

Take the Tallgrass Prairie Virtual Field Trip and fill out the following scavenger hunt.

1. List three names of grasslands on other continents.
  - a. savannas
  - b. pampas
  - c. plains
  - d. steppes
2. What are the three types of prairies?
  - a. Shortgrass Prairie
  - b. Mixed Grass Prairie
  - c. Tallgrass Prairie
3. What is a prairie pothole and why are they important? Prairie potholes are wetlands that formed when pieces of a receding glacier broke off and left a depression on the prairie. Over time they became wetlands that help absorb excess rainwater (helping to prevent floods) and are major duck breeding grounds as well as homes for many types of wildlife.
4. Native Americans called fire “Red Buffalo”.
5. Fire was good for the prairie. True
6. Name the 5 states that had the most tallgrass prairie.
  - a. Minnesota
  - b. Iowa
  - c. Missouri
  - d. Illinois
  - e. Indiana
7. Tallgrass prairie receives 30 – 40 inches of rain each year.
8. Where did the deep rich soil of the prairie come from? The soil that helped form the prairie was washed down from the Rocky Mountains mixed with till the glaciers left behind and windblown silt, sand, and loess. Plants that grew and died in the soil over time helped add organic matter which makes the soil rich.
9. One hundred and sixty acres of prairie cost \$10 in 1860. This led to almost 99% of the tallgrass prairie being turned into farmland.
10. Ferrets and prairie dogs were once common on the tallgrass prairie. False – Prairie Dogs and Ferrets could be found on the mixed and short grass prairies.
- 11.

12. How much prairie is left in Iowa? 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1%
13. Find the map of Iowa's original land cover. What color is the majority of the map? Yellow, tan, orange
14. Find the map of Iowa's current land cover. What color is the majority of the map? Grey (Note: Green is woodland, tan and orange are prairies and savannas, and grey is developed or changed)
15. What are the three types of tallgrass prairies?
- Dry – also known as a goat prairie
  - Wet
  - Mesic
16. Pick your three favorite photos from the "Prairie Lands of Iowa" or stop #5. What are the names of the plants or animals?
- Tall Goldenrod
  - Spiderwort
  - Pale Purple Coneflower
  - Pasque Flower
  - Prairie Rose
  - Queen of the Prairie
  - Pearl Cresentspot
  - Purple Prairie Clover
  - Pheasant
  - Stillness
  - Prairie at Sunrise
  - Blazing Star
  - Monarch on Iornweed
  - Large flowered beardtongue
  - Large Yellow Ladyslipper
  - Small Purple Fringed Orchid
  - Prairie Fire
  - Elk or Wapiti
  - Giant Swallowtail
  - Western Prairie Fringed Orchid
  - Wild 4 o'clocks
  - Rough Blazingstar
  - Easter Prairie Fringed Orchid
17. Find the outline of the pheasant and click on the photo. Where pheasants originally from Iowa? No

18. How many acres of land does the Neal Smith National Wildlife Refuge own?  
About 5,000
19. Buffalo can live to be about 20 years old.
20. At one time there were 30 to 75 million bison but by 1900 there were only about 300 in the United States.
21. Find the prairie passage game on the Neal Smith's Kids page.
- a. Which of the choices is a member of the rabbit family? jackrabbit
  - b. Which of the choices is a Monarch's favorite food? milkweed
  - c. Which of the choices is a tree that grows in a savanna? bur oak
22. Let's build a prairie! Which four grasses did you put on your prairie?
- a. Big Bluestem
  - b. Canada Wild Rye
  - c. Porcupine Grass
  - d. Indian Grass
23. Which two flowers did you not plant on the prairie and why?
- a. Leafy Spurge – it is an exotic species that can take over a prairie.
  - b. Jewel Weed – prefers to grow along streams or in the woods.
24. Which four birds are you going to have come and live on your prairie?
- a. Northern Harrier
  - b. Common Snipe
  - c. Greater Prairie Chicken
  - d. Western Meadowlark
25. Which two mammals will not like living in the tallgrass prairie?
- a. Black Footed Ferret
  - b. Black-tailed Prairie Dog
26. Which four amphibians and reptiles would like to live on the tallgrass prairie?
- a. Northern Leopard Frog
  - b. Plains Garter Snake
  - c. Great Plains Toad
  - d. Prairie Skink
27. Which two insects do you want to keep off of your prairie?
- a. 7-spotted Lady Beetle
  - b. Cabbage Butterfly
28. What do you have to do to keep your prairie healthy? Burn it!

If you would like to know more about Iowa's Prairies read more at the last stop.