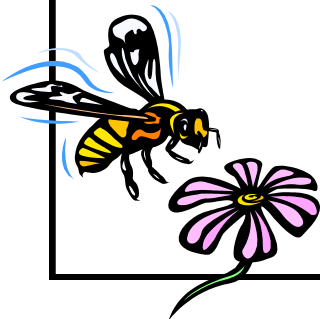
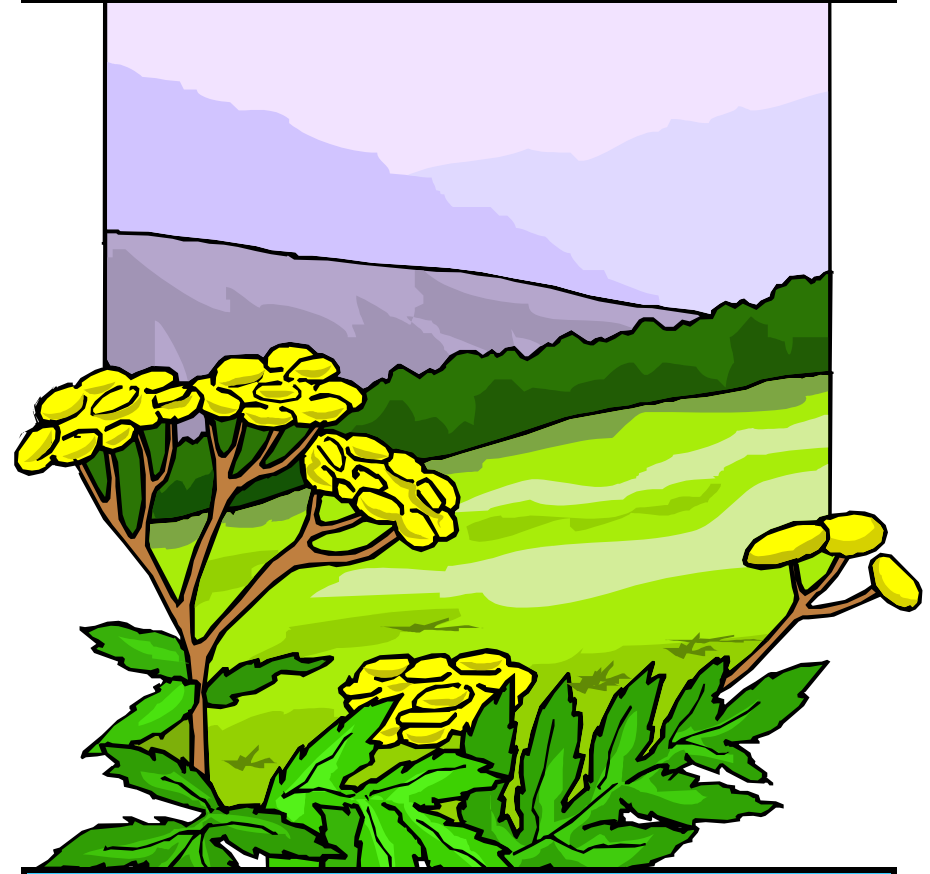


Write about something you have learned in the prairie habitat, add drawings too!



Prairie Habitat Naturalist



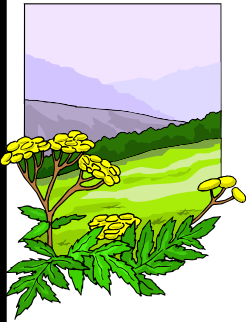
Be A Nature Detective

<https://extension.oregonstate.edu/4h/benton>
OSU Extension Service, Benton County
4077 SW Research Way
Corvallis, Oregon 97333

541-713-5000



Oregon State University
Extension Service



What is a Prairie Habitat?

At first glance, grasses appear to dominate the greens of the prairie. On closer look you will find many surprises: the bright yellow, sunflower-like mule's ear, the pink late-blooming farewell-to-spring, and the tiny red wild strawberries hugging the ground. Watch for colorful butterflies, listen to the hum of bumble bees, and search for the frothy nests of spittle bugs.

