

Unit 1

Animals: Small Grazers



👁 Although European rabbits are native to Spain and Portugal, they are found all over Europe. They have also been introduced in other countries, including Australia.

Lesson 1

Rodent Town

The Golden Eagle

This huge bird has sharp claws so it can easily grab a tasty prairie dog.



The American Badger

Prairie dogs are not always safe from this animal because it can dig deep underground to catch its prey.



The Burrowing Owl

This owl uses the prairie dog's burrows as a home too.



The Prairie Dog

These animals live in networks of tunnels and chambers called "burrows".



1 Pre-Reading

 **Animals:** Small Grazers

A Discussion

1. Look at the pictures and title on the opposite page, then answer and discuss these questions with a partner or as a class.

- A prairie dog doesn't look like a dog. How do you think it got its name?
- Why do you think this lesson is called "Rodent Town"?
- For rodents, what would be the good points and bad points of living in a group?

2. Which do you think is true? Compare and discuss your answers.

- Prairie dogs live in Asia and North America. T F
- A prairie dog's home can be 30 meters across. T F
- Prairie dogs kiss when they meet. T F

B Key Vocabulary

Look at the words in bold type in the passage on the next page. Write each word next to its definition using the *base form* of the word.

- _____ to protect from temperature changes
- _____ a settlement
- _____ to protect against attack
- _____ relating to others
- _____ sharing a task or working together
- _____ to settle or work something out
- _____ to be made up of
- _____ to set up or create something
- _____ a shelter that protects something from danger or trouble
- _____ a fight, disagreement, or argument

Rodent Town

Track 01

Prairie dogs are small, burrowing rodents native to the prairies* of the United States, Canada, and Mexico. They are actually a type of squirrel.

Prairie dogs are named for the place where they live and the warning call they give when they are threatened, which sounds similar to a dog's bark.

- 5 One of the amazing things about prairie dogs is the way that they live in large **colonies** or "towns." These colonies can contain many hundreds of prairie dog families.

- 10 Prairie dogs like to live with other prairie dogs, so they join together to make prairie dog towns. These are collections of prairie dog families that can span one or two square kilometers. Prairie dog towns are big because each family lives in their own tunnel system, which is usually 10-30 meters wide. Families usually **consist** of 1 male, 2 to 4 females, and their children. When the young prairie dogs reach three years of age, they leave home to **establish** their own families on the edges of the colony.

Fact File

The growth of urban areas and the efforts by farmers to poison, trap, or shoot prairie dogs has caused their numbers to drop significantly.

Glossary

* prairies - grasslands

** pups - babies

15 Prairie dog tunnels usually have several chambers. These chambers are like rooms in a house. Female prairie dogs use them when they give birth and when they raise their pups**. The other chambers are used by the family for sleeping. To make them comfortable,

20 prairie dogs **insulate** the chambers by lining the walls with grass. The tunnels are also a **refuge** when the prairie dogs are threatened by predators. For this reason they are designed with two or more escape holes.



Prairie dogs have light brown and gray fur.

Prairie dogs like living in towns and they even make

25 **social** visits to each other. When two friendly prairie dogs meet, they greet each other with a kind of kiss. However, the male prairie dogs **defend** the borders of the family's tunnel system against rival prairie dogs, and disputes are **resolved** with fighting. Prairie dog towns

30 have **conflict**, social gatherings, and **cooperation** just like a human town. That's what makes them so interesting. 324 words



These prairie dogs are at the entrance to their burrow. There are normally many entrances to a burrow.

Fact File

Prairie dogs are very social animals. Some scientists say that they can communicate with their bark. They say they can even warn others about dangerous predators in the area.



2 During Reading

Reading Skill Tip

When you are scanning, don't read every word, and don't stop when you see a word you don't know. Read quickly and stop only to find the information you are looking for.

A Scanning for Information

Circle the correct answer.

1. What are prairie dogs?

- a. They are big mammals.
- b. They are wild dogs that live on grasslands.
- c. They are a type of squirrel.
- d. They are popular pets.

2. According to the passage, what is one of the amazing things about prairie dogs?

- a. They make warning calls when they are threatened.
- b. They live on prairies.
- c. They make a similar sound to a dog's bark.
- d. They live in large colonies.

3. What do the young prairie dogs do when they reach three years of age?

- a. They make 10-30 meter wide tunnels.
- b. They leave home to establish their own families.
- c. They move to another town.
- d. They start to make several chambers.

4. Which sentence about prairie dogs' tunnel system is true?

- a. There is only one chamber in each tunnel.
- b. Each family uses one chamber.
- c. The tunnel can be a dangerous place when threatened by predators.
- d. Each family lives in their own tunnel system.

