

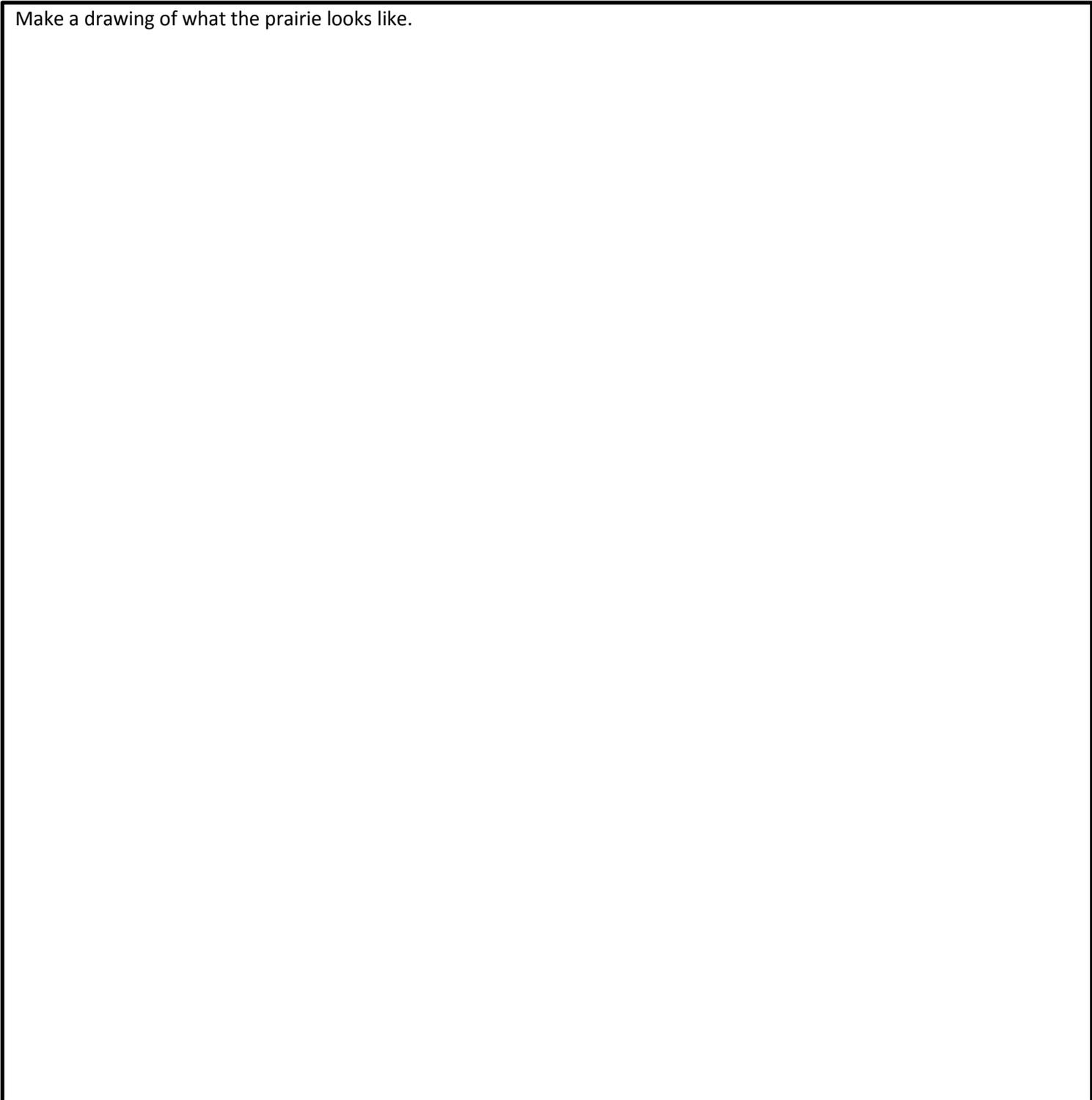
## Prairie Investigator

Prairies are just one type of ecosystem: a collection of plants and animals. The prairie we are focusing on is the sand prairie where rainfall is plentiful and the soils are sand. Use your observation skills to record what you find while visiting this prairie.

