

THE SHORT GRASS PRAIRIE



WORDFIND

Read the following story to learn about the Short Grass Prairie. The words in black capital letters are hidden in the wordfind. Can you find them? Good luck!

PRAIRIE DOG TOWNS create a unique **HABITAT** for a wide range of plants and animals on the **SHORT GRASS PRAIRIE**. A prairie dog burrow can be a home for **BADGERS**, **WEASELS**, and **RATTLESNAKES**. Birds such as **HAWKS**, **EAGLES**, and **MEADOW LARKS** fly over prairie dog towns in search of **KANGAROO RATS** or **INSECTS** that live among the burrows. **BOBCATS**, **COYOTES**, **SWIFT FOX**, and **BADGERS** are **PREDATORS** that live on the prairie. They hunt **RABBITS**, prairie dogs, and **GROUND SQUIRRELS**.

When early settlers first came to Texas, large prairie dog towns covered many acres in the Texas **PANHANDLE**. Huge herds of **BISON** once ranged the prairie grazing on **BUFFALOGRASS**. Over the years, the land has been changed by man, and today there is less prairie and fewer prairie dog towns. Some animals that depend on the prairie dog **ECOSYSTEM** have become rare or **ENDANGERED**. The **BLACK-FOOTED FERRET** is an endangered mammal that depends on prairie dogs for food and shelter. A ground-nesting bird called the **MOUNTAIN PLOVER** needs large areas of shortgrass prairie for **NESTING**. It is a challenge for us to conserve what is left of the shortgrass prairie and the remaining prairie dog towns for the plants and animals that depend on this ecosystem.

A	R	K	E	H	M	L	S	W	I	F	T	F	O	X	U	T	A	N	R	T	E	R	U	D	B
V	S	C	P	R	A	T	I	E	Z	U	B	L	L	B	O	B	C	A	T	S	I	A	F	R	L
E	H	W	A	M	H	O	D	A	T	O	R	C	A	T	I	G	M	I	N	G	A	B	E	R	A
M	O	U	N	T	A	I	N	P	L	O	V	E	R	N	A	K	E	Q	O	L	S	B	F	I	C
G	R	I	R	T	W	E	A	S	T	L	U	K	A	N	G	C	A	F	E	U	V	I	J	S	K
R	T	A	H	S	K	E	C	O	S	Y	S	T	E	M	D	G	D	E	G	E	R	T	O	O	F
E	G	O	S	Y	S	M	R	A	L	T	K	A	N	G	A	R	O	O	R	A	T	S	I	N	O
T	R	I	V	A	F	R	N	E	X	S	P	T	Y	O	L	I	W	A	O	Y	M	E	C	S	O
H	A	R	B	H	P	A	N	H	A	N	D	L	E	C	K	T	L	E	U	F	F	A	O	L	T
U	S	F	E	A	R	R	T	A	G	L	S	S	A	D	E	L	A	R	N	R	S	O	Y	Y	E
P	S	A	R	B	O	T	I	N	B	F	F	O	S	Y	T	E	R	R	D	U	Q	B	O	C	D
O	P	A	B	I	T	T	D	R	A	T	T	L	E	S	N	A	K	E	S	W	E	B	T	I	F
N	R	Y	S	T	B	E	A	G	D	I	S	O	N	X	P	E	S	O	Q	F	X	U	E	T	E
C	A	N	O	A	Y	N	S	E	G	S	W	F	X	O	B	I	I	T	U	R	L	F	S	A	R
S	I	Q	U	T	E	D	L	L	E	R	A	D	G	E	I	R	X	K	I	C	O	F	S	E	R
E	R	C	K	I	K	A	P	O	R	E	A	G	L	E	S	N	N	U	R	W	N	A	O	W	E
I	I	V	E	R	T	N	W	I	S	F	T	A	T	T	O	L	E	S	R	D	I	L	A	E	T
N	E	S	T	I	N	G	U	L	R	K	A	Y	S	E	N	P	R	A	E	R	I	O	S	A	T
S	T	I	N	B	G	E	N	M	Y	A	P	W	E	Q	U	I	J	T	L	E	S	G	R	S	O
E	L	O	T	I	P	R	A	I	R	I	E	D	O	G	T	O	W	N	S	M	A	R	U	E	S
C	H	A	W	G	S	E	K	L	E	N	I	R	O	P	R	S	C	I	V	E	R	A	S	L	D
T	E	N	D	O	T	D	R	A	N	I	P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	S	W	O	S	R	S	K
S	B	A	D	G	E	R	S	C	T	S	E	N	R	A	N	L	Y	I	T	O	D	S	J	E	F

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