

Name: _____

edHelper

Japanese Giant Salamanders

By Vickie Chao

In Japan, there's a monster lurking in the dark.

This monster is called the Japanese giant salamander.

The Japanese giant salamander has a broad head and a huge mouth. Its slimy skin is wrinkled and marked with warts. Its legs are short and chubby. Its body is brownish gray and has dark spots all over it. The animal can grow up to 5 feet long and weigh nearly 55 pounds. It is one of the biggest amphibians in the world!



If we want to find a Japanese giant salamander out in the wild, we need to know where to look first.

The Japanese giant salamander likes to live in cold, fast-moving mountain streams. It especially prefers those in the northern Kyushu and western Honshu islands of Japan. This underwater monster rarely comes ashore. During the day, the Japanese giant salamander likes to hide beneath rocks or in caves. At night, it comes out to hunt. But even then, it is still hard for us to actually spot one.

Why is it so difficult for us to find a Japanese giant salamander out in the wild?

For the most part, it is because of its skin color. The dull, spotty outfit it wears may not be pretty. But it blends in perfectly well with the monster's surroundings. Plus, the Japanese giant salamander does not like to draw attention to itself. When it is hungry, it waits patiently for a small animal to come near it. As soon as it "feels" one with the sensory organs along its body and on its head, it opens its mouth wide and sucks it in like a vacuum cleaner. In seconds, the small animal is gone! (The Japanese giant salamander has tiny eyes. And its vision is very poor. As a result, it cannot really see what it is eating. Instead, it has to use its sensory organs to detect prey and find its way around.)

The Japanese giant salamander is not a picky eater. And it digests food slowly. Once it makes a successful catch, it can go on for weeks without eating again. Its diet often includes fish, crabs, and frogs. At times, it devours mice, too!

Every year around late August, a Japanese giant salamander will go to the breeding ground in shallow waters to meet up with other Japanese giant salamanders. At the gathering, they do not exchange greetings. Rather, they fight -- especially among the males. After the females lay their eggs (about 400-500 each), they leave the males to guard them. For the next 12-15 weeks, the males stay very close to their nests. They will not go away until the eggs hatch.

Baby Japanese giant salamanders, called larvae, look rather like tadpoles at first. But that changes slowly over a period of several years. When they finally become adults, they lose their feathery gills. From that point on, they use their lungs and skin to breathe instead. They can live to be up to 80 years old.

The Japanese giant salamander is a protected animal. While the monster has no natural enemy in the wild, it stands no chance against humans. For its sake, we should leave it alone if we happen to come across one. But what if we get carried away with curiosity? Then consider this: when upset or scared, the Japanese giant salamander gives off a milky, smelly substance. If you do not want it to get onto your hands, stay away from the monster!

Name: _____

Japanese Giant Salamanders

Questions

- _____ 1. Which of the following about the Japanese giant salamander is correct?
- A. The Japanese giant salamander has very good eyesight.
 - B. The Japanese giant salamander is most active during the day.
 - C. The Japanese giant salamander likes to live in warm, slow-moving waters.
 - D. The Japanese giant salamander is an amphibian.
- _____ 2. Where can we find the Japanese giant salamander?
- A. Western Hokkaido island
 - B. Eastern Honshu island
 - C. Southern Okinawa island
 - D. Northern Kyushu island
- _____ 3. How does a Japanese giant salamander find food?
- A. It uses echolocation.
 - B. It uses its nose.
 - C. It uses its eyes.
 - D. It uses the sensory organs along its body and on its head.
- _____ 4. What does a baby Japanese giant salamander have that its parents do not?
- A. Legs
 - B. Feathery gills
 - C. Lungs
 - D. Tail
- _____ 5. Which of the following about the Japanese giant salamander is true?
- A. It has smooth skin.
 - B. It wears a brightly-colored outfit.
 - C. It is the only amphibian that lives in the oceans.
 - D. It eats fish, crabs, and frogs.
- _____ 6. How does a Japanese giant salamander defend itself when scared?
- A. It discharges a foul-smelling substance.
 - B. It barks.
 - C. It flips onto its back and plays dead.
 - D. It breaks away from its tail.
- _____ 7. Aside from size, how can you tell if you are looking at a baby Japanese giant salamander or an adult one?
- A. If the animal in question lives underwater, then it is an adult Japanese giant salamander.
 - B. If the animal in question has a tail, then it is an adult Japanese giant salamander.
 - C. If the animal in question breathes with gills, then it is a baby Japanese giant salamander.
 - D. If the animal in question eats small fish, then it is an adult Japanese giant salamander.
- _____ 8. Which of the following statements about the Japanese giant salamander is correct?
- A. It prefers to live in tropical waters.
 - B. It is a protected species.
 - C. It has long and skinny legs.
 - D. It can be found all over Japan.

