

Prairie Introduction-  
(Read during the opening slideshow.)

In the middle of North America is a huge area of land which was once covered with grasses and colorful wild flowers. A prairie is temperate grassland, plains of grass that get hot in the summer and cold in the winter. Very few trees grow on the prairies and are usually widely scattered.

Most of the interior, or center of North America was a prairie before European settlement drastically altered the landscape and habitat with farming and building.

Before settlers moved west, the prairies were covered with herds of grazing animals, such as buffalo, elk, deer, and rabbits. These animals helped prairies by adding nitrogen to the soil through urine and feces, and creating open areas for plants that need aeration, or like to have the soil dug up to get air. Prairie dogs dug huge underground tunnel systems which aerated the soil and allowed water to reach several feet below the surface. Let's learn about the prairie and some of the animals who live there.