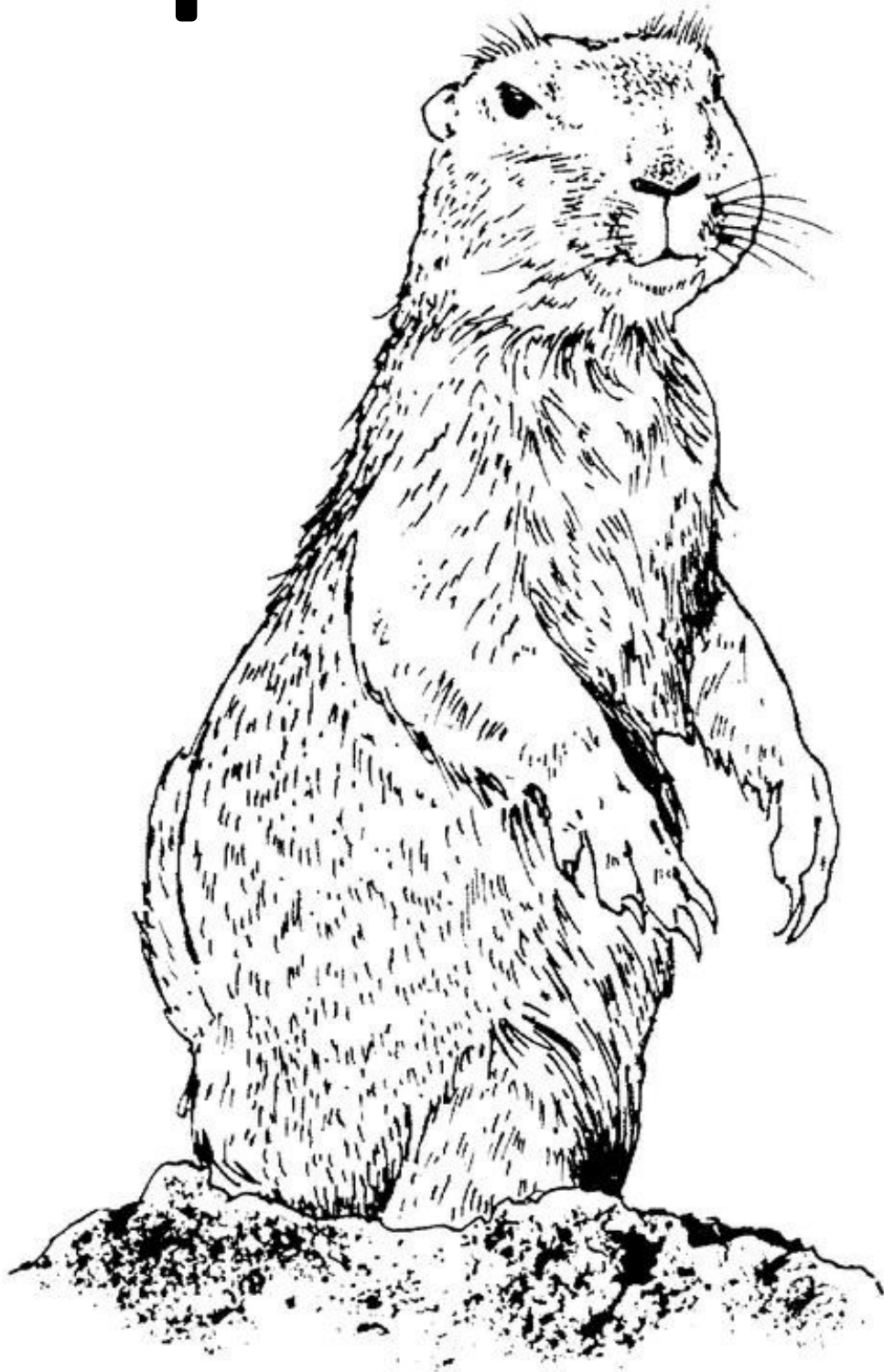


# Prairie Dog Lapbook



# Prairie Dog Lapbook Lessons and Research

## Vocabulary

Bark: a short, loud sound; the prairie dog gets its name from its bark

Burrow: a tunnel or a hole in the ground

Grassland: a large open area of grass; grasslands are also called prairies

Groom: to clean oneself; some animals groom themselves

Rodent: a mammal with long front teeth; rodents use their teeth to gnaw

→ Complete Vocabulary Book (add other words, as desired)

