

The Mini Page

Educational Standards and Suggested Activities for Teachers

Issue 30

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Standards Spotlight: A Sea of Grass

Mini Page activities meet many state and national educational standards. Each week we identify standards that relate to The Mini Page's content and offer activities that will help your students reach them.

This week's standard:

- Students understand the human and physical characteristics of places. (Geography: Places and Regions)

Activities:

1. How Big? Early prairie grasses could grow 12 feet high. The ceiling in an average house is about 8 feet high. Try to imagine just how high the early grasses were. Go through the newspaper and draw a circle around things – plants, animals, structures — that wouldn't get lost in the 12-foot-high grass. Explain your choices.
2. Share what you've learned about prairie grass with friends. Together, make a list of how living in the prairie could be a good thing.
3. In the newspaper, look for tools or equipment that might have helped early settlers on the prairie. Paste a picture of the tool/equipment or write its name on a piece of paper. Next to each item, write a sentence explaining how each tool or piece of equipment would be useful.
4. How are these important to understanding the prairie: (a) diversity, (b) prairie schooner, (c) thin leaves and (d) bison?
5. Pretend you are a member of a pioneer family discovering the prairie for the first time. Describe the difficulties your family faces as they try to establish a home and find food in the prairie.

Standards by Dr. Sherrye D. Garrett, Use the News Foundation.

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