Certificate Of Completion

Junior Park Ranger Program

Is certified an official Junior Park Ranger at

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Junior Ranger Code

As a Junior Ranger, I promise to:
Explore other National Parks,
Obey all safety rules.
Leave plants, animals, and historic objects in the park.
Help keep National Parks clean, safe, and beautiful for everyone.
Take pride in National Parks.

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Signature, Junior Park Ranger

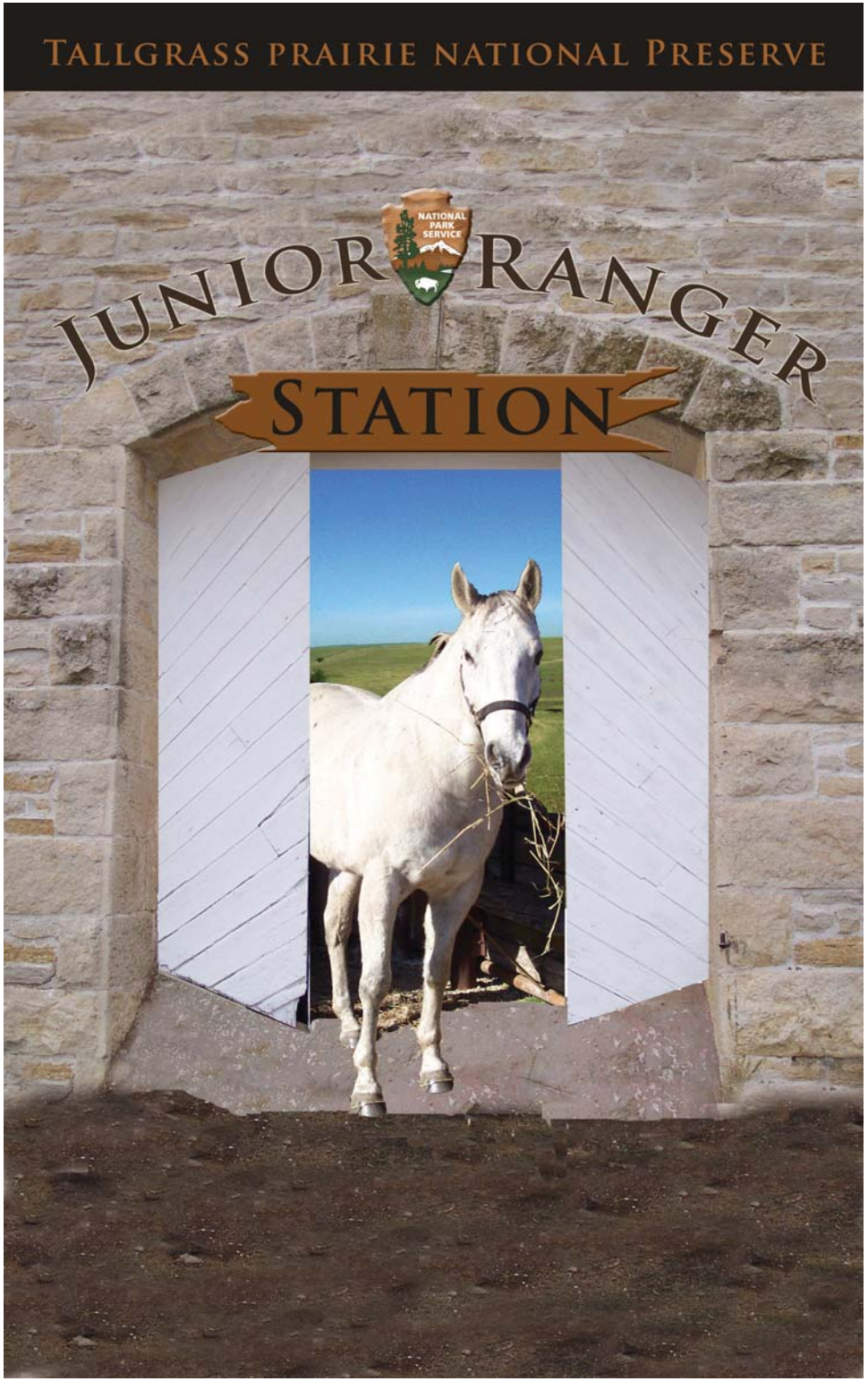
Signature, National Park Ranger

Stamp the National Passport Stamp Here.

