



Hey kids, let's dive into the fascinating world of Utah prairie dogs, one of nature's most sociable and interesting creatures! They are small, with a body length of about 30 to 36 cm, and a weight of 0.5 to 1.5 kg. They are covered in a coat of light brown fur, and their underbelly is a bit lighter. Utah prairie dogs have short ears, a short tail, and their eyes are situated on the sides of their head, perfect for spotting danger.

Now that we've gotten a look at them, let's hop on over to where these cute critters make their home. Utah prairie dogs live in the southwestern United States, particularly in the state of Utah, in grasslands and meadows. They live in burrows that they dig in the ground, which help them stay safe from predators and harsh weather. These burrows are part of a larger network called a colony, which can house hundreds of prairie dogs.

Living in a colony must surely make you hungry, right? Let's talk about what these prairie dogs like to munch on. Utah prairie dogs are herbivores, which means they eat plants. Their diet primarily consists of grasses, seeds, and sometimes insects for a bit of protein. They have sharp teeth to help them cut through tough plant material.



From their social living to their herbivore diet, Utah prairie dogs sure are different from other species! Unlike many other rodents, Utah prairie dogs hibernate in winter, which means they sleep for a long time to save energy. The relationship between humans and Utah prairie dogs has been challenging as their burrows can disrupt farming, but they are important for maintaining biodiversity in their habitat. So, whether they're snoozing in winter or chomping on grass in the summer, Utah prairie dogs are a unique and important part of our world.





Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do Utah prairie dogs eat?
A. Plants
B. Fish
C. Birds
D. Meat
- 2) What do Utah prairie dogs primarily eat?
A. Meat and fish
B. Fruits and nuts
C. Leaves and flowers
D. Grasses and seeds
- 3) How large can a Utah prairie dog's colony be?
A. It can house fifty prairie dogs
B. It can house hundreds of prairie dogs
C. It can house around ten prairie dogs
D. It can house just one prairie dog
- 4) What kind of burrow does Utah prairie dogs live in?
A. Burrows under water
B. Burrows in rocks
C. Burrows they dig in the ground
D. Burrows in trees
- 5) Where do Utah prairie dogs live?
A. In mountains
B. In forests
C. In deserts
D. In grasslands
- 6) What kind of teeth do Utah prairie dogs have?
A. Sharp teeth
B. Flat teeth
C. No teeth
D. Round teeth
- 7) Do Utah prairie dogs go into hibernation in winter?
A. They only hibernate in summer
B. They don't hibernate, they migrate south.
C. Yes, they do
D. No, they don't
- 8) What is the main challenge in the relationship between humans and Utah prairie dogs?
A. Their burrows can disrupt farming
B. They are aggressive towards humans
C. They eat crops
D. They carry diseases
- 9) What do Utah prairie dogs eat for a bit of protein?
A. Grass
B. Other small animals
C. Insects
D. Seeds
- 10) What color is the fur of a Utah prairie dog?
A. Brown
B. Black
C. White
D. Gray

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "We have eyes on the sides of our head, so we can lookout for any predators around us!"



- 42) They've adapted well to living in their natural habitat.
A. They have
B. They were
C. They had
D. They can
- 43) Utah prairie dogs don't grow very large.
A. does not
B. did not
C. cannot
D. do not
- 44) Prairie dogs can't fly, but they're great at digging burrows.
A. cannot
B. can
C. should not
D. will not
- 45) They're the smallest species of prairie dogs in the United States.
A. They am
B. They is
C. They are
D. They were

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 46) Prairie dogs create complex burrow systems with different chambers.
- 47) Do Utah prairie dogs have any predators?
- 48) Utah prairie dogs love to eat grasses, seeds, and insects.
- 49) Utah prairie dogs are small rodents that live in underground burrows.
- 50) Are Utah prairie dogs endangered?
- 51) What do Utah prairie dogs eat?



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|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 26. _____ | 51. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 27. _____ | |
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| 9. _____ | 34. _____ | |
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| 11. _____ | 36. _____ | |
| 12. _____ | 37. _____ | |
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| 14. _____ | 39. _____ | |
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| 18. _____ | 43. _____ | |
| 19. _____ | 44. _____ | |
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| 22. _____ | 47. _____ | |
| 23. _____ | 48. _____ | |
| 24. _____ | 49. _____ | |
| 25. _____ | 50. _____ | |



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Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "We have eyes on the sides of our head, so we can lookout for any predators around us!"



- 41)** When it's time to warn their colony about danger, they use different calls.
- A. is it B. it is
C. it was D. it has



- 42) They've adapted well to living in their natural habitat.
A. They have B. They were
C. They had D. They can
- 43) Utah prairie dogs don't grow very large.
A. does not B. did not
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- | | | | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----|----------------------|-----|----------------------|
| 1. | A | 26. | opinion | 51. | interrogative |
| 2. | D | 27. | fact | | |
| 3. | B | 28. | fact | | |
| 4. | C | 29. | opinion | | |
| 5. | D | 30. | opinion | | |
| 6. | A | 31. | true | | |
| 7. | C | 32. | false | | |
| 8. | A | 33. | true | | |
| 9. | C | 34. | false | | |
| 10. | A | 35. | true | | |
| 11. | Would | 36. | false | | |
| 12. | Would | 37. | false | | |
| 13. | Would | 38. | false | | |
| 14. | Not | 39. | true | | |
| 15. | Would | 40. | true | | |
| 16. | Not | 41. | B | | |
| 17. | Would | 42. | A | | |
| 18. | Not | 43. | D | | |
| 19. | Not | 44. | A | | |
| 20. | Not | 45. | C | | |
| 21. | fact | 46. | declarative | | |
| 22. | opinion | 47. | interrogative | | |
| 23. | fact | 48. | declarative | | |
| 24. | opinion | 49. | declarative | | |
| 25. | fact | 50. | interrogative | | |



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) What do Utah prairie dogs eat? (paragraph 3)
A. Plants
B. Fish
C.
D.
- 2) What do Utah prairie dogs primarily eat? (paragraph 3)
A.
B. Fruits and nuts
C.
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- 3) How large can a Utah prairie dog's colony be? (paragraph 2)
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A.
B. Other small animals
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D.
- 10) What color is the fur of a Utah prairie dog? (paragraph 1)
A. Brown
B. Black
C.
D.

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "We have eyes on the sides of our head, so we can lookout for any predators around us!" (paragraph 1)



- 12) "Our home is in burrows that we dig in the ground, which keeps us safe from bad weather and scary predators." (paragraph 2)