knowledge about mammals.

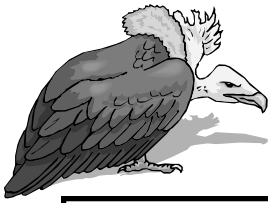
Answer the questions below about mammals.

Mammals are usually covered in what?

Mammal mothers feed their babies what?

Mammals breath oxygen using what?

* **Bonus!** Can you name one of the two mammals that lay eggs instead of giving birth to live young?



Victorious Vultures

Vultures have a bad rap for being gross and disgusting because of their eating habits, and poor table manners. Without vultures and other scavengers, the planet would have piles of rotten decaying animals and trash!

Look closely at the Turkey Vulture's head. What color is it?

Do you notice anything missing from the head?

YES

NO

If you circled yes, write what is missing in the blank.

If you answered feathers, you are right! Below are a list of reasons that may explain why Turkey Vultures don't have feathers on their heads; *circle the best answer.*

Head feathers don't look cool

The Vulture stays cooler without the feathers

Without the feathers, the Vulture can stay cleaner and healthier

Turkey vultures have a better sense of smell than most birds, and that is one tool they use to find their food. How else do you think the vulture finds its supper?

Write your answer below.



Prancing Pronghorn

Use your binoculars to observe the pronghorn. In the space Below, write what you see them doing, then draw a picture of what you observed.

We observed the pronghorn _____

(Draw your picture below.)

Pronghorn can run up to 55 miles per hour, and run that speed for several miles! Not even a cheetah can run that fast for that long! Why do you think that pronghorn developed the ability to be such great runners?

Write your answer in the space below

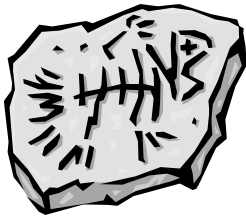
Pronghorn rarely drink water. How do you think the pronghorn gets the water it needs to survive?

Circle the best answer below.

Pronghorn get most of their water from their food

Pronghorn just don't need water

Pronghorn absorb water through their feet



Fossil Frenzy

In your backpack you will find a plastic bag with a rock that is filled with many tiny fossils of an ancient animals and a fact sheet. Use the fossilized animals and magnifying glass in your backpack and the fact sheet on page 8 to answer the questions below.

Use the magnifying glass to closely examine the fossil. After you have taken a very good look draw, your fossil below.

What kind of fossil is in your bag?

(Remember to use your fact sheet!)

What kind of environment did your fossilized animal live in?

What was Kansas once covered with?

What is the largest size your fossilized animal could have reached?

What did your fossilized animal eat?

What is the word Triticites Latin for?



Pouncing Pumas

The puma has sharp claws that retract, or are pulled into a protective pouch of skin when they are not using them. *Below are some reasons that the mountain lions and other members of the cat family may have retractable claws. Circle the best answer.*

It helps keep their nail polish from chipping

The claws are protected from breaking and stay sharp

By retracting the claws it keeps their toes strong

Pumas are predators, or animals that hunt for their food. *In the space below write why you think that the color of the mountain lion's fur helps it be a better predator.*

Pumas have the greatest jumping ability in all of the cat family. They can jump as high as 18 feet up into the air! We know pumas can jump high, but lets see how **far** kids can jump! *Choose the three best jumpers in your group and have a jump off! Use the tape measure to measure who jumps the farthest!*

After writing down jump distances in the boxes below draw a circle around the farthest jumpers box.

Jumper # 1

Jumper # 2

Jumper # 3

Fossil Frenzy Fact Sheet

Your rock contains many fossilized ancient animals called **Triticites**. **Triticites** and other ancient animals once lived in a shallow, warm, clear sea that covered Kansas. Yes, there was once water where you are standing!

As the animals died and floated to the bottom of the sea, they were covered with mud, sand and silt. After millions of years, the animal skeletons turned to stone as they were filled with minerals.

Below are some neat facts about your fossils; use them to complete the Fossil Frenzy activities!



The largest **Triticites** were up to two inches long! The **Triticites** in your sample only grew to a little less than half an inch.



Triticites didn't eat food like we do, they made their food by a process called photosynthesis. They used energy from the sun to make food, just like plants do today!



The word **Triticites** means "Wheat" in the Latin language



Triticites are made up of only one cell. Your body has trillions (1,000,000,000) of cells all doing special jobs. The **Triticites'** one cell had to do all of the jobs necessary to keep it alive!

Check out the images of Triticites below!



SEDGWIC



This is what you would see if you looked inside a **Triticites**