Name: _____

Did you know that you don't always have to use the word **friendly** in your writing? Try to use different words for an overused word like **friendly**. It will make your work more fun for others to read.

Circle words to the RIGHT or DOWN. Every letter is used exactly ONCE.

				A	F	F	A	B	L	E
C										C
O	A	M	I	C	A	B	L	E	O	
N									G	N
V									E	G
I									N	E
V									I	N
I									A	I
A									L	A
L	A	M	I	A	B	L	E	L	L	

Write the words found.

CORDIAL CONGENIAL _____ _____

_____ _____ _____ _____

Now rewrite this without using the word **friendly**. Add one or two of your own sentences using some of the words you found in the word search.

Brad was a friendly young man. He was friendly with his classmates. He was friendly at recess. He was friendly to his neighbors, too.

My favorite two words to use instead of **friendly** are:

_____ and _____

How many words do you think it takes to improve your writing?

Fifty. That's 50! There are about 50 overused words we often use in writing and conversations.

When you find yourself repeating, try something different. It doesn't take much work to sound amazing!

Name: _____

Read the sentence. Then write three questions that are unanswered.

My mom just went back to work.

1. How do you feel about her working? _____

2. _____

3. _____

Turn the sentence and your questions into a paragraph. Be sure to include details and explanations.

Free writing. Think of something to write. I took _____ minute(s) to think of something to write.
Write.

Name: _____

Let's be direct! A direct object is something that receives the action of a verb. A direct object can be a noun or a pronoun. Circle the direct objects in the following sentences.



The friendly vampire mailed a letter to Transylvania.

The brave seagull ate the spicy anchovy.

The worried ladybug looked for her children.

The millipede tried on hundreds of sneakers.

The eager children entered the gingerbread house.

The sick monster drank the medicine.

Draw a picture of a sick monster
drinking medicine here if you like:



The elf made a ceramic statue.

The chef created a magnificent dinner.

The student wrote a gigantic thesis.

The musician played a difficult piece by Bach.

The flamboyant car salesman put on a green tie.

The girl sold seashells by the sea shore.

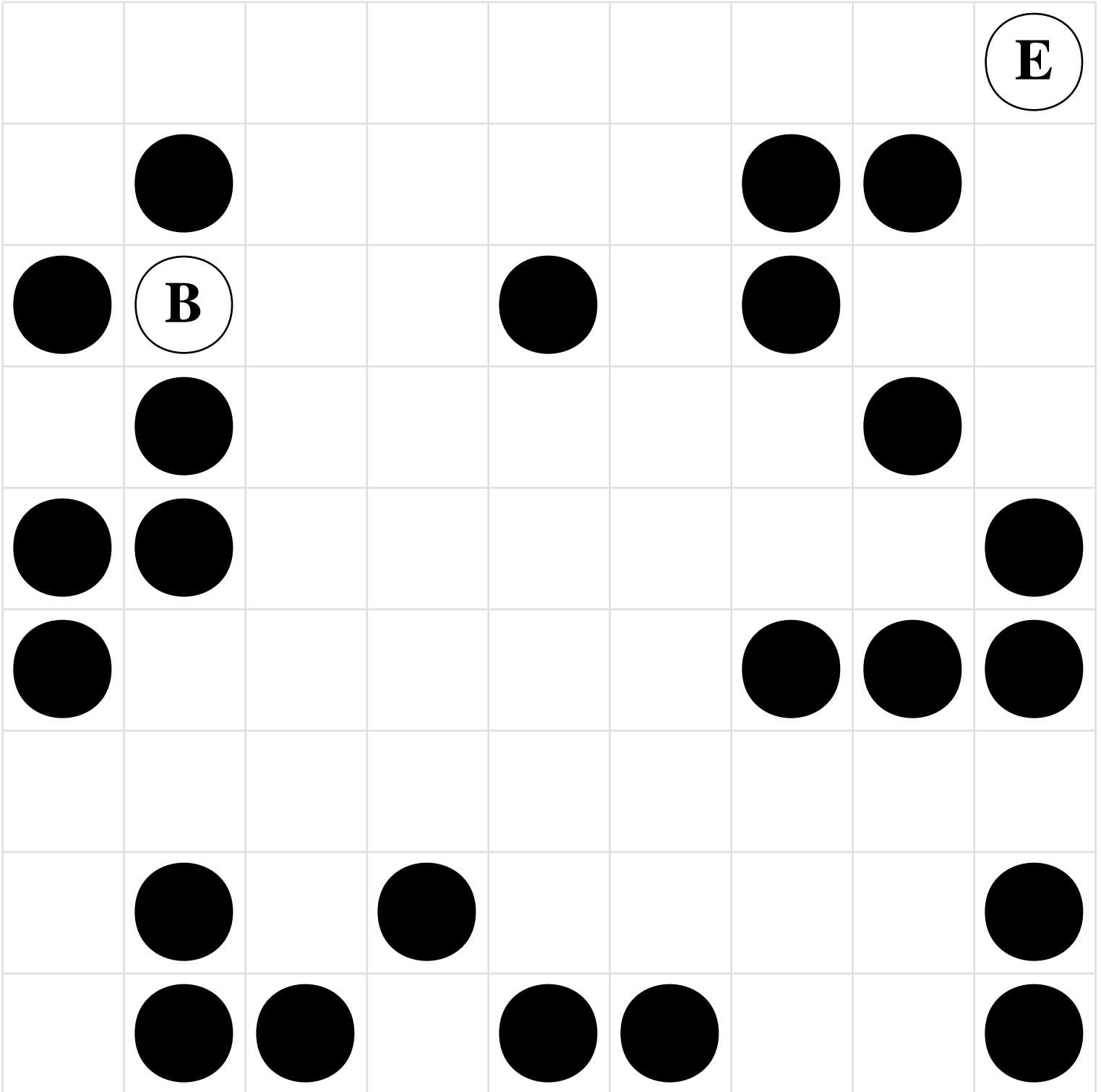
The gnome discovered a rare gem.

