



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. Meat
B. Birds
C. Plants
D. Fish
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A. Grasses and seeds
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A. It can house just one prairie dog
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A. Sharp teeth
B. Round teeth
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A. They don't hibernate, they migrate south.
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C. No, they don't
D. They only hibernate in summer
- 8) What is the main challenge in the relationship between humans and Utah prairie dogs?
A. They carry diseases
B. They are aggressive towards humans
C. Their burrows can disrupt farming
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A. Grass
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- 10) What color is the fur of a Utah prairie dog?
A. White
B. Black
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D. Gray

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!"



- 12) "Our home is in burrows that we dig in the ground, which keeps us safe from bad weather and scary predators."
- 13) "When it comes to food, we're pure vegetarians! We eat grasses and seeds, but a few insects sometimes make it onto our menu."
- 14) "We prairie dogs love to live in the lush, green forests of Utah."
- 15) "We live in the heart of the United States, in a place called Utah. It's a really nice area for us, with lots of grasslands and meadows."
- 16) "I'm a carnivore, I eat small animals and insects."
- 17) "Just like you, we need a lot of sleep to recharge our energy. We hibernate in winter, which means we sleep for a long time!"
- 18) "We spend most of our time swimming in the rivers and fishing. Water is our prime playground."
- 19) "We prairie dogs stay active all year round. Unlike some lazy animals, we don't hibernate in winter."
- 20) "I'm one of the largest rodents in the world."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 21) Utah prairie dogs live in the southwestern United States.
- 22) It's fascinating to learn that Utah prairie dogs sleep for such a long time during the winter.
- 23) Utah prairie dogs mainly feed on plants, particularly grasses and seeds.
- 24) The way Utah prairie dogs live in a large burrow network with hundreds of others is fascinating.
- 25) Utah prairie dogs make their homes in grasslands and meadows.
- 26) Utah prairie dogs are annoying as their burrowing can disrupt farming.
- 27) Utah prairie dogs' burrows can disrupt farming.
- 28) During the winter months, Utah prairie dogs hibernate.
- 29) Utah prairie dogs, with their brown fur, look pretty cute.
- 30) It is impressive how quickly Utah prairie dogs can disappear into their burrows when they sense danger.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 31) Utah prairie dogs hibernate during winter.
- 32) Utah prairie dogs don't hibernate because of the warm weather.
- 33) Utah prairie dogs are herbivores.
- 34) Utah prairie dogs live in eastern United States.
- 35) Utah prairie dogs live in the southwestern United States.
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Determine which choice is the expanded form of the underlined contraction.

- 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

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- 43)** Utah prairie dogs don't grow very large.

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- 44)** Prairie dogs can't fly, but they're great at digging burrows.

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- 45) They're the smallest species of prairie dogs in the United States.**

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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.

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- 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. <u>C</u> | 26. <u>opinion</u> | 51. <u>interrogative</u> |
| 2. <u>A</u> | 27. <u>fact</u> | |
| 3. <u>C</u> | 28. <u>fact</u> | |
| 4. <u>A</u> | 29. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 5. <u>A</u> | 30. <u>opinion</u> | |
| 6. <u>A</u> | 31. <u>true</u> | |
| 7. <u>B</u> | 32. <u>false</u> | |
| 8. <u>C</u> | 33. <u>true</u> | |
| 9. <u>D</u> | 34. <u>false</u> | |
| 10. <u>C</u> | 35. <u>true</u> | |
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