Brand Badger's Stamp of Approval Here.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve

Junior Ranger Station



Hey Kids! Welcome to Badger's Junior Ranger Program

"Badger" and Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve are looking for special Junior Park Rangers to learn about the preserve, while protecting it for future generations.

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve was established on November 12, 1996 to preserve, protect, and interpret for the public an example of a tallgrass prairie ecosystem and the historic and cultural resources found on the Spring Hill Ranch.

Natural and cultural resources of the prairie are important to everyone. As you work your way through this activity booklet, you will learn about the prairie and its many features. The answers can be found by watching the video, reading the wayside exhibits and kiosks, exploring the buildings, and by observing nature. If you have any questions, please ask a Park Ranger, Volunteer, or "Badger" and they will be happy to assist you.

To earn a Junior Ranger badge, complete at least **five** activities and take it to a Park Ranger or Volunteer who will sign your booklet and present you with your badge. (Badger has difficulty holding a pencil.) If you are having fun, you are welcome to complete all of the activities in the booklet. When you are done, don't forget to sign your name and stamp the back of this booklet.

By working through the activities, you are learning about the many important prairie resources and how you can help protect them so that future generations may as well. As a Junior Ranger, it is your responsibility to help protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources not only at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, but at any National Park Service area in the country. Thank you for making a difference and for caring about your National Parks.

WELCOME TO TALLGRASS PRAIRIE NATIONAL PRESERVE!

To preserve unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the National Park System for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this, and future generations. The National Park System cooperates with partners for conservation and outdoor recreation throughout the country and the world.

Draw a picture of something you saw today at the preserve and want to remember. Be sure to tell your friends about the great time you and your family had and come see us again!

As you leave Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve, we hope you remember the lessons learned about the importance of protecting our special places, so that your children and future generations will have these same opportunities. Tell a friend what you have learned, and you too, will make a difference.

ACTIVITY 16:

Essay -What can I do to help preserve and protect the prairie and the environment?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

ACTIVITY 17:

Get To Know the Preserve (5 Senses)

Remember: Touch historic objects with your eyes only. The natural oils on your fingers damage paint. Please leave everything as you find it, so that others may enjoy it too.

2 things I saw _____ _____

2 things I heard _____ _____

2 things I smelled _____ _____

1 thing I touched _____

Did you taste anything? _____

ACTIVITY 1:

Know Your Prairie Preserve

Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is a unit of the National Park Service. It was established on _____.

The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve is the same shape as what letter of the alphabet?_____

How old is the preserve? ____ years

____ (this year)

- 1 9 9 6

____ years

In what state is the preserve located?

_____

How much land is here at Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve?

__ __, __ __ __ acres

11,000
- 106
acres

The Kansa Indians were the main tribe in this area. What does the word "Kansa" mean? **People of the**

_____

Hint: From what direction does the wind usually blow?

The National Park Service works together with another partner at the preserve. What is their name?

