THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS OF LOUISIANA’S PRAIRIE.

Link to our exhibit: “Louisiana’s Past: The Louisiana prairie long ago”

GAME 1: DO YOU KNOW WHAT A PRAIRIE IS?

To learn about prairie, fill in the blank in the definition below then use the missing word to fill and complete our crossword puzzle using the questions’ numbers as a guide!

ACROSS

1. A prairie is a _______ grassland.

2. It is a plain of grass that gets hot in the _______ and cold in the winter.

3. There are two main kinds of prairies, one is called a tall grass prairie. It is composed of areas with rich _______, moderate precipitation and grasses over 5 feet tall.

4. Most of the interior of North America was a prairie before European settlement radically altered the environment with _______.

5. The other kind of prairie is called a short grass prairie. It receives little _______ and grasses are less than 2 feet tall.

6. These animals can also withstand a great _______ of temperatures, from well below freezing in the winter to sweltering heat in the summer.

7. Animals that live in prairies have adapted to a semi-arid, windy environment with _______ trees or shrubs.

8. Attwater’s Prairie Chickens are wild fowl that live in the coastal prairies of North _______. These noisy grouse are strong fliers that are not closely related to chickens.

9. Prairie Chickens have a varied _______. They eat leaves, seeds, rose hips, and insects.

10. Prairie Chickens are in _______ of extinction because of loss of habitat. Much of their prairie habitat has been used for farming.

11. The whooping _______ used to live in Louisiana prairie, but this bird is now extinct.

12. The squirrel tree _______ and green tree _______ also inhabited the prairie.

13. The _______ in the Louisiana prairie was mainly composed of cat tail, marshelder, and carpet grass.

14. In the prairie, you could also find pickerel _______, water primrose and silver broom sedge.
GAME 2. LET'S COLOR THIS PRAIRIE ANIMAL!

Here is one of the animals you could find in the Louisiana prairie long ago. Do you recognize it? Look at the specimen in the museum display to color this interesting animal. If you are at home, use the colors listed on our coloring sheet to help you.

Attwater's Prairie Chicken
(Tympanuchus cupido)

- Dark brown and cream feathered crest
- Bright yellow patches over eyes
- Brown and cream feathers with dark brown bars
- Short, rounded tail
- Legs feathered to feet
- Yellow legs and feet
- Bright yellow throat sac
- Brown bill

Drawing by John Thomas