The wildlife of the prairie is well camouflaged; gopher snakes sunning themselves, rabbits snacking near the edges, the stealthy coyote on the hunt. Overhead look for the graceful soaring turkey vulture, and listen for the flute-like notes of the western meadowlark, Oregon's state bird.

Historically Native American's maintained the prairies by burning. Today many of the Willamette Valley prairies have been lost to development, but there are still pockets to be found and enjoyed.

Become a Prairie Habitat Naturalist

We challenge you to:

- care for natural areas and treat them with respect
- explore and learn more about the ecosystems and ecology in Benton County
- share with your family and friends the special places and the incredible things you have learned in nature

Name _____

I visited (place) _____

Date _____

Try your hand at nature writing!

Become an animal that lives in a prairie. Write a riddle/poem to tell us who you are.

Example: Coyote

Mammal

Pointy-ear, Long-tail

Crafty, Sly, Trickster

Carnivore, Howls

Furry



Now you try:

Pick an animal: _____

- 1.) Write one word below that describes you
- 2.) Write two words below that describe what you look like
- 3.) Write three words below that describe how you move or where you live
- 4.) Write two words below about how you contribute to the ecosystem where you live:
- 5.) Write another word below that describes who you are:

1. _____

2. _____ , _____

3. _____ , _____ , _____

















4. _____ , _____

5. _____

Try your riddle on a friend, can they guess who you are?

Go on a Prairie Scavenger Hunt

Use your detective skills to look for the items pictured below. Each picture is something interesting that you can find in a prairie habitat.

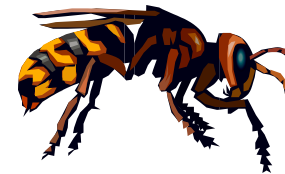
 Butterfly	Grass-like plant 	Bee or other pollinator 	 Mammal Tracks
 Brush rabbit	Spider web 	Caterpillar 	 Flying insect
 Small bird	Flower 	 Crawling insect	Feathery leaf 
 Blowing Seed	 Lizard	 Soaring bird	Underground home entrance 

Cross off the picture when you find the item. Can you find them all? Use not only your eyes, but ears to help you.

Caring for nature, and taking care in nature!

Have Fun, Be Safe and Be Respectful!

- Be prepared with water, snack, rain gear, hat, or sunscreen when venturing into the outdoors.
- Stay with your group leader and on trails
- Take only photos, leave only footprints. Leave nature for others to enjoy too!



- Some things can harm you; *bee* careful around stinging insects and poisonous plants. Learn to identify species before you go and respect their homes.

- Enjoy wildlife from a distance - to protect them and you!

Find an interesting plant in the prairie that grows in the sun and draw a close up view of some part of it.

Take a Wildlife Inventory

Take a look, what can you find living in a prairie. Concentrate on small creatures that crawl, walk, hop, or fly. Check the soil for decomposers such as earth worms and other creatures under the ground, plus ants and other creatures walking on top of the soil. Pollinators, like bees, can be found buzzing around the flowers. Search closely on the undersides of leaves or where you see plants deformed or ragged, for insects or caterpillars feeding. Spiders make webs to catch their prey, and dragonflies prowl the skies for other insects. Watch closely - there is wildlife all around if you if you look carefully!

As you move around the prairie take a wildlife inventory by marking a tally mark in one of the 4 boxes below for each time you find a creature. Try not to count the same creature more than once. You do not need to know the name of it (unless you want to), just mark how many different creatures you find.

Crawl:

Walk:

Hop:

Fly:



Become a Wildlife Detective

Many species of wildlife lives here. Look for tracks, scat, homes, or evidence of feeding. Can you think of any more evidence?

Wildlife Observations

Animal _____

Date _____ Time of day _____

Location _____

Behavior (what was the animal doing?)

Evidence of Wildlife

Clue _____

Where found _____

Draw or write about what it looks like

What animal do you think left this evidence?