Draw a picture of a gnome with
a rare gem here if you like:



Name: _____

Start on the **B** circle. Do not pick up your pencil. Draw a line going left, right, up, or down.
Every line must end on a circle. No stopping on an empty box. Try to collect all the circles
 and end your last line on the **E** circle. You can go through a circle more than once.



Didn't get them all? That's ok. This was hard. I missed only _____ circles.

Name _____

Prairie Habitat

Answer the following questions **BEFORE** you read this book.
Write what you know. If you want to guess, you can. You will **NOT**
be marked wrong!

1. What do you know about prairies? What would you like to learn about them?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

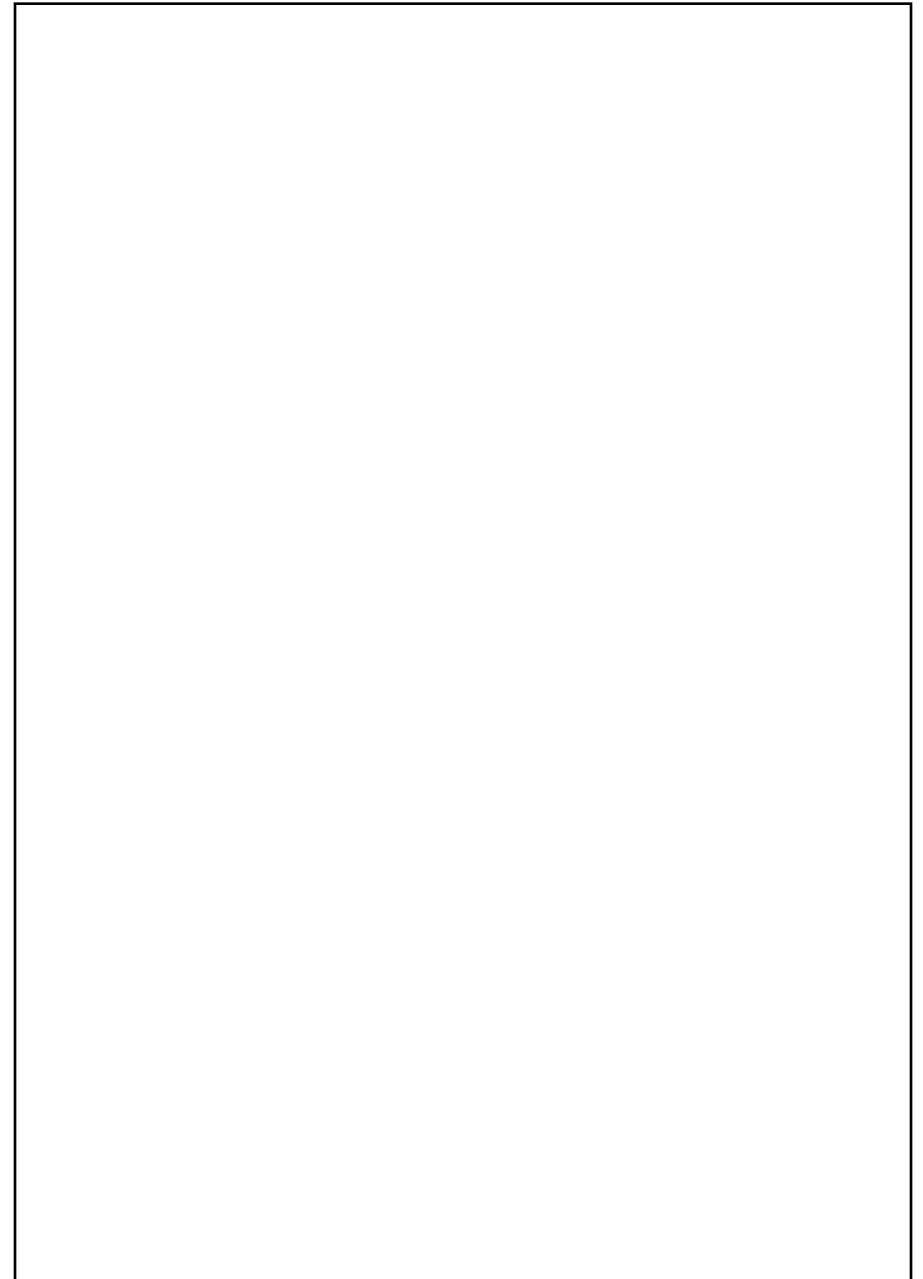
2. Describe what comes to your mind when you hear the word "prairie." Use words that appeal to the five senses.

