



THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF LOUISIANA'S PRAIRIE.

Link to our exhibit: "Louisiana's Past: The Louisiana prairie long ago"

GAME 1. DO YOU KNOW WHAT A PRAIRIE IS?

To learn about prairie, fill in the blank in the definition below then use the missing word to fill and complete our crossword puzzle using the questions' numbers as a guide!

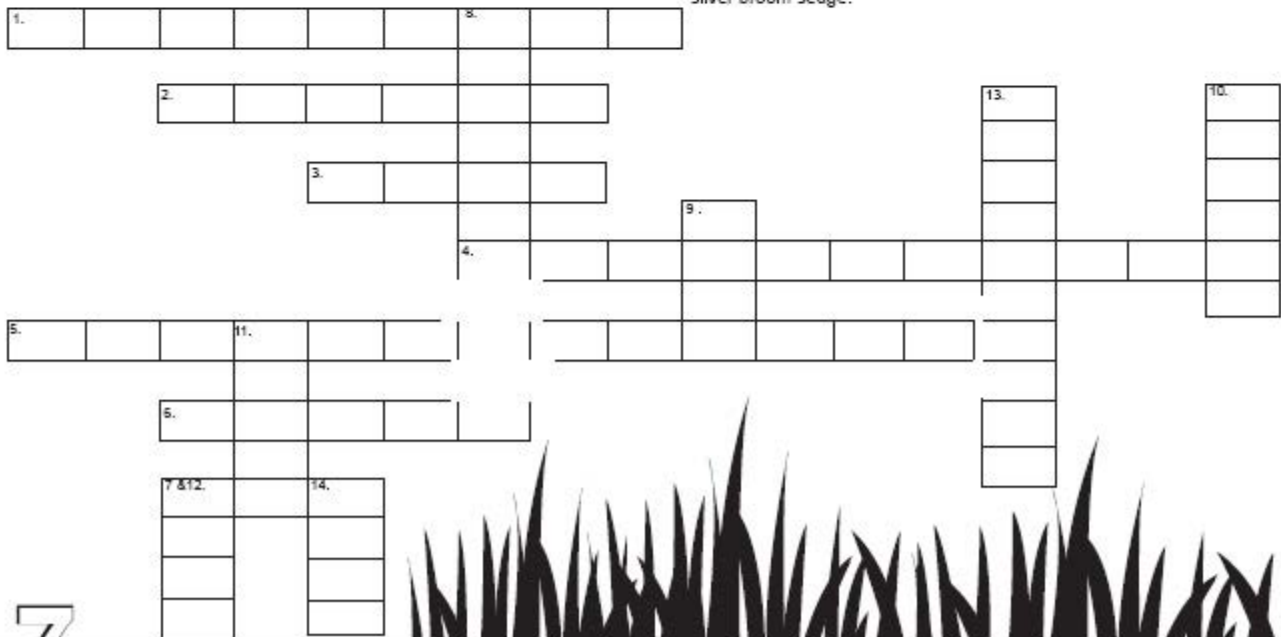


ACROSS

- A prairie is a _____ grassland.
- It is a plain of grass that gets hot in the _____ and cold in the winter.
- There are two main kinds of prairies, one is called a tall grass prairie. It is composed of areas with rich _____, moderate precipitation and grasses over 5 feet tall.
- Most of the interior of North America was a prairie before European settlement radically altered the environment with _____.
- The other kind of prairie is called a short grass prairie. It receives little _____ and grasses are less than 2 feet tall.
- These animals can also withstand a great _____ of temperatures, from well below freezing in the winter to sweltering heat in the summer.
- Animals that live in prairies have adapted to a semi-arid, windy environment with _____ trees or shrubs.

DOWN

- Attwater's Prairie Chickens are wild fowl that live in the coastal prairies of North _____. These noisy grouse are strong fliers that are not closely related to chickens.
- Prairie Chickens have a varied _____. They eat leaves, seeds, rose hips, and insects.
- Prairie Chickens are in _____ of extinction because of loss of habitat. Much of their prairie habitat has been used for farming.
- The whooping _____ used to live in Louisiana prairie, but this bird is now extinct.
- The squirrel tree _____ and green tree _____ also inhabited the prairie.
- The _____ in the Louisiana prairie was mainly composed of cat tail, marshelder, and carpet grass.
- In the prairie, you could also find pickerel _____, water primrose and silver broom sedge.





GAME 2. LET'S COLOR THIS PRAIRIE ANIMAL!

Here is one of the animals you could find in the Louisiana prairie long ago. Do you recognize it? Look at the specimen in the museum display to color this interesting animal. If you are at home, use the colors listed on our coloring sheet to help you.

Attwater's Prairie Chicken (*Tympanuchus cupido*)

