

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. Which statement about the roots of prairie grass is true?
 - Ⓐ Prairie grass roots die every winter.
 - Ⓑ Prairie grass roots grow to different depths.
 - Ⓒ Prairie grass roots grow better when the weather is cool.
 - Ⓓ Prairie grass roots only grow where there is abundant rain.
2. Which of the following is the main idea of the section titled "The Prairie Ecosystem"?
 - Ⓐ Millions of bison, which lived on the prairies, caused prairies to die.
 - Ⓑ The Sun's heat and light provides energy for the grasses to grow.
 - Ⓒ Conditions and animals affect the growth of a prairie.
 - Ⓓ Decomposers break down dead plants that help the prairie.
3. About how tall can the tallest grasses be on a tallgrass prairie?
 - Ⓐ just over a tall person's head
 - Ⓑ as tall as a three-story building
 - Ⓒ up to a person's waist
 - Ⓓ as high as a car's roof
4. Why would a prairie dog have a difficult time getting away from a harrier or marsh hawk?
 - Ⓐ Prairie dogs can't see.
 - Ⓑ A harrier can fly up to 40 miles an hour.
 - Ⓒ The marsh hawk can make the same sounds as a prairie dog.
 - Ⓓ Marsh hawks are only out at night when the prairie dogs can't see them.
5. What are **herbivores**?
 - Ⓐ plants that have deep roots
 - Ⓑ animals that eat no meat
 - Ⓒ a warm-blooded insect
 - Ⓓ a type of grain

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6. Which is not a detail from the section titled "Plants of the Prairies"?
 - Ⓐ Little bluestem can grow in drier places than big bluestem.
 - Ⓑ Buffalo grass is the most important grass on prairies.
 - Ⓒ There are many types of legumes that grow on prairies.
 - Ⓓ Blazing stars have flowers that are pink, red, or purple.
7. How are all composite plants alike?
 - Ⓐ They only grow on prairies.
 - Ⓑ They have many tiny flowers that cluster together.
 - Ⓒ They only grow on prairies because people planted them.
 - Ⓓ They are the only plants on a prairie that bison will eat.
8. How are all prairies alike?
 - Ⓐ All are in the east.
 - Ⓑ All have similar grasses.
 - Ⓒ All get the same amount of rainfall.
 - Ⓓ All have grasses that withstand fire and drought.
9. A **species** is _____.
 - Ⓐ a type of tall grass
 - Ⓑ an animal that hides in a burrow
 - Ⓒ a type of bacteria that breaks down dead grasses
 - Ⓓ a group of animals that have many things in common
10. What prevents prairies from turning into forests?
 - Ⓐ fire
 - Ⓑ floods
 - Ⓒ cold winters
 - Ⓓ grazing cattle
11. **Extended Response:** Why would people want to restore prairies?
12. **Extended Response:** Explain two reasons why coyotes are called prairie wolves.

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Prairies Alive!

Main Comprehension Skill: Compare and Contrast

1. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
2. Ⓒ Main Idea and Details
3. Ⓐ Make Inferences / Draw Conclusions
4. Ⓑ Cause and Effect
5. Ⓑ Vocabulary
6. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
7. Ⓑ Compare and Contrast
8. Ⓓ Compare and Contrast
9. Ⓓ Vocabulary
10. Ⓐ Cause and Effect
11. Answers should an idea such
as the following: prairies contain many animals that would die If the prairies were gone; people want to keep some land the same as it was long ago; it is important to have prairies in our environment.
12. Answers should include two
of the following: *they eat other animals like wolves do; they are predators that live on prairies; they howl like wolves.*