[illegible]

3. Based on what you know about prairies, are they important places? Why or why not? Use strong words to state your opinion.

Draw a picture to show what you think a prairie looks like.

A prairie is an area of land that is mainly flat or has hills. It is mostly covered with tall grasses. In fact, a prairie can be called "grassland." The early American pioneers called the prairie a "sea of grass." In the United States, the prairie covers much of the middle part of the country. It stretches from central Texas up to Canada. It includes most of Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, South Dakota, and North Dakota, as well as other nearby states. Prairies are home to many species.



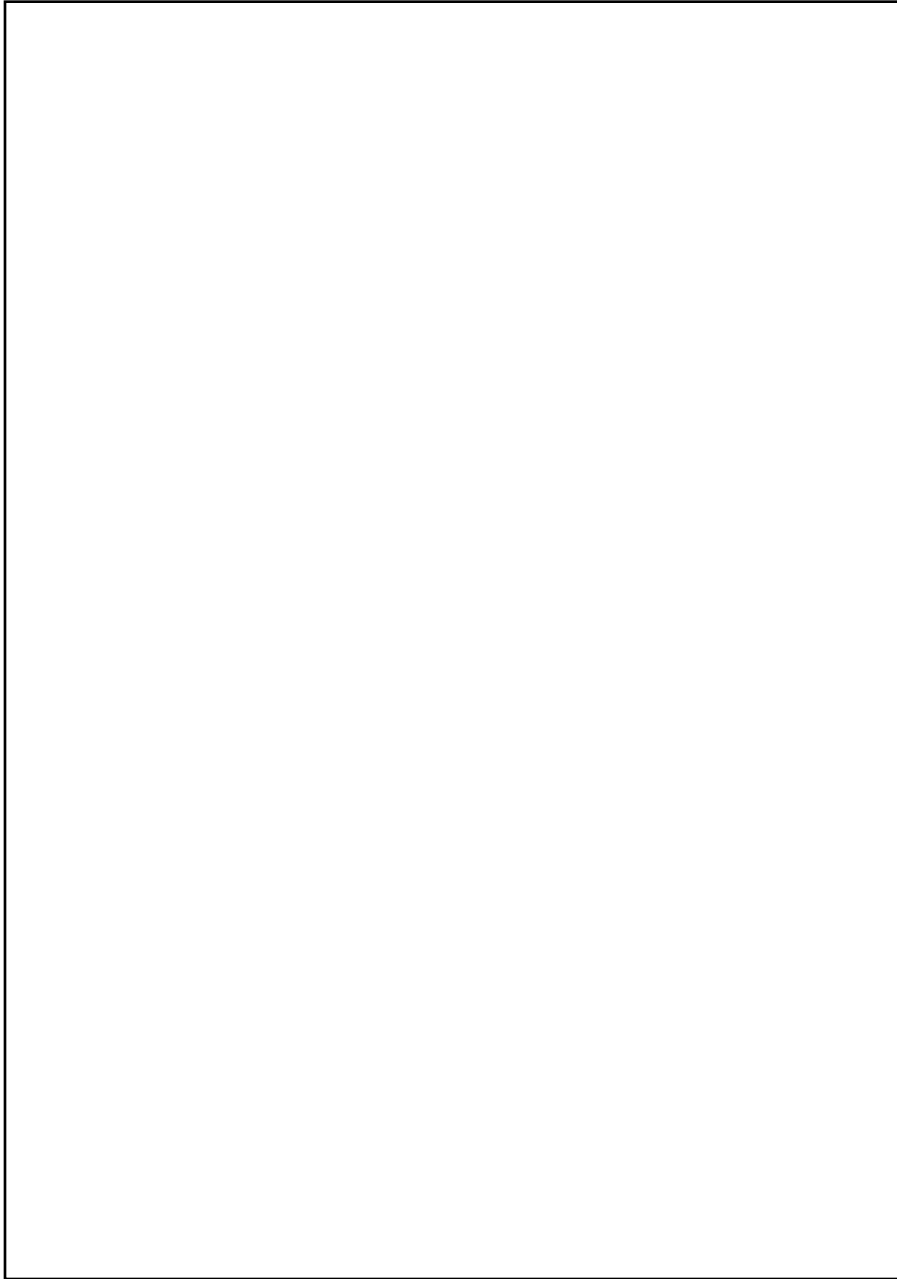
The climate on the prairies changes throughout the year. In the summer, the weather is hot. Temperatures can reach over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. In the winter, the weather can be very cold. Temperatures can fall to -40 degrees Fahrenheit.