The N__ __ __ __ __
C __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

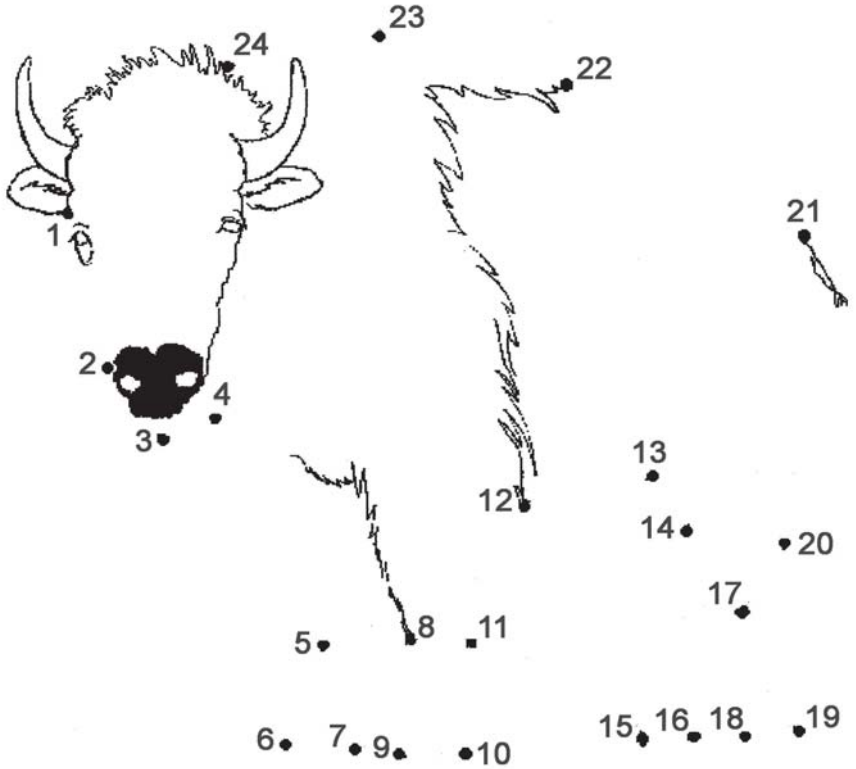
The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

(*outline of the preserve*)

RANGER'S INITIALS: _____

Complete the dot-to-dot to see who once roamed the prairie. At one time 30 - 60 million of these animals roamed the Great Plains area.

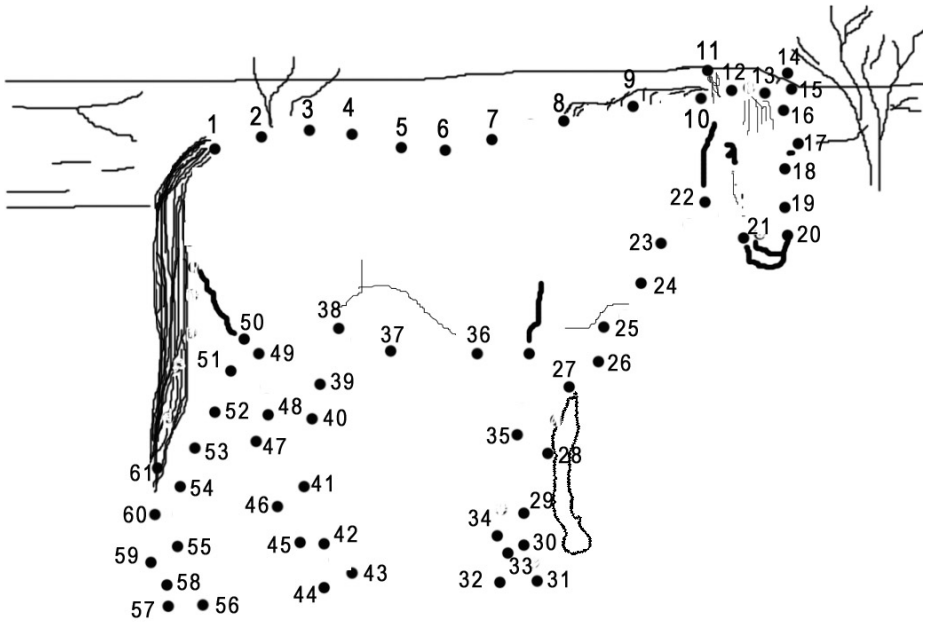


Hint: "Oh Give Me a Home,

Where the _____Roam,

Where the Deer and the Antelope Play...."

Complete the dot-to-dot to see what animal was so important to the ranch. Mr. Jones raised Hambletonians on the Spring Hill Farm and Stock Ranch.



WHAT'S MY NAME?_____

I AM A _____.

Find the words below in bold print.

