

Name: _____

Exploration Date: _____

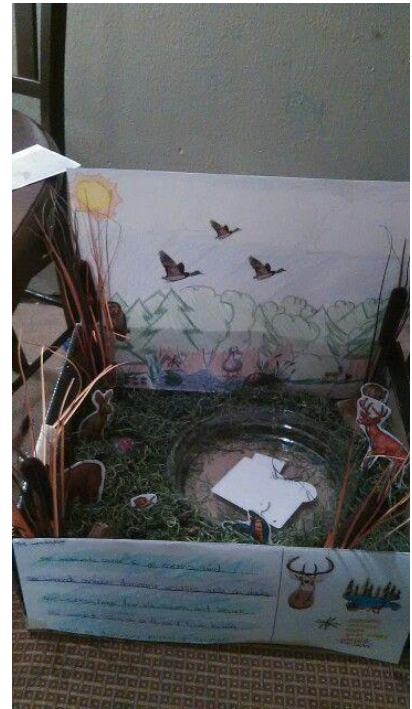
Build Your Own Pocket Prairie Model

Directions: *Pocket prairies are a great way to preserve the coastal prairie ecosystem that was once abundant in Texas and Louisiana. You can now put all your new knowledge to practice by building your very own model of a pocket prairie!*

Materials:

1. One (1) small to medium size box (shoe box)
2. Paper
3. Coloring supplies (markers, coloring pencils, crayons)
4. Scissors
5. Glue (or tape)
6. iNaturalist app or [website](#)

To complete your pocket prairie model, you are going to need some native species, of both plants and animals.



This is a great opportunity to expand your knowledge and research wildlife in other grasslands around the world using the [iNaturalist website](#). You can use this website to filter observations around the world by species, location and other categories. The Green Team is eager to see your models.

Steps:

1. Great scientists pre-plan their investigations. Take a moment to think about what continent you would like to recreate in your model. Maybe you were inspired by the African savanna, or you would like to explore the South American llanos even more. Refer to various regions of the world mentioned in the Green Team's lesson video or the Meet Our Expert video.
2. Use the [iNaturalist website](#) to research species of plants and animals that are commonly found in grassland ecosystems of the region you have chosen. How many native species of grasses can you find?
3. Now, it is time to get creative. Use your coloring supplies to decorate your box to resemble the grassland you are researching.
4. Draw and color organisms to be added to your pocket prairie model. Then, place them in your model as desired. Try to include as many organisms as possible, to highlight the importance of biodiversity in grasslands. You may print pictures if you would like to do so. **Be creative!** Upcycle household items to create the plants and animals desired for your model. The Green Team loves to see sustainable use of materials!