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## What Is a Prairie Dog?

They are not dogs. They are rodents (ground squirrels).

They are about 1 foot tall and weigh 1-3 pounds

They have short legs and often their bellies will rub the ground

They have short black or white tails flicker and wag all day

Their strong teeth clip and grind green plants

Their long sharp claws are for digging

They are lively, alert animals, with keen eyesight and hearing

→ Complete Are Prairie Dogs Dogs? Matchbook

→ Complete Prairie Dog Anatomy

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## Communication: What Did You Say?

Prairie dogs from the same colony nuzzle and kiss when they meet. If prairie dogs from different colonies meet, they stare, chatter, flick their tails and may fight or

chase each other.

Black tailed prairie dogs have about 11 calls. When danger is near they alert other members of the colony by making a loud yelp or bark.

Sometimes a prairie dog will stand on its hind legs, stretch up, and throw its front feet high into the air. At the same time, it gives a loud call.

Friendly relations are also maintained through mutual grooming.

Even though their calls sound like squeaks, they have a complex language system and communicate details to one another.

→ Complete What Did You Say? Book

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## Predators

Prairie Dog predators include:

Ferrets

Hawks

Owls

Coyotes

Fox

Bobcat

Weasels

Badger

Snakes

→ Complete Predators Simple Fold

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## Where Do They Live?

They live on short grass prairies and areas of mixed grass. Trimming the plants constantly so they can see any predator's approaching.

→ Complete Habitat Simple Fold

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### What Do They Eat?

Prairie dogs eat:

Leaves

Grasses

Grass Roots

Weeds

Seeds and Other Plants

Grasshoppers

Cut Worms

Bug & Beetles

→ Complete Prairie Dog Diet Matchbook

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### Starting a Family

Once a year the female has litter of 3-8 pups. Baby prairie dogs are born in the spring with no hair. Pups stay in the burrow for about six to seven weeks. At that time, they will climb up to explore their town for the first time. They like playing chase and wrestling.

→ Complete Life Cycle Puzzle (color, cut apart, and store in a pocket in your lapbook OR color and paste into your lapbook)

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### Species of Prairie Dogs

Black Tailed Prairie Dog

Live in entire midsection of North America

White Tailed Prairie Dog  
South Central Montana and Wyoming in small colonies

Mexican Prairie Dog  
North East Mexico: Endangered

Utah Prairie Dog  
RARE: Lives in Central Utah

Gunnison's Prairie Dog  
Arizona and New Mexico

---

### Home Sweet Home

Prairie Dogs live in groups called towns. Towns may contain hundreds of prairie dogs.

Towns are divided into wards, then into neighborhoods.

Each neighborhood is made up of family members--babies, brothers and sisters, females and one or two males.

Their underground tunnels connect to rooms. There are nurseries, bedrooms lined with dried grass, bathrooms and a listening room which is close to the entrance.

The tunnels go down about 10 feet and can be 50 feet from one entrance to the other.

The entrance to the burrow is surrounded by a pile of soil. This mound serves as a lookout and protects the burrow against floods.

One entrance slants downward from a low mound of dirt about 5 feet in diameter. This is the end from which the tunnel was dug.

Another entrance plunges straight down and is topped by a crater like mound as tall as 3 feet. Both are shaped by the animals.

