

Prairie Dogs Have Their Own Towns

Have you ever heard an animal make a high-pitched barking sound, and then dive into a hole in the ground? If you have, you may have seen a prairie dog. Prairie dogs are about the size of rabbits, but have shorter ears. Although they are called prairie dogs, they are not really dogs. In fact, they are related to squirrels and chipmunks. However, unlike those other animals, prairie dogs live in large groups called “towns.” 1

If you walk into a prairie dog town, you won’t find any streets or stores. Instead, you will see grassy land with hundreds of holes in it. Occasionally, you might notice a prairie dog climbing out of its hole and running over to visit another burrow. 2



Besides the fact that they are social, there is another reason prairie dogs live in towns. Living in large groups is safer than living alone. If a hungry hunter such as a fox or an owl comes by, a prairie dog’s neighbour barks a warning. When a warning bark is sounded, all the prairie dogs in the town dive into their deep burrows, where it is safe. 3

Prairie dogs live on the prairies—vast areas of flat grassland in Western Canada. They dig their deep burrows close to other burrows. Prairie dogs like to have many neighbours. Some prairie dog towns are very large and are home to thousands of prairie dogs. Seeing many holes in the ground is a good way to know that you have found a prairie dog town. 4

1 What is paragraph 1 mainly about?

- how prairie dogs dive
- where prairie dogs live
- what prairie dogs look like
- how prairie dogs make a barking sound

2 What does the word “burrow” mean as used in paragraph 2?

- a large group
- a prairie dog town
- a prairie grassland
- an underground hole

3 What does the title tell the reader?

- Prairie dog towns have many streets.
- Prairie dogs store their food in one place.
- Prairie dogs live together in a community.
- Prairie dogs build homes on flat grasslands.

4 What does the word “neighbour” refer to in paragraph 3?

- a prairie dog
- the next town
- a hungry hunter
- the people nearby

5 Explain how a prairie dog town is the same as or different from a town for people. Use details from the text to support your answer.

6 Explain why prairie dogs live in large groups. Use details from the text to support your answer.