Most prairies receive between 10 to 35 inches of rainfall in a year. This is important for maintaining the prairie. If more rain fell, then the prairie would become a forest. If less rain fell, then the prairie would become a desert.

Prairie soils have lots of nutrients. The nutrients come from the grasses that grow and decay on the prairie. The dark, rich soil provides food for many creatures living on the prairie. There are many different types of grass on the prairie. Each type grows best in a certain kind of environment. Some grasses need lots of water. They are found near streams and marshes. Other grasses prefer drier soil. They are found in dry areas. Grasses that grow with lots of water may grow to be six feet tall. Grasses that grow in dry areas may only be about two feet high.

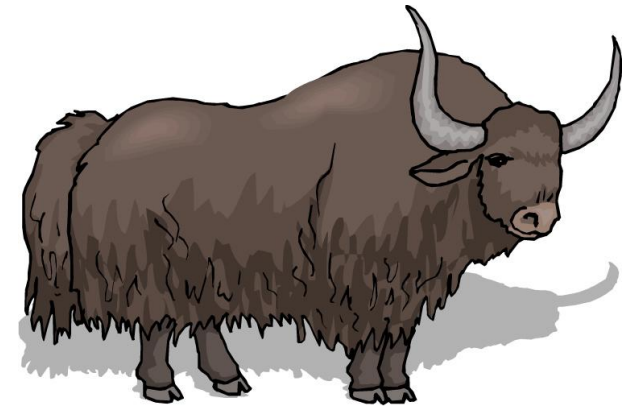
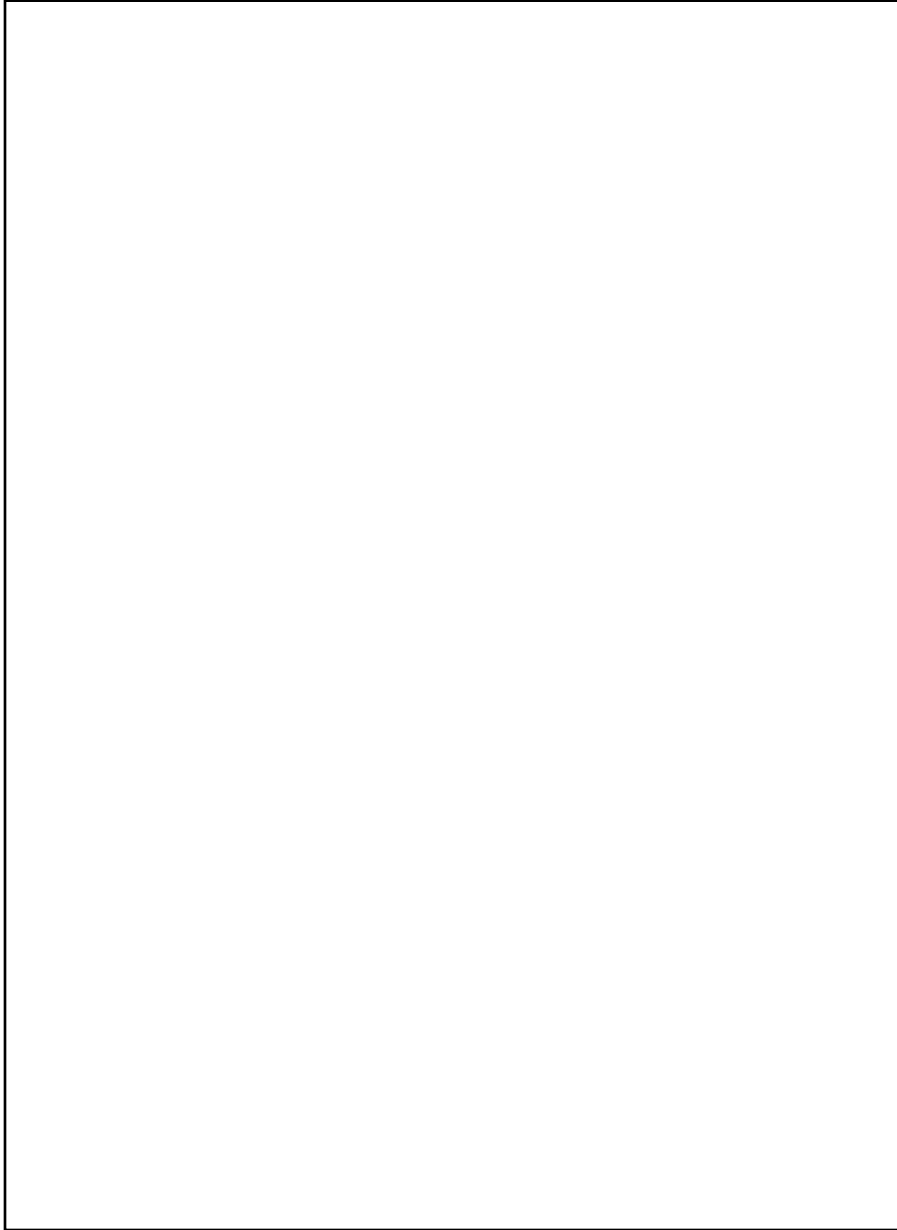
Draw a picture to show a type of grass. Tell whether it grows in a wet or dry area.