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## Why Some People Dislike Prairie Dogs

Over the past 100 years much of the range of the black tailed prairie dogs have become cattle pastures and grain fields. Farmers and ranchers do not see the prairie dog as a cute little animal. They eat grasses that cattle and horses eat. Prairie dogs can also destroy a farmer's crop of alfalfa, hay, wheat, or corn. There are poisoning programs that help farmers get rid of them.

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## Interesting Facts

They are most active during the cool hours of day.  
Prairie dogs are related to squirrels, chipmunks, and groundhogs.  
Most of their time is spent eating.  
They like to visit and groom each other.  
They sleep in the winter.  
They eat a lot to store up fat for winter.  
They do not need to drink water; it comes from their food.

If you checked out library books to read along with this study, discuss the various facts you learned about prairie dogs.

→ [Complete Prairie Dog Facts Fan](#)

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# Vocabulary Book

**Directions:** Cut on the solid lines. Write in definitions. Stack pages together with cover on top and staple on the left side.

<p>My Book of <b>Prairie Dog</b> Words</p> 	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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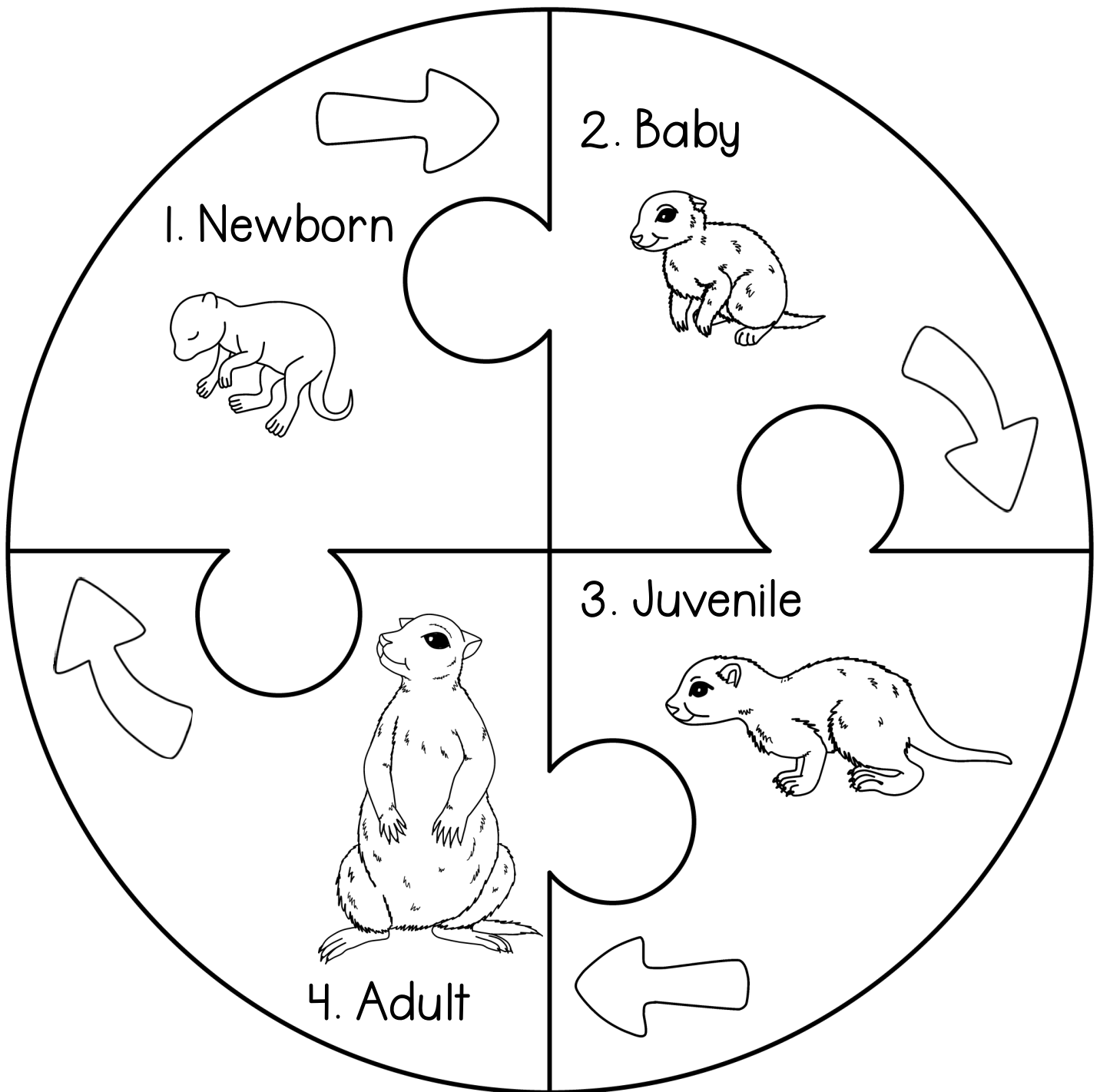
# Vocabulary Book

