



Imagine a tiny creature, smaller than a house cat, with a chubby body and cute little paws. That's a prairie dog for you! These adorable critters have a coat of mixed brown, black, and white fur, and their eyes are sparkling and lively, always on the lookout for fun and games. They have short legs that are perfect for digging and a tail that helps them balance. Their little rounded ears are always perked up, ready to pick up any sounds of danger or fun.

Now that we've met our furry friends, let's poke our noses into their homes. Prairie dogs live in burrows in the grasslands of North America, especially in areas known as prairies. These burrows are not just holes in the ground, but complex tunnels with multiple rooms for sleeping, storing food, and even playing! Just like we have neighborhoods, prairie dogs live in groups called towns, which can be home to hundreds or even thousands of them.

Having seen where they live, let's see how they spend their days and what they like to munch on. Prairie dogs are herbivores, which means they eat plants. Their favorites are grasses, roots, and seeds. Yummy! They have a busy life cycle, with babies born in the spring and raised by their mothers in the safety of the burrows. In the wild, they can live up to 8 years, spending their time playing, foraging for food and maintaining their burrows.

Now, isn't it interesting to know how these little creatures interact with us and other animals? Prairie dogs are very sociable and have a complex system of communication with each other, and believe it or not, they even kiss as a form of greeting! Despite their cuteness, they are considered pests by farmers as they can damage crops, but they're also a key part of the ecosystem, providing food and homes for other animals. Their main defense is their sharp teeth and their ability to quickly escape into their burrows. So, while they may look cute and cuddly, remember, they're still wild animals!





**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) When do prairie dogs have their babies?
  - A. In the autumn
  - B. In the winter
  - C. All year round
  - D. In the spring
- 2) Which do prairie dogs love to eat?
  - A. insects
  - B. meat
  - C. roots
  - D. fish
- 3) What body part helps a prairie dog balance?
  - A. nose
  - B. legs
  - C. Tail
  - D. ears
- 4) How long can prairie dogs live in the wild?
  - A. Up to 8 years
  - B. Up to 5 years
  - C. Up to 10 years
  - D. Up to 2 years
- 5) How do prairie dogs greet each other?
  - A. By bowing
  - B. By kissing
  - C. By waving
  - D. By hugging
- 6) What are prairie dog homes called?
  - A. Nests
  - B. Lairs
  - C. Hives
  - D. Burrows
- 7) What is one way prairie dogs protect themselves from danger?
  - A. Attack with a venomous bite
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  - C. Play dead
  - D. Blend into the background
- 8) Where do prairie dogs live?
  - A. In trees
  - B. On mountains
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  - D. In caves
- 9) What are groups of prairie dogs called?
  - A. Towns
  - B. Packs
  - C. Flocks
  - D. Herds
- 10) Where do prairie dogs live?
  - A. In the jungles of South America
  - B. In the deserts of Africa
  - C. In the grasslands of North America
  - D. In the forests of Asia
- 11) How are prairie dogs viewed by farmers?
  - A. Indifferent
  - B. Pests
  - C. Friendly
  - D. Helpful



- 12) How complex are prairie dogs' burrows?
- A. They have multiple rooms
  - B. They have no rooms
  - C. They are single rooms
  - D. They have two rooms

**Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or if it is not something the animal would say (N).**

- 13) "We love munching on grasses, roots, and seeds. They are yummy and our favorites!"
- 14) "We're solitary creatures who prefer living alone."
- 15) "I can live up to 8 years."
- 16) "We prairie dogs have an unusually long life span, many of us living into our 20s!"
- 17) "We're very sociable and communicate using barks, whistles, and even a "kiss" as a form of greeting."
- 18) "Farmers adore us! Our burrows make for great aeration and natural irrigation."
- 19) "We have long legs that make it easy to sprint across prairies."
- 20) "We have babies all year round, summer, autumn, winter and spring."
- 21) "I live in a town with other prairie dogs, sometimes there can be hundreds or even thousands of us!"
- 22) "We prairie dogs use our tails to fan ourselves when it's too hot."
- 23) "What we love the most? Munching on insects! They are our favorite snacks."
- 24) "Our burrows are pretty simple - just a hole in the ground, really."
- 25) "Our homes, the burrows, are always found near rivers or lakes."
- 26) "My house is not just a hole, it's a complex tunnel system with multiple rooms for sleeping, storing food, and even playing!"

**Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.**

- 27) Prairie dogs are capable of living up to 8 years in the wild.
- 28) It is fascinating how prairie dogs can communicate with each other through their different barks.
- 29) Baby prairie dogs are usually born in spring.
- 30) It's amazing that prairie dogs have such complex burrow systems.
- 31) Prairie dogs live in burrows in the grasslands of North America.
- 32) Prairie dogs are the most adorable kind of rodent.
- 33) Prairie dogs prefer places known as prairies, which are large open areas covered in grass.
- 34) The diet of prairie dogs primarily consists of plants, like grasses, roots, and seeds.
- 35) Prairie dogs are the most interesting animals to watch in a zoo.
- 36) The fact that prairie dogs are considered pests by farmers is unfair.

**Determine if the statement is true or false.**

- 37) Prairie dogs kiss as a form of greeting.
- 38) Prairie dogs can be found in the forests of South America.
- 39) Prairie dogs are native to the grasslands of North America.



- 40) Prairie dog burrows are just simple holes in the ground.
- 41) Prairie dogs are herbivores.
- 42) Prairie dogs are carnivores.
- 43) Prairie dogs live only in Africa.
- 44) Prairie dogs have a lifespan of up to twenty years.
- 45) Prairie dogs can harm crops, which is why farmers consider them pests.
- 46) Prairie dogs have a social structure similar to our neighborhoods.

**Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).**

- 47) Prairie dogs build complex tunnels and chambers underground to live in and raise their young.
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- 50) Prairie dogs are small mammals that live in underground burrows.
- 51) How do prairie dogs stay safe from predators?
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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____  | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____  | 27. _____ | 52. _____ |
| 3. _____  | 28. _____ |           |
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| 25. _____ | 50. _____ |           |



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- |                  |                          |                          |
|------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. <u>D</u>      | 26. <u>true</u>          | 51. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 2. <u>C</u>      | 27. <u>fact</u>          | 52. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 3. <u>C</u>      | 28. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 4. <u>A</u>      | 29. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 5. <u>B</u>      | 30. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 6. <u>D</u>      | 31. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 7. <u>B</u>      | 32. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 8. <u>C</u>      | 33. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 9. <u>A</u>      | 34. <u>fact</u>          |                          |
| 10. <u>C</u>     | 35. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 11. <u>B</u>     | 36. <u>opinion</u>       |                          |
| 12. <u>A</u>     | 37. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 13. <u>true</u>  | 38. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 14. <u>false</u> | 39. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 15. <u>true</u>  | 40. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 16. <u>false</u> | 41. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 17. <u>true</u>  | 42. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 18. <u>false</u> | 43. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 19. <u>false</u> | 44. <u>false</u>         |                          |
| 20. <u>false</u> | 45. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 21. <u>true</u>  | 46. <u>true</u>          |                          |
| 22. <u>false</u> | 47. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 23. <u>false</u> | 48. <u>interrogative</u> |                          |
| 24. <u>false</u> | 49. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |
| 25. <u>false</u> | 50. <u>declarative</u>   |                          |



**Solve each problem.**

**Use the article to answer the question.**

- 1) When do prairie dogs have their babies? (paragraph 3)  
A. \_\_\_\_\_ B. In the winter  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. In the spring
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A. insects B. meat  
C. roots D. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What body part helps a prairie dog balance? (paragraph 1)  
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C. Tail D. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) How long can prairie dogs live in the wild? (paragraph 3)  
A. Up to 8 years B. Up to 5 years  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) How do prairie dogs greet each other? (paragraph 4)  
A. By bowing B. By kissing  
C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_
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C. \_\_\_\_\_ D. \_\_\_\_\_



12) How complex are prairie dogs' burrows? (paragraph 2)

- A. They have multiple rooms
- B. They have no rooms
- C.
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