



Prairie Week Curriculum
Middle-School
Teacher's Guide



Day 1
The Prairie - an introduction

Terms:

- Geography – geographic locations
- Biome
- Precipitation
- Drought
- Prairie
- Short-grass prairie
- Mixed-grass prairie
- Tallgrass prairie
- Grass
- Forbs

Concepts Covered:

- What is a biome?
- What are some geographic locations of biomes?
- How does precipitation affect the lives of the plants and animals of an area and determine the kinds of plants and animals that can be found in an area?
- The climate of an area will determine the kinds of plants and animals located there.
- What are the three types of prairies?
- Why are prairie climates a challenge for life?
- What adaptations do grasses possess that allow them to survive and thrive in a prairie climate?
- As we change our location, we will notice different weather and different plants and animals in that different location.
- Grasses are adapted for their life in a prairie.
- Prairies are naturally good sites for agriculture, but if a prairie is plowed then it is lost.

Next Generation Science Standards Covered:

- Patterns can be used to identify cause and effect relationships – MS-ESS1-1
- Models can be used to represent systems and their interactions – MS-ESS1-2

- Science assumes that objects and events in natural systems occur in consistent patterns that are understandable through measurement and observation – MS-ESS1-1, MS-ESS1-2
- Patterns in rates of change and other numerical relationships can provide information about natural systems – MS-ESS2-3
- Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems – MS-ESS2-5

Credit:

Jill Haukos, Director of Education
Konza Environmental Education Program
Konza Prairie Biological Station
Manhattan, KS