



## **Essential Question**

**What are features of different animal habitats?**



***Go Digital!***



# Animal Homes

Hi! I'm an owl. I live in a special place in nature. I live in a forest habitat. Here's why:

- ▶ My feathers are the same colors as the trees. This helps me hide from predators.
- ▶ I can live inside this hole. My babies will be safe.

## Talk About It



Talk with a partner about why animals live in forest habitats. Write your ideas on the web.



# Vocabulary

Use the picture and sentence to learn each word.



**buried**

The car was **buried** in the deep snow.

What *buried* things have you found?



**escape**

The cat could **escape** through a hole in the fence.

What are *other* ways an animal could *escape* from a *backyard*?



**habitat**

Prairie dogs live in a desert **habitat**.

What *animals* live in a *forest habitat*?



**journey**

Maya and her family went on a **journey** in the woods.

What is *another* word for *journey*?



## nature

We walk in the woods because we like to be in **nature**.

*What do you like about nature?*



## peeks

While hiding, Kate **peeks** out from behind the tree.

*Show how a person peeks out from behind something.*



## restless

The child became **restless** during the long car ride.

*When have you felt restless?*



## spies

Carlos **spies** an eagle in the sky.

*What is a synonym for spies?*

## Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Pick three words. Write three questions for your partner to answer.

**Go Digital!** Use the online visual glossary

# A Prairie Guard Dog



## Essential Question

**What are features of different animal habitats?**

Read to learn about the place a prairie dog calls home.

I am on a **journey**. My trip is to a prairie. It is in the outdoor world called **nature**. Many animals live in a prairie **habitat**. This place has what prairie dogs need to survive. A prairie has a lot of grasses but few trees. Without places to hide, a prairie can be dangerous for some animals.

## Good Morning!

It is early in the morning. First, I see a prairie dog. I name him Pete. He **peeks** his head out of his **burrow** underground. He looks around. Then Pete calls loudly to his family, “Yip!” He lets them know it is safe to come out. Soon four prairie dogs come out.

**Prairie dogs build underground burrows to keep themselves safe from predators.**



Pete is the guard and he is **restless**. He cannot rest because he is always looking around for danger. This allows the other prairie dogs to safely munch on grasses and seeds. They can also groom each other or work on their burrow.

**Yap!**  
**Yap!**

Prairie dogs can make  
11 different sounds  
to communicate  
with each other.

## A Scare

Oh no! Pete **spies** a large badger! When he sees it, he gives a loud bark, “Yap! Yap!” His family recognizes the warning. Some hide in tall grasses, and some jump into the burrow. The badger runs at Pete, but the watchful guard is able to **escape** into the burrow. I am glad he is able to get away from danger.

After a few minutes, Pete peeks his head out again and he is back on the job.