Look close. Words may go left, right, up, down, or diagonal.

Have Fun!

P	A	R	K	V	F	P	R	A	I	R	I	E	Y	G
N	U	N	F	O	L	J	A	N	C	E	R	A	K	R
R	R	A	I	R	I	O	L	N	O	G	S	R	R	A
A	P	R	R	O	N	N	J	O	W	N	L	K	E	S
B	L	U	E	S	T	E	M	H	B	A	O	E	L	S
I	I	F	K	A	N	S	A	H	O	R	O	H	M	H
S	M	E	E	G	O	G	C	F	Y	K	H	O	S	O
O	E	N	U	E	A	N	E	C	O	R	C	R	Y	P
N	S	C	N	T	A	L	L	G	R	A	S	S	Q	P
S	T	E	E	R	C	H	O	O	L	P	I	E	D	E
C	O	T	T	O	N	W	O	O	D	S	M	E	I	R
S	N	H	O	U	S	T	I	N	R	O	O	F	W	P
X	E	U	G	S	O	U	T	H	W	I	N	D	H	E

Nature

Big **BLUESTEM**
BISON
TALLGRASS Prairie
PRAIRIE
FLINT Hills
LIMESTONE
American **ELM**
HORSE
STEER
COTTONWOOD
Prairie **FIRE**
GRASSHOPPER

Culture

OSAGE Nation
People of the **SOUTHWIND**
Spring Hill **RANCH**
Lower Fox Creek **SCHOOL**
National **PARK** Service
PARK RANGER
COWBOY
BARN
Stephen F. **JONES**
FENCE
KANSA
TIN ROOF

Know Your Tallgrass Prairie Wildlife

Draw a circle ◯ around the animals found at the preserve.
Draw an X through the animals that are not found at the preserve.

Plants and Grasses

How Do You Measure Up?

Tallgrass prairie grasses can grow over 6 feet tall. Measure yourself against the backdrop in the Junior Ranger Station and write down your height in feet and inches. What plant or animal do you "measure up to"?

I measure _____feet and _____inches.

I am as tall as _____.

What are the four common tall native warm season grasses found in the tallgrass prairie?

1. _____

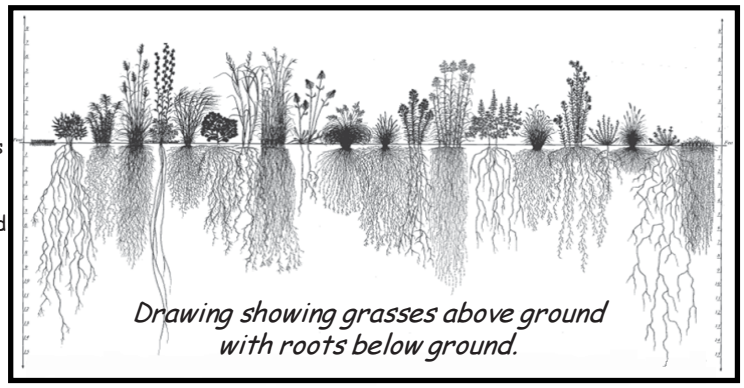
2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

How can I help protect the prairie and its features?

* Practice Leave No Trace Outdoor Ethics
* Stay on the trails
* Don't litter
* Pick up litter you find
* Leave flowers and grasses where you find them.
* Stay off the rock walls and fences.



