



Young Ikes

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HOME ON THE PRAIRIE

North American prairies come in all forms. Sometimes their grasses can be knee-high, and sometimes they can be over a person's head. Some are less than one square mile in area, and others stretch for hundreds of square miles. Within this ecosystem,

wildlife can be found such as prairie dogs that weigh less than a cat to buffalo that weigh as much as a car.

Many of North America's prairies have been lost over the last two hundred years to farming, housing, and

industrial development. Fortunately, groups like the Izaak Walton League are working to restore these important habitats by educating the public about prairie conservation. We are teaching people that prairies and people can co-exist.



In Grayslake, Illinois, there is a housing development called Prairie Crossing that allows people to live in and around restored prairies. There you can ride your bike, grow your own organic garden, or sit on the porch watch birds and butterflies—all in an environment that's good for both wildlife and the land.

The next time you see a prairie on television, vacation, or in your backyard, remember that it's more than just a bunch of grass—it's a place many animals, including people, call home.

PRAIRIE WORD SEARCH

The prairie ecosystem contains rich soils that support a many different grasses, wildflowers, and animals that live in harmony together. Some of these species are listed below. Find and circle their names.



I DIG PRAIRIES!



PLANTS

Clover
Goldenrod
Sweet Grass
Rose
Cone Flowers
Aster
Milkweed
Sunflower

ANIMALS

Prairie Dog
Elk
Coyote
Badger
Antelope
Buffalo
Rabbit
Mouse
Bats

BIRDS

Burrowing Owl
Meadowlark
Harrier
Bluebirds
Goldfinch
Blackbird
Wren

OTHER

Chorus Frog
Rattlesnake
Tortoise
Grasshopper
Bees
Butterfly