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- ▶ Explore humane ways to resolve conflicts with skunks
- ▶ Learn more about rabbit housing and care
- ▶ Find information about low-cost spay/neuter surgery
- ▶ See options for parents to order home subscriptions of *Kind News*, now available for **\$10 each**, including six annual issues and a parents guide
- ▶ Download an activity sheet for your students



## Teachers Guide

JUNIOR EDITION: RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-4

**The theme of *Kind News* is kindness to people and animals and respect for natural habitats.** Its emphasis on humane values, such as fairness, compassion and responsibility encourages good character in children, and its colorful design, simple vocabulary and engaging subject matter help instill reading habits.

You are now receiving the **Junior edition** of *Kind News*. If you prefer a more challenging reading level, you may switch to the **Senior edition**. If you prefer a less challenging reading level, you may switch to the **Primary edition**. Please allow 6-8 weeks for your new edition to arrive.

### SUBSCRIPTION QUESTION?

WE WILL BE HAPPY TO HELP YOU. PLEASE CONTACT US AT:

[kindnews@humanesociety.org](mailto:kindnews@humanesociety.org)

TELEPHONE: 877.902.9757 (TOLL FREE) FAX: 818.487.4550



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# kind News™

## Teachers Guide

FEB/MAR  
2016

JUNIOR EDITION  
RECOMMENDED FOR GRADES 3-4

Each year since 1981, The HSUS and its affiliates have given the National Humane Teacher of the Year Award (formerly the National Kind Teacher Award) to a preschool-grade 12 teacher who has consistently incorporated humane education into his or her curriculum and/or motivated students to get involved in community service for animals. Nominate yourself or another teacher for this award by filling out the form at [humanesociety.org/humaneteacher](http://humanesociety.org/humaneteacher). The deadline for nominations is Feb. 15, 2016. The winner will be notified before the end of the 2015-2016 school year.



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THE HUMANE SOCIETY  
OF THE UNITED STATES

**FLIP OVER!**

Turn the page for  
Common Core  
activities to use in  
your classroom.

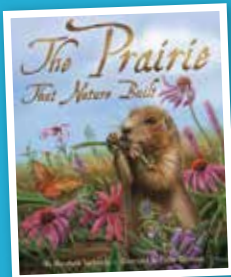


## COMMON CORE-ALIGNED ACTIVITIES

**SL.3-4.4 Report on a topic, sequencing ideas logically and using appropriate facts and relevant, descriptive details to support main ideas or themes; speak clearly at an understandable pace.** Invite students to become news correspondents for your classroom. Have each student choose a place in the world where they would like to travel, then choose an animal in that part of the world to study. After they've done research on their chosen subject, set a date to turn your classroom into a "newsroom" where each student reports his or her findings. Ask that they include relevant information about the status of the animal, and if the animal is threatened or endangered, explain why that's the case and how humans can help protect the animal.

**SL.3-4.1 Engage in a range of collaborative discussions, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.** After students have completed the online worksheet "It's a Green Life," discuss how animals use their appearance to hide from predators. Can students name other animals who use color to blend into their surroundings? (Polar bears and snowshoe hares, for example, blend into the snow). What about animals with patterns on their bodies such as leopards, zebras and spotted fawns? How might these patterns keep animals safe from predators—or help them sneak up on prey? Some critters look like something they're not. For example, walking sticks stand perfectly still, appearing to be just another twig on a branch. Can students think of other examples of animals using camouflage?

## BOOK NOOK



After your students have guessed the mystery critter, share with them *The Prairie That Nature Built* by Marybeth Lorbiecki. Gorgeous illustrations by Cathy Morrison as well as the author's rich, repetitive verse give readers a clear vision of life on the prairie and

how its plants and animals rely on the prairie ecosystem for survival. The author provides a "Prairie Primer" and activities at the back of the book to supplement your discussion. A free app is also available from the publisher.



## ANSWER KEY

### Critter Clues FROM PAGE 7

Our mystery critter is a **prairie dog**, named by early pioneers for the way the animal barks and yips. Their different calls are a prairie dog's alarm system, warning other prairie dogs of danger. 🦫 Members of the rodent family (that also includes groundhogs), prairie dogs live in large "towns" or colonies, with each family occupying its own underground house or tunnel system. A burrow has areas that serve as the kitchen, bathroom, living room and bedrooms. 🦫 Considered by some as pests, prairie dogs are often poisoned and shot for sport and their colonies are bulldozed to make way for new construction. 🦫 But prairie dogs need our protection. Scientists have named them a "keystone species," because so many other animals depend on them as food or for shelter. Many other animals move into and live in prairie dog burrows. 🦫 Learn how to help prairie dogs at [prairiedogcoalition.org](http://prairiedogcoalition.org).

### February 23 is World Spay Day!

FROM PAGE 7

R E D U C E  
H E A L T H  
N U M B E R  
B E H A V I O R  
I M P R O V E  
C O S T  
S A V E

Spaying and neutering are good for **rabbits** too.



### Kind Quiz

FROM PAGE 8

- 1 The author used Jaecee Rae's last name (Carr) as a play on words. Students' answers will vary.
- 2 It should be at least 5 feet long.
- 3 People often don't realize the amount of care that rabbits require. As a result, they lose interest in or are unable to care for the animals.
- 4 Obey the skunk's warning and move away slowly and quietly.
- 5 They observed her pouncing on her food as she would in a hunt.

### Online Activity Sheet

IT'S A GREEN LIFE

- |     |     |     |     |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1 c | 3 g | 5 f | 7 e |
| 2 a | 4 b | 6 d |     |