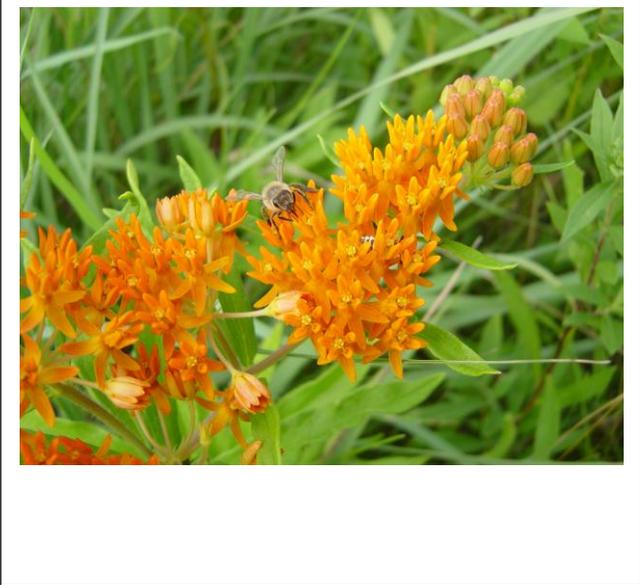
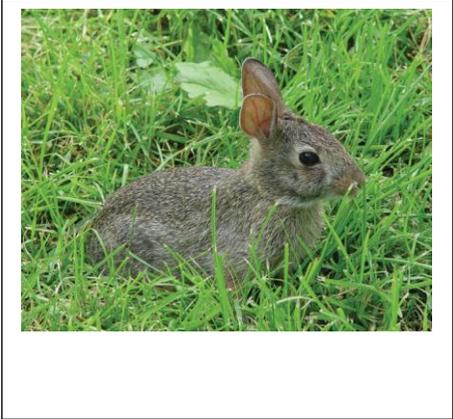
Date:

Weather:

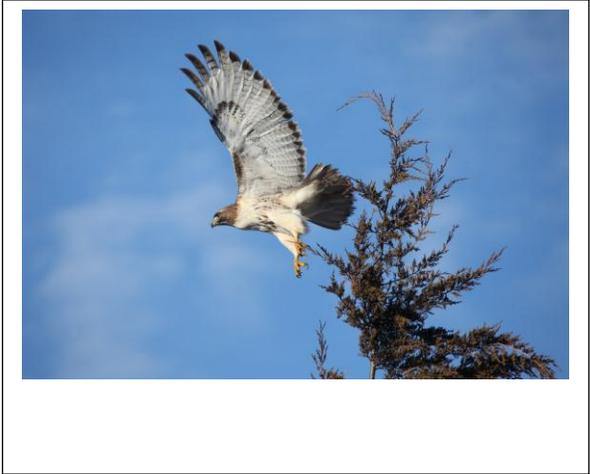
Make a drawing of what the prairie looks like.



**Can You Identify These Prairie Plants and Animals?**







# Looking for Clues on the Prairie

Biologists are a lot like police detectives. Detectives need to examine things closely, gather clues, and evaluate evidence to solve a case. In much the same way, biologists need to carefully observe what is happening in the natural world to monitor changes and learn how to care for the prairie.

Use guides, books, and conversations with prairie specialists to do background checks on prairie plants and animals. **Then practice your observation skills by spending some time searching the prairie. Use the list below to check off the plants, animals, and other clues you find in the prairie.**

<p><b>PLANTS</b></p> <p><b>Grasses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Big Bluestem</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Canada Wildrye</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Indian Grass</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Little Bluestem</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Switchgrass</li></ul> <p><b>Forbs (Flowers)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bee Balm</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Black-Eyed Susan</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Blazing Star</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Compass Plant</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cone Flower</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Goldenrod</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Milkweed</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Rose</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Spiderwort</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Thistle</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Violets</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Wild Rose</li></ul> <p><b>Shrubs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> American Plum</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Lead Plant</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> New Jersey Tea</li></ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> _____</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> _____</li></ul>
---

<p><b>ANIMALS</b></p> <p><b>Arthropods</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Crayfish</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Daddylong-legs</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Millipede</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Pillbug</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Spider</li></ul> <p><b>Insects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ant</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Assassin Bug</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bee</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bumble Bee</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Butterfly</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Caterpillar</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Cricket</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dragonfly</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Grasshopper</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ground Beetle</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Hover Fly</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ladybug</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Moth</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Planthopper</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Stink Bug</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Wasp</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Weevil</li></ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> _____</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> _____</li></ul>
---

<p><b>ANIMALS</b></p> <p><b>Birds</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bobolink</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bobwhite Quail</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Common Yellowthroat</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Dickcissel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Meadowlark</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Red-tailed Hawk</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Sparrows</li></ul> <p><b>Mammals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Badger</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Bison</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Fox</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ground Squirrel</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Meadow Vole</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Mouse</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Rabbit</li></ul> <p><b>Amphibians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> American Toad</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Leopard Frog</li></ul> <p><b>Reptiles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Box Turtle</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Fox Snake</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Garter Snake</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Skink</li></ul> <p><b>OTHER CLUES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Animal Nests</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Animal Tracks</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Chrysalis/Cocoon</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Feathers</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Fur</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Mound of Soil</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Scat</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Snags</li></ul> <p><b>Others</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> _____</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> _____</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> _____</li></ul>
---