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**Prairie Dog Life Cycle:** Print on cardstock. Color the images. Cut out puzzle and let your student assemble it. Discuss the life cycle of the prairie dog. Glue pieces to the back of your lapbook or store them in your lapbook in a pocket.



# Anatomy

Height

Weight

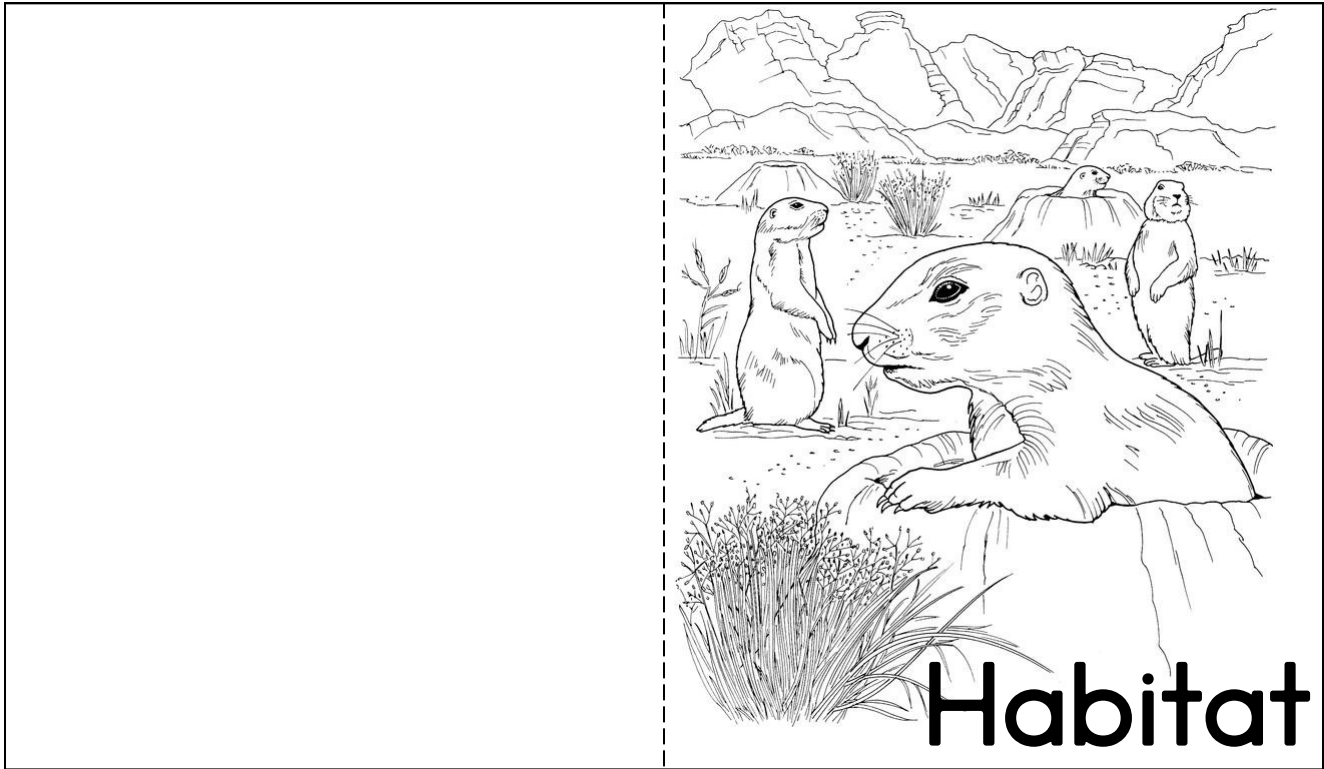
Legs &  
Bellies

Tails

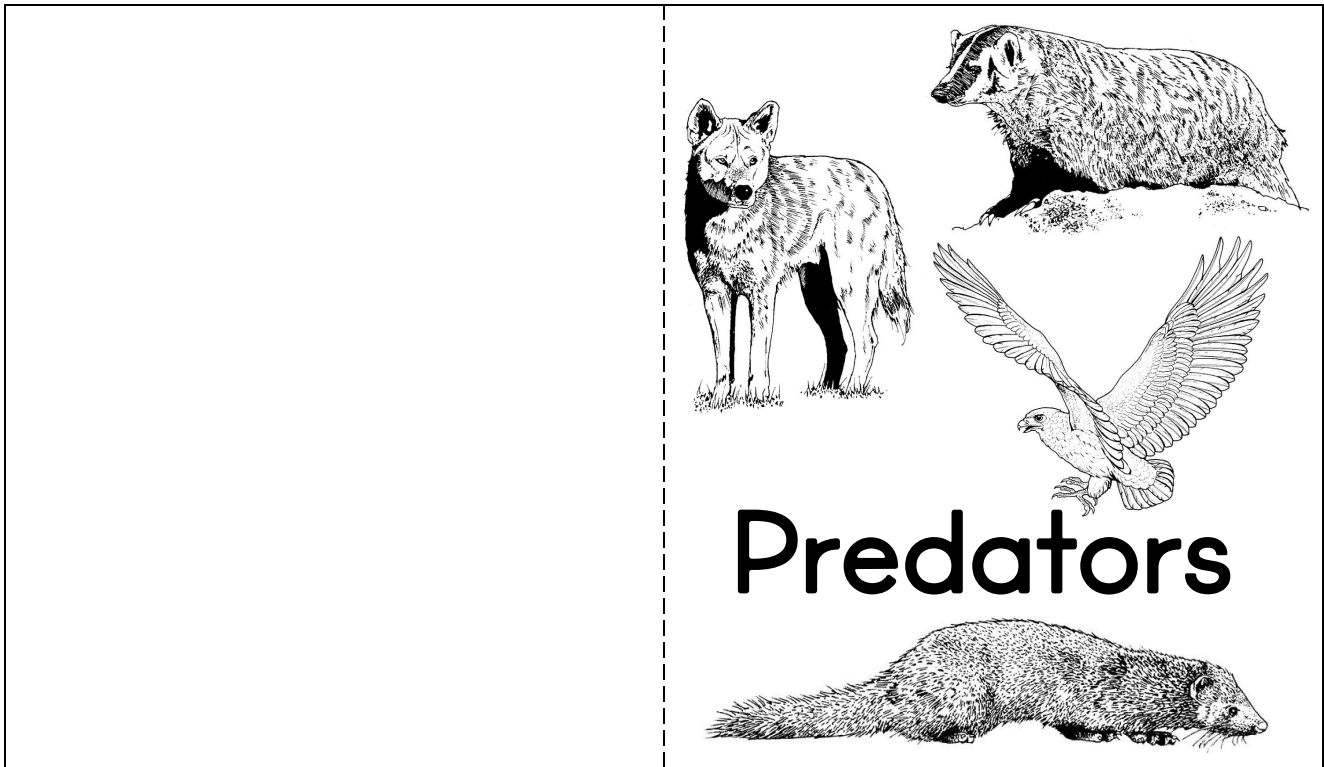
Claws

Teeth

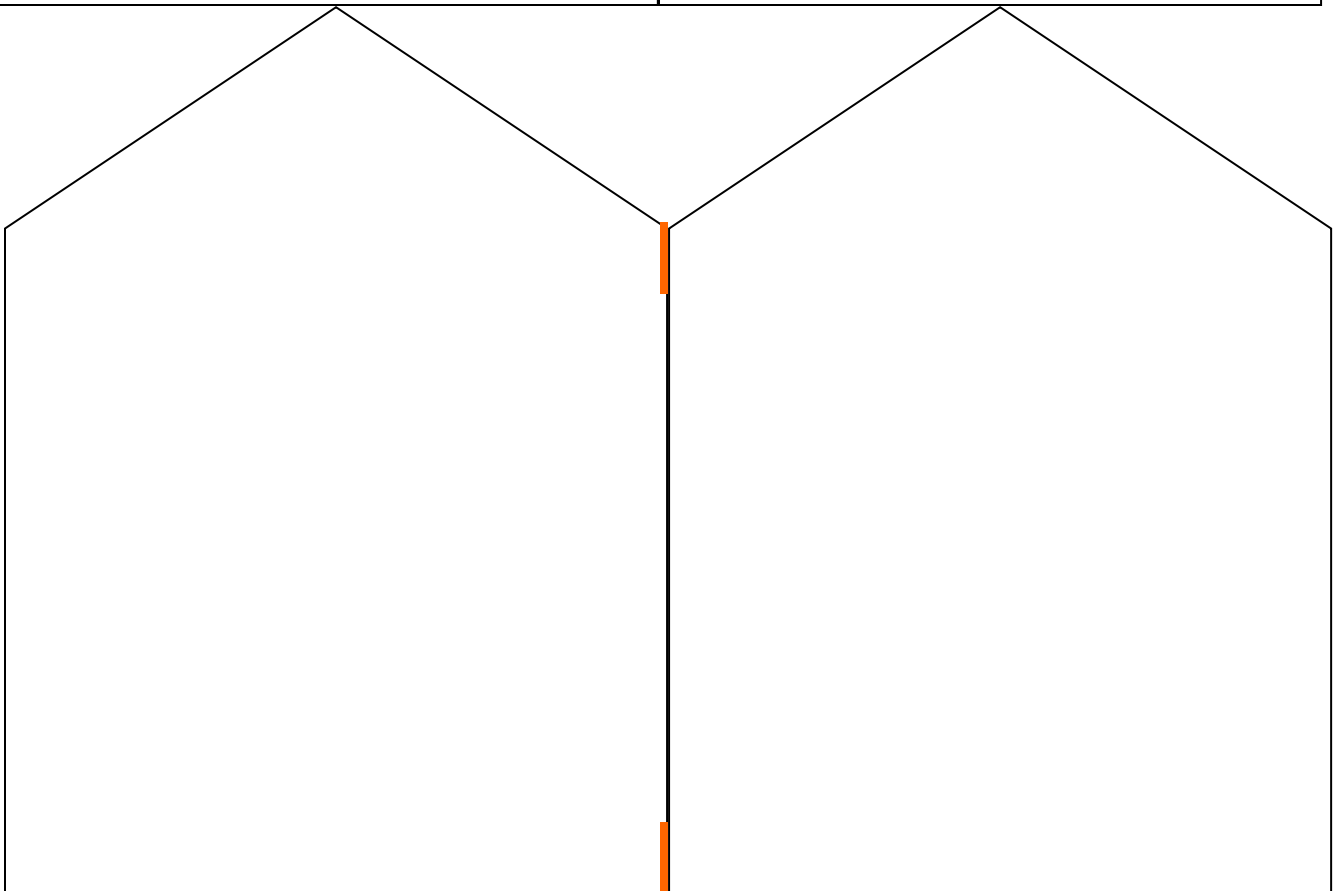
