

### Modeling a Prairie Ecosystem

A prairie, found in the temperate grassland biome, is typically a flat or gently rolling grassland with few trees and is largely covered by seasonal grasses. Organisms often found in a prairie ecosystem include prairie dogs, swift foxes, black-footed ferrets, and of course the grasses themselves. They are found throughout the United States and parts of Canada.



In this lab you will be looking at different factors that can cause fluctuations in populations in an ecosystem.

**Brainstorm;** Sort each of the prairie species identified into producers and consumers:

Producer(s)	Consumer(s)
Grass Prairie Dogs	Swift Foxes Black-footed Ferrets

Predict the source(s) of energy for each organism, and what the predator(s) is/are for each organism.

Organism	Source(s) of Energy - what do they eat?	Predator(s) - what eats them?
Grass	Sunlight, Water, Animal Waste	Prairie Dogs
Prairie Dogs	Grass	Swift Foxes, Black-footed Ferrets
Swift Foxes	Prairie Dogs	Organism higher in food chain
Black-footed Ferrets	Prairie Dogs	Organism higher in food chain

Grass	<p><u>Get the Gizmo ready:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Click on the "Data" tab</li> <li>• Leave the grass population at 4,000 tons</li> <li>• Remove ALL animals from the prairie by clicking the (-) minus button next to each animal until they reach 0.</li> <li>• Switch the graph to "line graph" and zoom out as needed to be able to see the populations on the graph.</li> </ul>	
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1. Click advance year until you have 20 years of data. Record your observations.
  - a. Remember to include **numerical data** in your observations.

The grass population grew for a year until it stayed stable and the population of the grass didn't increase or decrease. The tons of grass also went up by 4000 from 4,000 tons to 8,000 tons.

2. Where does the grass obtain the matter (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and oxygen) needed to survive?

Carbon - From the atmosphere through photosynthesis  
 Nitrogen - From the ground and past dead organisms  
 Phosphorus - From rich soil from old decomposed organisms  
 Oxygen - From the atmosphere through cellular respiration at night

3. Where does the grass obtain the energy needed to survive?

Mainly from water, sunlight, oxygen, and carbon dioxide.

# Prairie Ecosystem Gizmo Answer Key

**Marla C. Downing**



**Prairie Ecosystem Gizmo Answer Key:**

Identification of Habitat Condition in the Shortgrass Prairie Ecosystem in Western Kansas Using Remote Sensing and GIS  
Marla C. Downing, 1995

The Top Books of the Year Prairie Ecosystem Gizmo Answer Key The year 2023 has witnessed a noteworthy surge in literary brilliance, with numerous compelling novels enthraling the hearts of readers worldwide. Lets delve into the realm of popular books, exploring the engaging narratives that have captivated audiences this year. The Must-Read : Colleen Hoover's "It Ends with Us" This poignant tale of love, loss, and resilience has gripped readers with its raw and emotional exploration of domestic abuse. Hoover masterfully weaves a story of hope and healing, reminding us that even in the darkest of times, the human spirit can triumph. Uncover the Best : Taylor Jenkins Reids "The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo" This spellbinding historical fiction novel unravels the life of Evelyn Hugo, a Hollywood icon who defies expectations and societal norms to pursue her dreams. Reids compelling storytelling and compelling characters transport readers to a bygone era, immersing them in a world of glamour, ambition, and self-discovery. Prairie Ecosystem Gizmo Answer Key : Delia Owens "Where the Crawdads Sing" This evocative coming-of-age story follows Kya Clark, a young woman who grows up alone in the marshes of North Carolina. Owens weaves a tale of resilience, survival, and the transformative power of nature, entrancing readers with its evocative prose and mesmerizing setting. These top-selling novels represent just a fraction of the literary treasures that have emerged in 2023. Whether you seek tales of romance, adventure, or personal growth, the world of literature offers an abundance of engaging stories waiting to be discovered. The novel begins with Richard Papen, a bright but troubled young man, arriving at Hampden College. Richard is immediately drawn to the group of students who call themselves the Classics Club. The club is led by Henry Winter, a brilliant and charismatic young man. Henry is obsessed with Greek mythology and philosophy, and he quickly draws Richard into his world. The other members of the Classics Club are equally as fascinating. Bunny Corcoran is a wealthy and spoiled young man who is always looking for a good time. Charles Tavis is a quiet and reserved young man who is deeply in love with Henry. Camilla Macaulay is a beautiful and intelligent young woman who is drawn to the power and danger of the Classics Club. The students are all deeply in love with Morrow, and they are willing to do anything to please him. Morrow is a complex and mysterious figure, and he seems to be manipulating the students for his own purposes. As the students become more involved with Morrow, they begin to commit increasingly dangerous acts. The Secret History is a masterful and gripping novel that will keep you guessing until the very end. The novel is a warning tale about the dangers of obsession and the power of evil.

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