

Mapping the Prairie Food Web

Materials Needed:

large sheets of paper or poster board, one per group of 2-4 students
copies of Prairie Food Webs Images sheet
scissors
tape or glue sticks
markers

Time:

approximately 50 minutes

Skills:

Science (prairie ecosystems, prairie plants, adaptations)

Procedure:

Provide each group of 2-4 students with a large sheet of paper or a piece of poster board, a copy of the Prairie Food Web Images sheet, scissors, tape or glue sticks, and several markers.

Instruct students to cut out the images on the “Prairie Food Web Images” sheet and tape or glue them on the poster board.

Then, instruct students to draw lines between all the images which are related. Along the line, describe how the two images are related. For example, on the line between the image of milkweed and a butterfly, students could write “depends on milkweed for food.” Or, on the line between a white-tailed deer and a mountain lion, students could write “eats” or “eaten by.”

Alternatively, you can skip the “Prairie Food Web Images” sheet and have students cut pictures from magazines, newspapers, old calendars, etc. Good magazines to use include: NEBRASKAland, National Geographic, or Audubon. If you do not have access to these magazines, try sending a note home to parents requesting they send old copies of nature-themed magazines.