# Habitat Simple Fold



# Predators Simple Fold



Cut out top portion as one piece. Cut out long rectangle with an exacto knife. Cut out bottom portion as one piece. Cut on orange slits. Roll up bottom portion and stick it through the rectangle hole you cut out of the top portion.



# Communication Shuttertied

You Say?

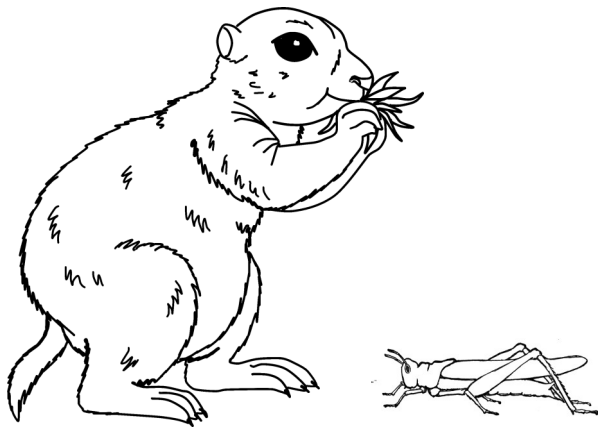
What Did

**Directions:** Print on card stock and cut out. Punch holes where indicated. Fold