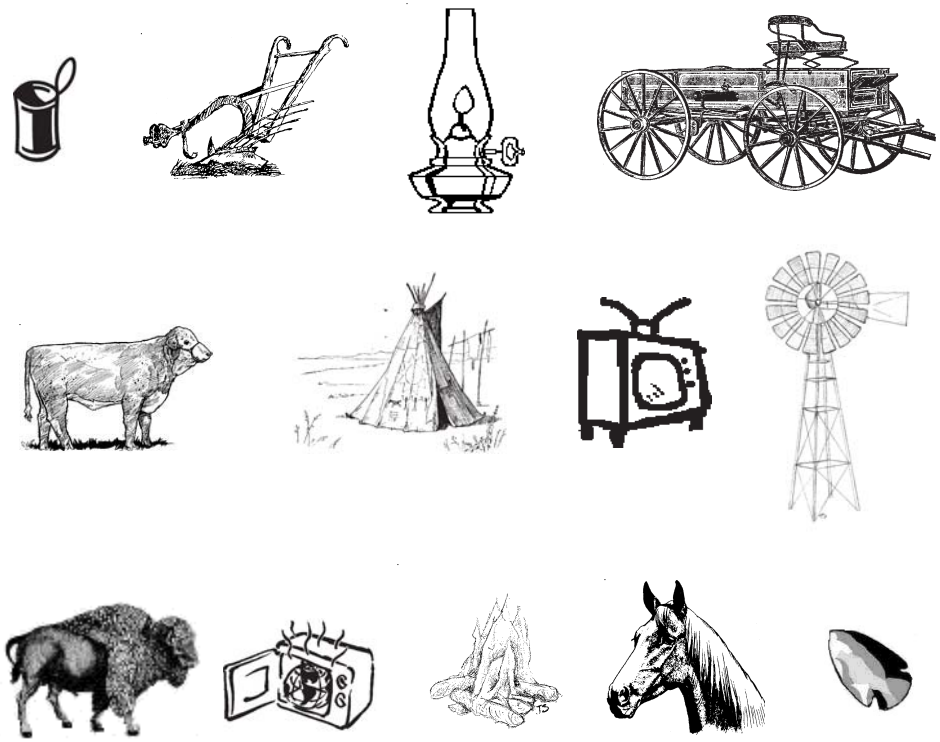
Drawing showing grasses above ground with roots below ground.

The land which is now Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve has been used by humans for around 10,000 years.

Draw a box ☐ around the items below that American Indians would have used.

Draw a circle ◯ around things Stephen Jones and his family would have used. (Be careful. Some things were used both by Mr. Jones and the American Indians.)

Draw an X through the items that neither would have used.

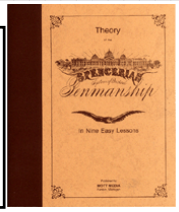


GREAT JOB!!!

Lower Fox Creek School #14

The school was built in 1882 and Mr. and Mrs. Jones' daughter Loutie attended school here. All eight grades were taught in this school. Children were taught spelling, reading, math, history, geography, and penmanship. Good handwriting was an important skill. Use your best handwriting to write a letter home, describing something you saw or experienced today during your visit to the preserve.

Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh
Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq
Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz



Pioneer Diaries Word Puzzle

The tallgrass prairie spread as far north as Canada and as far south as Mexico. Pioneers wrote in their diaries and journals about the many wonders of their travels as they crossed this wide expanse of prairie. It was a view that many had never experienced before. One of the common subjects among the pioneers was the height of the tallgrass prairie and the obstacles it created. It was often written that:

Use the Key to Decode the Sentence Below

1=A	4=T	7=R	10=L
2=E	5=H	8=S	11=D
3=O	6=G	9=W	12=N

“

4	5	2		6	7	1	8	8		6	7	2	9	

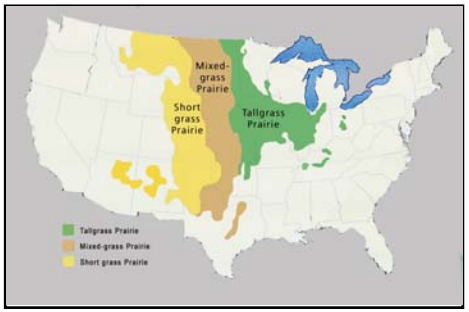
1	8		4	1	10	10		1	8		4	5	2	

”

8	1	11	11	10	2	5	3	7	12	

Tallgrass Prairie's Last Stand

The middle section of the United States was known as the Great Plains region, where prairie grasses grew for thousands of years. Three different prairies made up this central region; short grass, mixed grass, and tallgrass. Tallgrass prairie covered 170 million acres, mainly the eastern portion of the Great Plains. As rainfall decreased further west, so did the height of the prairie grasses. As people settled the middle section of the United States, less and less prairie survived. Today, less than _____% remains. What happened to most of the North American prairie?