Prairies are home to hundreds of species of flowers. They are called wildflowers. They come in all different colors, such as red, orange, yellow, or purple. Some flowers found on the prairie include coneflowers, blazing stars, and sunflowers.

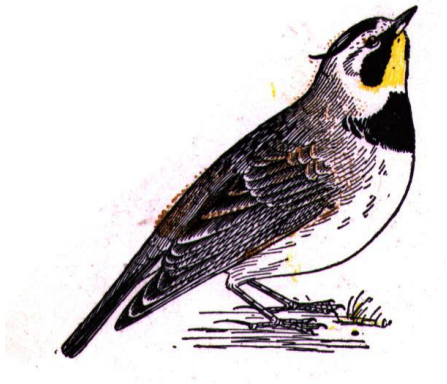
A few trees grow on the prairie. They can be found on the edges of the prairie or near water sources. Cottonwoods, willows, and oaks can be found in river valleys. Cattails and sedges can be found in marshes or near lakes and ponds.

Draw a picture that shows where you would find trees on the prairie.



Plants provide food for many animals on the prairie. Animals can eat the leaves, roots, or seeds of plants. Some animals that eat plants on the prairie are jack rabbits, deer, mice, prairie dogs, and pronghorns. Bison, also known as buffalo, used to roam the prairie. Few buffalo are found in the wild today. Most are found on ranches or in captivity.

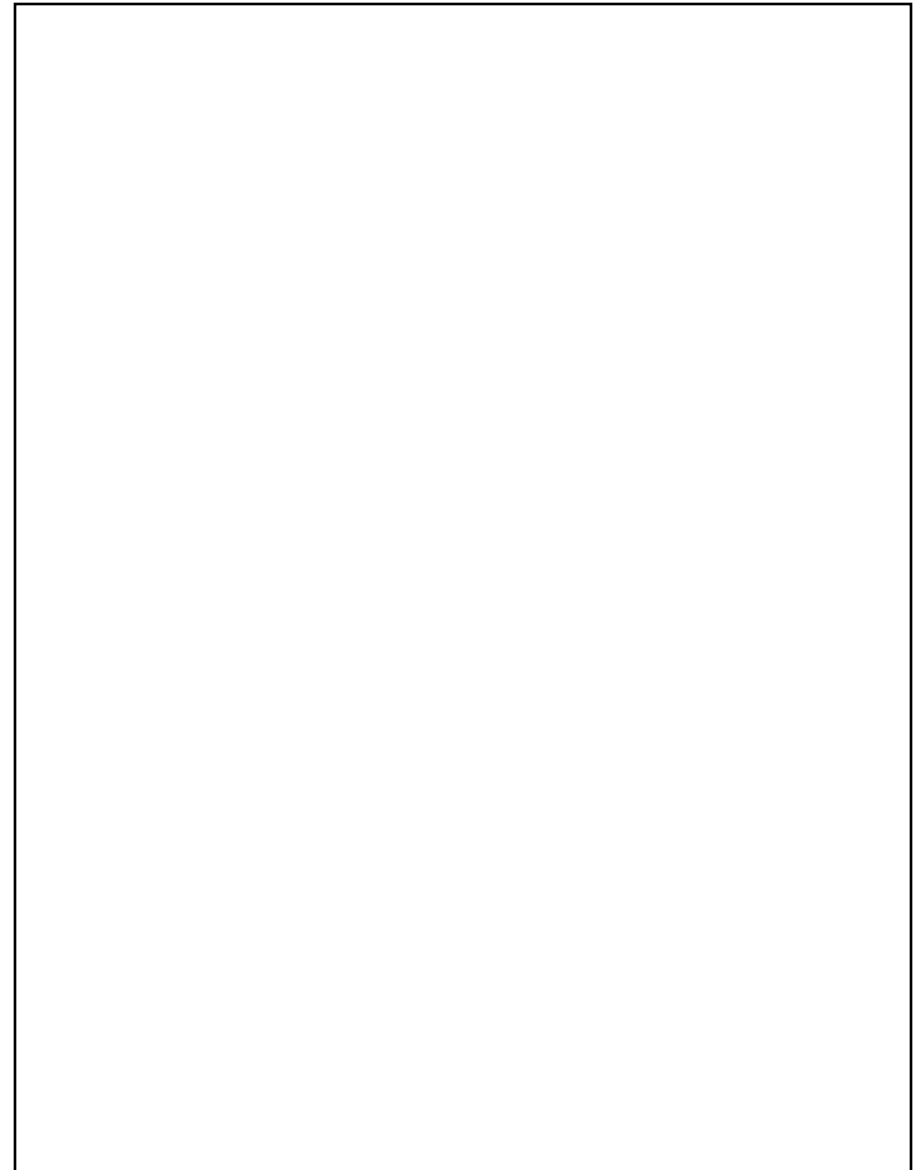
Other prairie animals eat meat, along with plants. These include coyotes, foxes, and skunks. Still other prairie animals, such as badgers and snakes, eat only meat. The meat-eating animals hunt the plant-eating animals.



