

Lessons and Activities to Supplement the

Life Along a Prairie River poster

Exploring the ecology of the wide and sandy rivers of the Great Plains

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Information for Educators

Dear Educators,

We hope you will enjoy bringing activities about prairie river ecosystems into your classrooms! This booklet is designed so that you can utilize the entire book or you can pick individual activities. Activities and lesson plans are appropriate for middle school level students, but can be modified for different age groups. We have covered a wide range of ecological topics and have emphasized prairie river ecosystems. We expect these activities will help you to explore ecological topics close to your “backyard.”

For ease of incorporating these activities into the classroom, we have included a “Copy Me” graphic at the bottom of pages to indicate which pages could be handed out to students to complete the activities. We have included a glossary of keywords, which you will find underlined throughout the booklet. For your reference, Appendix A lists the national and Oklahoma education standards addressed in each activity.

The activities culminate in a BioBlitz, tying together lessons in the booklet as well as many other science topics and skills. A schoolyard BioBlitz is a great opportunity for students to take their new knowledge out into nature! You can contact our office for support and more information about planning your BioBlitz.

This booklet and poster are on our Web site in PDF format and available for printing straight from the computer for your specific classroom needs. The project Web site also contains additional information about the topics covered in this activity booklet and a list of many other useful and reliable Web sites.

Feel free to send us any comments regarding the poster and this supplemental booklet. Your input will help us in the development of future posters and associated educational materials. Again, we hope you enjoy bringing prairie river ecosystems into your classrooms and talking to your students about the biodiversity all around them!

Thanks for your interest in promoting the natural diversity of prairie rivers!

Priscilla and **Sarah**

To request the full color, 28 x 22 inch poster that accompanies this guide, call (405) 325-7658 or go to our Web site: www.biosurvey.ou.edu.

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