_____

_____

_____

_____

Do You Know Your Tallgrass Prairie Grasses?

Match the grass picture to its name.

Switch grass

Indian grass

Little bluestem

Big bluestem
(turkey foot)

Name of building:_____

10. How many levels are inside the barn? _____

11. From what material is the building made?_____

_____

12. Name a piece of farm equipment that can be found in the barn.

_____

13. What was the equipment used for?_____

_____

14. How did the horses get the hay up to the top floor?

_____

_____

Extra Credit: Where does Badger live during the winter?_____

_____

Name of building:_____

15. What animals did Mr. Jones keep inside?

_____

Name of building:_____

16. How did the animals use this building?

_____

Name of building:_____

17. This building was built after Mr. Jones left the ranch. What was it used for?

_____

18. Mr. Jones built 30 miles of stone fences. What are they made of?_____

Historic Spring Hill Ranch Buildings

Mr. and Mrs. Jones came to Chase County in 1878 to build a cattle feeding station. He completed the house in 1881 and the barn and outbuildings in 1882, naming his ranch the Spring Hill Farm and Stock Ranch for the springs found on the hill behind the house. Learn more about the ranch by exploring the buildings and reading the waysides.

Name of building:_____

1. How many levels or floors are inside the Spring Hill Ranch house?_____

2. Mr. and Mrs. Jones completed their eleven room home in 1881. How old is the building? _____

20___ (This year)
-1881
____
____ years

3. Mr. and Mrs. Jones lived in the ranch house a very short time. Do the math to find the answer. _____

1886
-1881
____
____ years

Name of building:_____

4. How many seats are inside?_____

5. What am I built of?_____

Name of building:_____

6. What was I used for?_____

7. What am I built of?_____

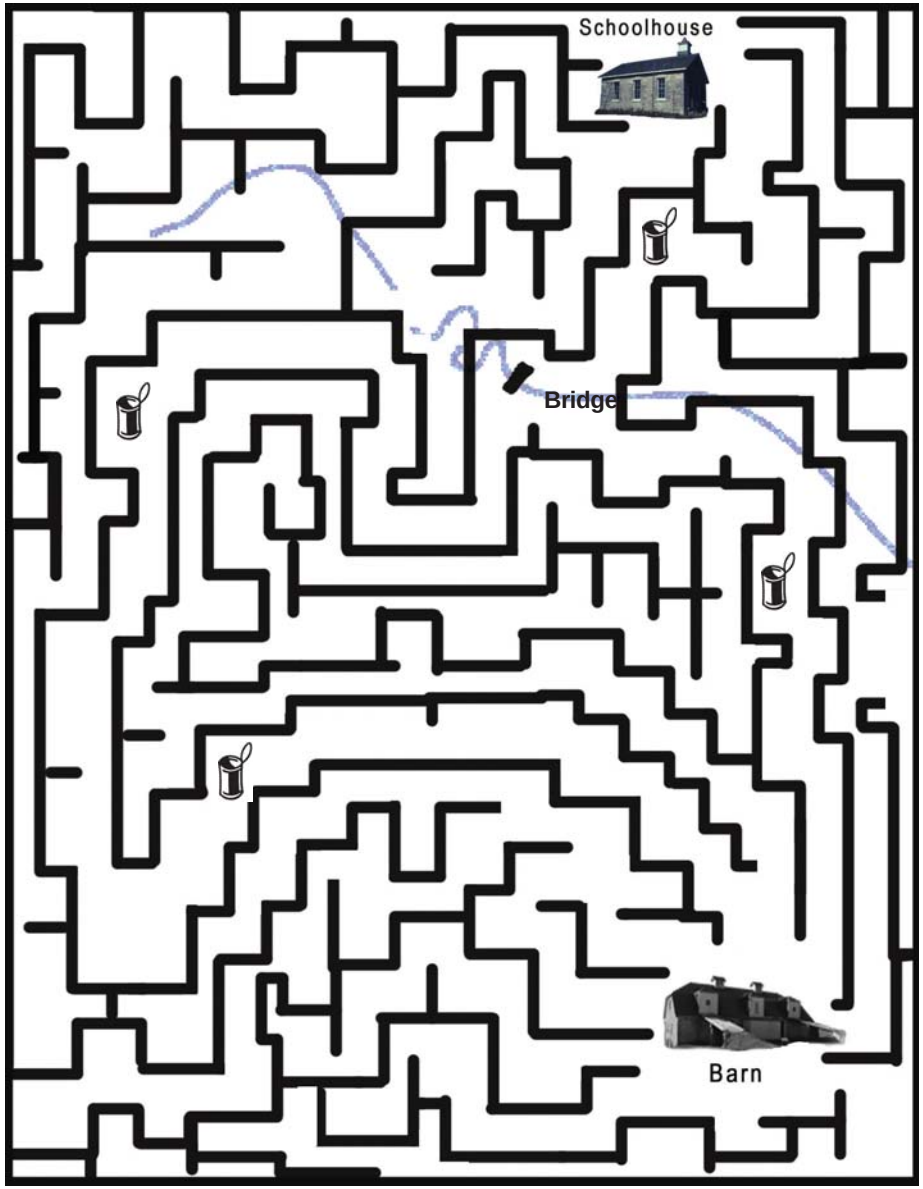
Name of building:_____

8. What was this used for?_____

9. What am I built of?_____

Southwind Nature Trail