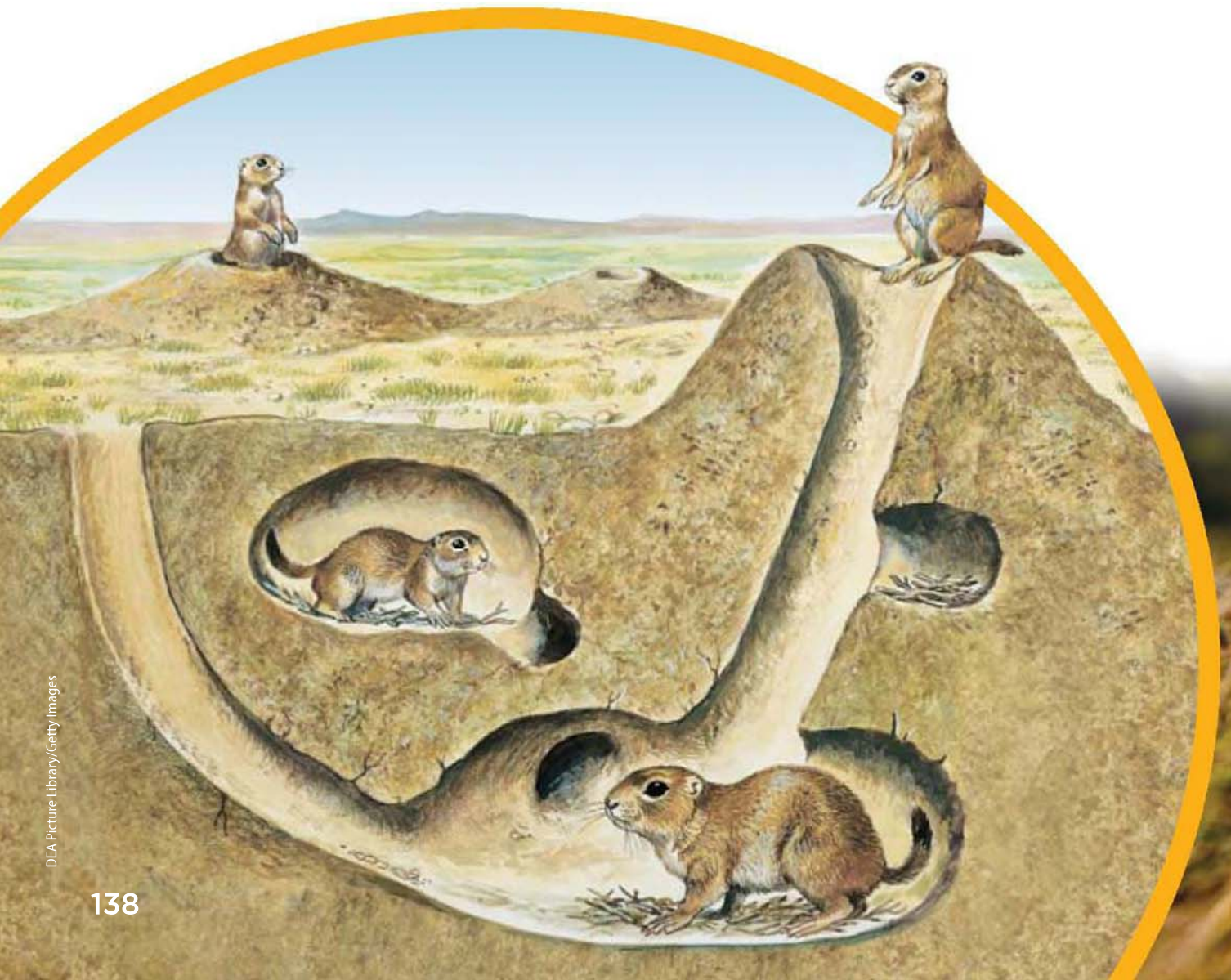


**Badgers live on prairies and hunt prairie dogs.**



## Break Time

The sun gets higher, and it is hot now. The prairie dogs slip into their deep burrow where it is cooler. Even Pete goes in. **Tunnels**, like hallways, lead to different areas. There is a sleeping room. There is a room used like a bathroom. The prairie dogs cover up roots and seeds in one room. Later, they eat the **buried** food there.



## Second Shift

I keep watching the burrow. Finally, the sun begins to set and a different prairie dog peeks its head out. I name him Gary. Pete must be off duty. “Yip,” Gary calls. The other prairie dogs come back out.

The prairie dogs eat and play until the moon is high in the sky. Then they go to sleep in their burrows. I wonder if Pete will be back on duty. I will see in the morning.

### Prairie Dog Facts

Size	12 to 15 inches tall
Weight	2 to 4 pounds
Habitat	short and medium grass desert prairies
Food	roots, seeds, leaves of plants, grasses
Shelter	underground burrows with many rooms
Predators	coyotes, bobcats, badgers, foxes, weasels

### Make Connections

What are two features of a prairie dog’s habitat?

#### ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What animal did the prairie dog remind you of?

#### TEXT TO SELF

