

6

Go to the short-grass prairie and find the playa lake with the tadpoles swimming in it. These tadpoles will grow to become adult frogs! Show the order of the frog life cycle by writing the correct number (1–4) under each picture.



2



4



1



3

**Playa lakes are hollows in the ground that fill with water at certain times of the year. When playa lakes are full, they are home to numerous species of amphibians, fish and invertebrates. The species that can be found in playa lakes depends on the time of the year that they fill with water.**

## CAN YOU FIND ME?

7



Can you find this hog-nose snake in the short-grass prairie?

The hog-nose snake's color blends into the brown sand. This helps it hide from predators like the red-tailed hawk, or sneak up on its prey.

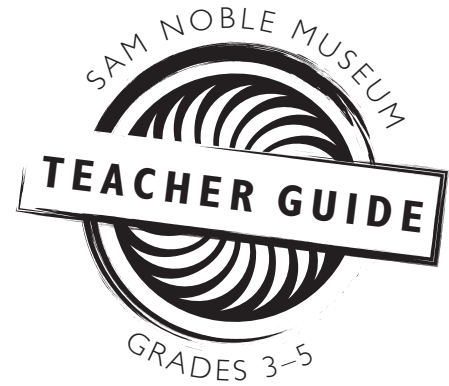
Can you find two other snakes in the short grass prairie that are the same color? What are they called?

**Bullsnake**

**Rattlesnake**

**Many animals in drier areas of the prairie are tan or brown in color. This enables them to blend in with their surroundings, either to avoid predators or to hunt prey.**

# HALL OF NATURAL WONDERS



Welcome to the Sam Noble Museum!

These gallery activities are designed to be facilitated by an adult and completed by the student or group of students.

Gallery Guides are available for each of the museum's three permanent galleries.

## THE HALL OF NATURAL WONDERS

The Hall of Natural Wonders allows you and your students to experience the different ecosystems in Oklahoma.

Explore the Ozark Highlands, where you can see oak-hickory forests, upland streams and life in a limestone cave. Then, head to the mixed-grass prairie to learn about Oklahoma's state animal, the bison. Finish with the short-grass prairie, home to pronghorns, prairie dogs and burrowing owls!

## QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

(Complete as you tour the gallery or after you are finished!)

1. As you move through the gallery, observe the animals in each ecosystem. How do they look different?
2. Do the environments of Oklahoma's ecosystems look the same? If not, How are they different?
3. What adaptations do animals have to help them survive in their ecosystem?



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For accommodations on the basis of disability, please call (405) 325-4712.



1. Begin at the Hall of Natural Wonders, located on the second floor. The gallery entrance has pictures of plants and animals covering the wall.
2. Explore the gallery together to find the answers to the questions below.
3. Start your journey at the sign marking the Upland Stream in the Ozark Highlands.

1

The Ozark Highlands are home to many different kinds of animals.

Draw one of the animals you see in the forest below.

**The Ozark Highlands support many types of habitats and animals. Oak-Hickory forests are home to squirrels, white-tailed deer and many species of birds! Upland streams house fish, otters, insects and reptiles; and limestone caves hide bats, crayfish and salamanders!**

## CAN YOU FIND ME?

2



Fish come in many colors and sizes, but all have features that help them live in water. Find the different fish in the deep pool below the bear!

Write two things all these fish have that help them live under water.

**Scales, fins, tail, gills**

**The different species of fish in the world all share basic features that help them survive in their environment. Among these features are gills, to take in oxygen in the water; fins and tails, to help them swim; and scales to help protect them.**

3

Enter the limestone cave and look around for groups of animals. There are many reasons animals live in groups.

Find a group of animals in the cave that are huddled together to stay warm while they sleep. What are they? (circle one)

Raccoons

**Bats**

Bison

**Did you know that there are 22 species of bat in Oklahoma? Three of these species, the Indiana bat, gray bat and Ozark big-eared bat, are endangered. In general, bats eat a variety of foods, including fruit, insects and nectar; Oklahoma bats prefer insects.**

4

Find the bison in the mixed-grass prairie. A prairie is a wide-open place with lots of grass and few trees. Without much shade, how do bison keep cool?

**Wallowing**

**Bison are highly adapted to life on the prairie. They eat many types of grass, have thick hides to protect them from predators and practice wallowing, or rolling in dusty areas, to keep cool. Bison even grow two coats of hair; a thick winter coat and a thinner, lighter summer coat.**

## CAN YOU FIND ME?

5



Oklahoma's state wildflower is the **Indian Blanket**. It is thought that its name comes from the colors of the petals, which look like the colors woven into Native American blankets.

**Oklahoma designated the Indian blanket as the official state wildflower in 1986. Also called "firewheel," the Indian Blanket flower is a symbol of Oklahoma's scenic beauty as well as the state's Native American heritage.**