

Colorado Education Standards

Sixth grade:

- Changes in environmental conditions can affect the survival of individual organisms, populations, and entire species (Life science)
- Earth’s natural resources provide the foundation for human society’s physical needs. Many natural resources are nonrenewable on human timescales, while others can be renewed or recycled (Earth science)

Seventh grade:

- Individual organisms with certain traits are more likely than others to survive and have offspring in a specific environment (Life science)
- Analyze the relationship between structure and function in living systems at a variety of organizational levels, and recognize living systems dependence on natural selection. (Life science)

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

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303.289.0579 fax
rockymountainarsenal@fws.gov
https://www.fws.gov/refuge/rocky_mountain_arsenal/

Find us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/RMANationalWildlifeRefuge/>

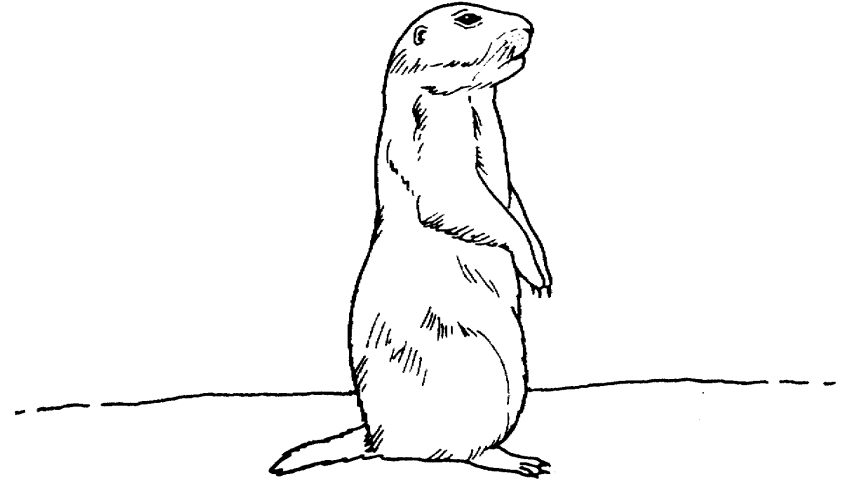
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>
1.800.344.WILD

March 2019



Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge

Sixth and Seventh Graders



Group Members

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Photo Scavenger Hunt

Directions: You will be working in a group of up to 4 for a photo scavenger hunt in the exhibit hall about the Refuge. Every member of your group must be visible in each photo and the item must be clearly pictured and identifiable.

Take a picture (with):	Group checklist	Teacher checklist
1. The bald eagle on a branch high above you		
2. Rosie the Riveter's "We Can Do It!" Or Uncle Sam's "I want you" poster		
3. The homestead windmill		
4. A black-footed ferret standing tall		
5. People dressed in prairie clothing		
6. A map of Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge		
7. A farm tractor tire tread		
8. A snake hunting a mouse		
9. An American crow egg		
10. Grama grass		

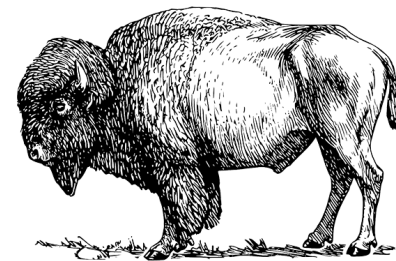
Thoughts for your ride home

Directions: Think about all you learned today at the Refuge with your group. Answer the questions below.

1. Why is the Refuge important?



2. How is the Refuge different from your neighborhood park?

Come see us again soon!



Blossoming Biodiversity

Directions: Sit quietly with your group by the windows in the Visitor Center and observe the prairie environment outside. Use the boxes below to draw what you see. Organize the information by abiotic (non-living) and biotic (living).

ABIOTIC	BIOTIC
	

Ecosystem Exploration

Directions: Choose a plant or animal from the prairie that you might have seen in the Visitor Center and are interested in exploring more. Answer the questions below.

1. What are some of the characteristics of the animal/plant?

2. How is it adapted to live in the prairie ecosystem?

3. What human activities take place in its habitat?

4. How has it been affected by human activity?

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge Anticipation Guide

Directions: Have a seat on the floor by the historic timeline in the exhibit hall. Read the statements below. Circle whether you agree or disagree in the “before” column. Then, after reading the article on the next page, discuss the statements with your group and complete the “after” column together.

Before	Statements	After
Agree/Disagree	1. The Rocky Mountain Arsenal was formed by the U.S Army to help fight in World War II.	Agree/Disagree
Agree/Disagree	2. The Refuge is a natural environment.	Agree/Disagree
Agree/Disagree	3. The Refuge is home to 100 species, some of which are endangered.	Agree/Disagree
Agree/Disagree	4. It costs money for people to visit the Refuge.	Agree/Disagree
Agree/Disagree	5. There are bald eagles here.	Agree/Disagree
Agree/Disagree	6. There are wild bison here.	Agree/Disagree
Agree/Disagree	7. There are elk and deer here.	Agree/Disagree
Agree/Disagree	8. There are burrowing owls here.	Agree/Disagree
Agree/Disagree	9. Black-footed ferrets were reintroduced here.	Agree/Disagree

Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge History

Known today as one of the largest urban wildlife refuges in the country, nomadic Native American tribes initially traversed this land following great herds of bison. Later, homesteaders developed family farms here. In 1942, the Rocky Mountain Arsenal was formed by the U.S. Army to produce and store weapons for WWII.

A small complex in the center of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal became contaminated after years of industrial production. In the 80’s the mission changed to environmental cleanup and habitat restoration. In the winter of 1986, officials discovered bald eagles roosting on site. Because of their status as an Endangered Species at the time, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began to manage them and the rest of the flourishing wildlife. This resulted in the eventual conversion of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal into a national wildlife refuge.

The Refuge is one of the most successful examples of a “restored ecosystem”. Notice the native grasses that now dominate the landscape? That was no accident. It required teams of specialists and years of ongoing hard work. The short and mixed-grass prairie habitat is home to over 330 native species of plants and animals including: burrowing owls, coyotes, mule and white-tailed deer. The iconic American bison and black-footed ferrets both have been successfully reintroduced as part of their nationwide conservation plans. Bison are one keystone species of the prairie. Their unique grazing behavior promotes the growth of native plants and controls weeds, while their urine and scat return valuable nutrients to the soil. Black-footed ferrets are still the rarest mammal in North America, and the Refuge may hold up to a quarter of their wild population.