5. Which sentence about prairie dogs is NOT true?

- a. They make social visits to each other.
- b. They never fight with other prairie dogs.
- c. Their families usually have 1 male, 2 to 4 females, and their children.
- d. They greet each other with a kind of kiss.

B-1 Identifying Main Ideas

Complete the chart using the options below.
Write one sentence in each box.

Reading Skill Tip

Every paragraph has a main idea. Often, but not always, the main idea is contained in a topic sentence.

Main Idea	
Paragraph 2	<hr/> <hr/>
Paragraph 3	<hr/> <hr/>
Options	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prairie dogs make social visits to each other. • Young prairie dogs leave home at the age of three. • Prairie dogs like to live with other prairie dogs in a prairie dog town, which consists of many separate tunnel systems. • Prairie dog tunnels usually have several chambers and two or more escape holes. • There is 1 male, 2 to 4 females, and their children in a prairie dog family. • Prairie dogs line the chambers with grass to make them comfortable. 	

B-2 Organizing Information: Compare and Contrast

Complete the chart.

Reading Skill Tip

When you compare and contrast, you explore the similarities and differences between two or more things.

Prairie Dog Towns	Human Towns
Differences	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They make _____ • They can span _____ square kilometers. • They are defended by _____ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They build _____ • They can span many square kilometers. • They are _____ by police.
Similarities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families can live _____ each other. • Towns have _____, _____, and _____ 	

Reading Skill Tip

Think about how the target word is related to the topic of the passage. Then look at the words around the target word to guess its meaning.

C Understanding Words in Context Circle the correct answer.

1. In line 10, what does the word *span* mean?

- a. extend across b. travel in c. live in d. create around

2. In line 29, what does the word *disputes* mean?

- a. agreements b. unhappiness c. settlements d. arguments

Reading Skill Tip

While making inferences, you combine the information in the passage with your general knowledge.

D Making Inferences Circle the correct answer.

1. In line 23, “they are designed with two or more escape holes.” What can be inferred from this?

- a. Prairie dogs are often attacked by other prairie dogs.
 b. Predators sometimes attack prairie dogs in their tunnels.
 c. Prairie dogs are safe if they stay inside their tunnels.
 d. Only male prairie dogs know how to design tunnels.

2. In line 27, “the male prairie dogs defend the borders of the family’s tunnel system against rival prairie dogs”, what can be inferred from this?

- a. The prairie dogs can’t visit other family’s tunnels.
 b. The prairie dogs always want to expand their tunnel system.
 c. The male prairie dogs have to protect their family from predators.
 d. The male prairie dogs sometimes fight with each other.

Reading Skill Tip

Read carefully and find out how the writer explains or accomplishes something in the passage/paragraph. For example, does the writer provide examples, describe something in detail, or compare different ideas?

E Identifying Method Circle the correct answer.

1. How does the writer explain the function of “chambers” in paragraph 3?

- a. by describing what the chambers look like
 b. by giving a definition of a chamber
 c. by discussing the differences between male and female prairie dogs
 d. by comparing the chambers with the rooms in a human house

Reading Skill Tip

Read carefully and choose the restatement that best summarizes the highlighted passage. Your goal should be to leave the meaning unchanged and to include all important information.

F Recognizing Restatement Circle the correct answer.

1. Which of the following sentences best restates the highlighted information in line 3?

- a. They are called prairie dogs because they live underground and because they get scared when a dog barks.
 b. They got their name because they are native to the prairies and they are often attacked by dogs.
 c. They are called prairie dogs because they live in the prairies and they make a sound which is similar to a dog’s bark.
 d. They are named after the place where they live.

3 After Reading

A Vocabulary Practice Fill in the blanks.

established	resolve	social	colony	refuge (n)
cooperation	consists	insulate	conflict	defend

1. Butter _____ of cream and salt.
2. One day, there may be a human _____ on the moon.
3. The soldiers had to _____ their base from attack.
4. Your clothes _____ you during cold weather.
5. The Korean police force was _____ in 1946.
6. The road was completed with the _____ of the local villagers.
7. Discussion is the best way to _____ differences.
8. She has many friends. She is a very _____ person.
9. The tree provided a _____ from the flood.
10. _____ between parents and their teenage children is common.

B Synonyms and Antonyms Fill in the blanks using the words in the box above.

1	<i>shelter</i>	=		4	<i>set up</i>	=	
2	<i>working together</i>	=		5	<i>protect</i>	=	
3	<i>fighting</i>	=		= synonym ↔ antonym			

C Discussion Talk with your partner and then have a class discussion.

1. What other animals live in large colonies?
2. What other burrowing animals do you know of?
3. Prairie dogs are considered pests by farmers. Why do you think this is?

D Writing Practice Write your opinion and share it with your class.

I think prairie dogs live in towns because _____