Many birds are found on the prairie. Birds such as the blackbird, meadowlark, and sparrow use the thick cover of plants to build their nests. Other birds, such as owls and hawks, hunt small prairie animals for food.

Much smaller creatures also call the prairie home. Grasshoppers and spiders are common on the prairie. Other tiny organisms feed on dead plants and animals. Centipedes and earthworms live in the soil. They help dead plants and animals decay more quickly. This completes the cycle of life in the prairie.

Draw a picture to show a food chain on the prairie. Start with a plant or grass. End with an animal that helps speed up the decaying process.



Name _____

Prairie Habitat

Answer the following questions **AFTER** you have completed this book.

- 1. Circle three things listed that describe a prairie. Add two things not listed that you think describe a prairie.**

Grass

Many trees

Monkeys

Hills

Mountains

Changing climate

other: _____ other: _____

- 2. Imagine you are standing in the middle of the prairie. Use your five senses to describe what you see, hear, feel, and smell.**

Prairies are an important habitat. They provide homes for many plants and animals. A prairie receives between 10 and 35 inches of rain each year. The temperature can change a lot between summer and winter. Some trees and flowers are also found on the prairie. Prairies have thick, dark soil.

3. Name two or more things that you would like to learn about the prairie. Tell why you would like to learn these things.

4. Tell a story from the point of view of an American pioneer who is seeing the prairie for the first time. Write your story in the form of a journal entry or letter to someone who has not seen the prairie before.

Name: _____

Eric likes to read. He likes to read about sports heroes. He bought a book about Spud Webb. Spud Webb was only five feet and five inches tall. He was a very short for an NBA player! The book cost \$4.50. Eric gave the clerk \$5. How much change did he get back?

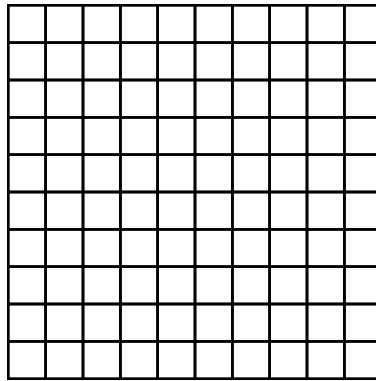
Alex made a display for the school library. It was about recycling. He used three sheets of poster board for the display. He bought the poster board at Fred's Art Supplies. It cost \$1.20 for the three sheets. He gave the clerk \$5. How much change did he get?

Jack went to the store. He wanted to buy an umbrella. The umbrella costs \$7.25. How many quarters does he need to buy the umbrella? Skip count to find the answer.

Color in $\frac{2}{4}$ of the rectangle.



Color $\frac{1}{10}$.



$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ \times 12 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ \times 10 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 10 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 6 \\ \times 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

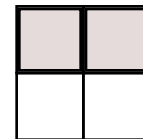
Write 368 in expanded notation.

Write the number with 5 ten-thousands and 2 hundreds.

$$71 + 4 = \underline{\hspace{2cm}}$$

Write the number for two thousand, nine hundred ten.

What fraction of the box is shaded?



$$\frac{\square}{2}$$

Circle the correctly spelled words.
appel, apple
decorater, decorator
finger, fingre

