

POP! TEACHER RESOURCE

Lesson Plan

Capture the Food

Lesson Plan for *Prairie Dogs*
Grade 1

Objective

To help students explore how prairie dogs in a colony work together.

Things Needed

- *Prairie Dogs* book
- A large, open area for an active game
- 20 beanbags, flags, or cones

Before the Activity

Read the *Prairie Dogs* book aloud.

Activity

Prairie dogs live in groups. Living in groups helps prairie dogs stay safe. Ask the following questions to review what students learned about prairie dog groups from the book:

- What are groups of prairie dogs called? (Answer: The groups are called colonies [p. 4].)
- What do prairie dogs use the burrows for? (Answers: Prairie dogs use their burrows for safety. They sleep, store food, and raise babies inside [pp. 7, 8, 18].)
- How do prairie dogs work together? (Answer: Some prairie dogs collect food while others watch for predators [p. 16].)
- What do prairie dogs do if there is a predator? (Answer: They give a loud bark, which warns the other prairie dogs so they can run back to the burrow [p. 17].)

Bring students to the open area and divide the class into two groups, or “colonies.” Make a line down the middle of the area. Send one colony to each side of the line. Give each colony ten beanbags. These bags are the colony’s food. Students should spread the bags out on their team’s side of the line. Colonies should pick two students to act as lookouts and to watch the food. Other students will be the food gatherers.



Food gatherers run across the line and try to grab the other colony's beanbags and bring them back across to their own side. But they must be careful. Food gatherers from the other colony can tag them. If gatherers are tagged, they must drop the food bags. Then they must go back to their own side and count to ten before trying again. The lookout prairie dogs cannot tag. But they will alert their teammates if an opponent picks up one of the colony's beanbags. The lookout should give a loud yip or bark. When food gatherers hear their colony's alert, they can run to tag the opponent.

Evaluation

The colony with the most food bags on its side of the line after 20 minutes wins the game.

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 1 (RI 1.1, 1.2).