on dotted lines. To secure book, string a ribbon or yarn through the holes and tie with a bow on the front.

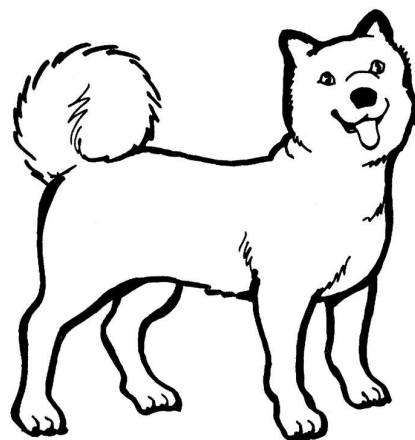
# Diet Matchbook and Dog Matchbook

**Directions:** Cut books out. Fold on lines (matchbook style).

## Prairie Dog Diet



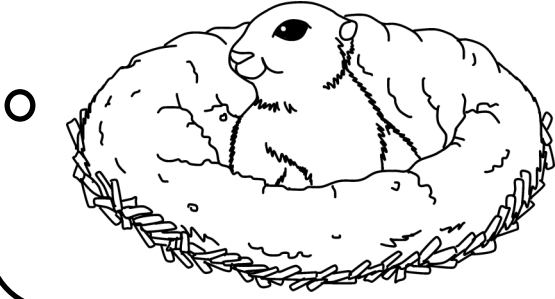
## Is a Prairie Dog a Dog?



# Prairie Dog Facts Fan

**Directions:** Cut out pieces. Write a fact on each one. Stack together with cover on top and secure with a brass fastener (or staple).

## Prairie Dog Facts



Blank rounded rectangular box for writing a fact.

Blank rounded rectangular box for writing a fact.

Blank rounded rectangular box for writing a fact.

Blank rounded rectangular box for writing a fact.

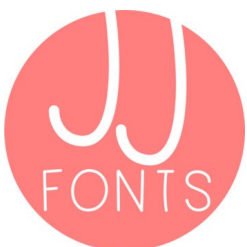
Blank rounded rectangular box for writing a fact.

Blank rounded rectangular box for writing a fact.

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