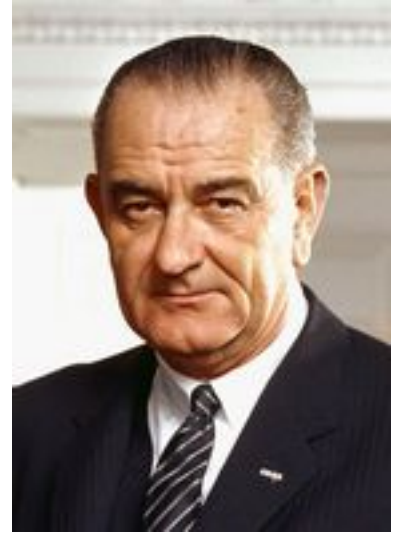


Name: _____

Lyndon Johnson

By Meg Leonard

Lyndon Johnson was our thirty-sixth president. He was born in Texas in 1908. His family did not have much money when he was young. Johnson became a teacher. In 1937, he was elected to the House of Representatives. He served six terms. Johnson was in the Navy in World War II. He was elected to the Senate after the war. In 1960, Johnson was elected vice president. He became president three years later. This was after President Kennedy died. Johnson continued some of Kennedy's programs. Johnson started a new program. It was called the Great Society. He passed a civil rights bill. He cut taxes. The program helped education. It gave civil rights to all Americans. It provided good health care. He was elected president in 1964. Three astronauts orbited the moon during his presidency. The United States got more involved with the Vietnam War while Johnson was president. This war caused division in America. Johnson did not run for a second term. He wanted to work for peace without being caught up in politics. He died of a heart attack in 1973.



Lyndon Johnson

Questions

- _____ 1. Who was Lyndon Johnson?
- A. the thirty-sixth president
 - B. the thirty-fourth president
 - C. the thirteenth president
 - D. the thirty-first president
- _____ 2. Which of the following jobs did Johnson have?
- A. banker
 - B. lawyer
 - C. doctor
 - D. teacher
- _____ 3. In which branch of the military did Johnson serve?
- A. Navy
 - B. Air Force
 - C. Army
 - D. Marines
- _____ 4. The U.S. became more involved in what war while Johnson was president?
- A. Gulf War
 - B. Vietnam War
 - C. World War II
 - D. Korean War

Name: _____

5. What is the Great Society program?

$19 - 14 = \underline{\quad}$

$19 + -14 = \underline{\quad}$

Rewrite $13 + -9$

$\underline{\quad} - \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

Rewrite $9 - 2$

$\underline{\quad} + \underline{\quad} = \underline{\quad}$

$6 \frac{6}{8} + 8 \frac{6}{8}$

It was 5 degrees below zero in the morning. By afternoon the temperature rose 28 degrees. How warm was it?

7, 14, 21, 42,
_____, 98, ___, ___,
_____, ___, ____

6, 8, 10, 12, 14,
_____, 18, 20

60 divided by 6 equals

Know how many inches in a foot? Okay, smarty pants, how many inches in 7 feet?

Yummy Donuts gave three dozen chocolate donuts and five dozen jelly donuts to the school. How many donuts did they give?

How many minutes is it from 9:00 a.m. to 11:55 a.m.?

Round the decimal 0.355 to the nearest hundredth.

Name: _____

Word Roots to Know:

cyclo

means circle

cyclone

bicycle

sub

means under

submarine

subtract

fug

means flee

fugitive

refugee

alb

means white

albino

albumen

Vocabulary is confusing. Get to the root of the problem with word roots! Here are the answers:

fug • cyclo • circle • under • subtract • bicycle • albumen

The root: sub

u y h v u n d e r e m o l n u n d o r

means

n r b u i n d e r y n e j d u n d e r

Word with

r u s u b t r a c t s u b r a c t o j

the root: sub

t u t u n s u b t r a c t s r g r k t

This root

q y y e w o c y c l o c y c c l o a y

means circle

n y t c y c l o o l c c y c l o l c o

Word with

b i c y l c e i b i c y c l e c g m s

the root: cyclo

b i c y l e c y l b i c y c l e b c x

Word with

u a l b u m e a l b u m e n a b e o m

the root: alb

a l b u m e n b n a m l m a l b u m e

This root

p f u f k o u i z f j g x r f f u g u

means flee

a u u x f h b f n e o l f f u g u q p

The root: cyclo

i i c i r c u l e b e r c i r c l e a

means

c i r l c e r l c i c i r c l e q r i

Name: _____

Conjugate this verb in the perfect tense.
impress

Insert commas in the correct places in this sentence.

To make tres leches, you need evaporated milk condensed milk and half-and-half.

Form the past, present, and future progressive form of the verb.
you game

Identify the sentence that does not contain a prepositional phrase.

- (A) Isn't that your dad over by the fence?
- (B) Next year I am taking two math classes.
- (C) Coach made me run around the bases because I wouldn't stop talking.
- (D) My dog likes to dive under the water.

Anna rolls two dice. What is the chance of her rolling a 1 on one die and a 1 on the other die?

$10 \div 2 =$ _____



$4 \times 12 =$

$$\begin{array}{r} 464 \\ + 220 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

You have four digits to use in an addition problem: 6, 7, 9, and 2. Make up a problem where you have two 2-digit numbers. What is the largest sum you can make?

$$\begin{array}{r} 47 \\ + 21 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$15 \div 5 =$

How many feet are in 96 inches?

_____ feet