Can you help Badger find his way to school? There are two paths to follow, but remember to cross the bridge and pick up any litter you find.

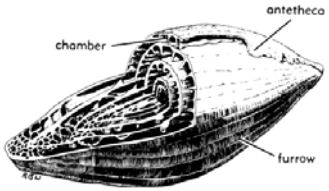


History Lesson: Children in the 1880s walked or rode horses to school in all weather. Mr. and Mrs. Jones' daughter Loutie attended the Lower Fox Creek School through the 8th grade.

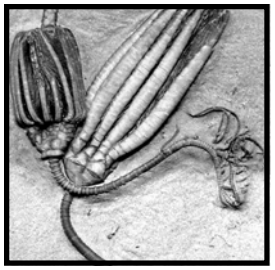
Geology "Rocks": Fossils, Geology, and Rock Fences

Millions of years ago Kansas was covered by a large body of water called an inland sea. It was full of invertebrates such as corals, clams, snails, crinoids, and brachiopods. When they died, their skeletons drifted to the bottom of the sea and were preserved in the lime mud of the sea floor. These lime muds eventually became limestone. Many fossils can be seen in the limestone building blocks or in the rock fences at the preserve.

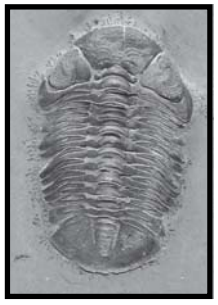
Your mission: Look close at the limestone blocks in the house and buildings, then draw a picture of the fossils you find.



Fusulinid



Crinoid



Trilobite

American Indian Culture

American Indian tribes of this area were represented by the Kansas, Osage, Wichita, and Pawnee nations. The bison, commonly known as buffalo, was very important to the survival and culture of the American Indian. Every part of the buffalo was used.

Your mission: Match each item with its use.

meat	food
hair	sewing thread
bladder	rope
sinew	hair brush
tongue	water vessel
buffalo robe	spoon
scapula (shoulder blade)	clothing / shelter
horn	hoe

Prairie Fire Facts

What did the American Indians call prairie fires? (2 words) The _____ _____

Lightning often started prairie fires. These fires would race across the prairie until they were stopped by a wide _____ or stream. (hint: The Mississippi is one.)

Fire helps keep the prairie healthy by clearing away the dead undergrowth of last year's prairie grass. It also prevents woody plants and _____ from taking over the prairie. (hint: They provide shade.)