

Measuring Prairie Plants

Materials Needed:

Print-outs of “Prairie Plant Heights”

Measuring Tapes

Masking Tape

Time:

30 minutes

Skills:

Math (measuring, comparing)

Science (prairie ecosystems, prairie plants, adaptations)

Procedure:

Provide Students with copies of the “Prairie Plant Heights” sheets.

In groups of 2-4, have students pick 5 prairie plants to measure. Instruct students to measure the height of their prairie plant species on the floor and mark the heights with masking tape. It should be noted that most prairie plants have a range of growth heights.... for this reason, instruct students to use the “Measuring Heights” on the “Prairie Plants Heights” print-out.

Have students compare their height with those of the prairie plants....Are they taller than a Big Bluestem? Shorter than a Black-eyed Susan?

Prairie Plant Heights

Plant	Height Range	Measuring Height
Buffalo Grass	6-8"	8"
Little Bluestem	2-4'	3'
Blue Gramma	1-2'	1.5'
Sideoats Gramma	1-3'	2'
Prairie Dropseed	1-2'	1.5'
Big Bluestem	3-8'	7'
Switchgrass	3-5'	4'
Indian Grass	3-6'	6'
Black-eyed Susan	1-3'	1.5'
Goldenrod	1-3'	1.5'
Swamp Milkweed	2-4'	3'
Maximilain Sunflower	3-5'	4'
Rattlesnake Master	3-4'	3.5'
Compass Plant	4-8'	7'
Prairie Gayfeather	3-6'	5'
Purple Prairie Clover	1-3'	2'
Rose Verbana	18-24"	22"
Spiderwort	2-3'	2.5'
Rough Blazing Star	4-6'	5'
Rosin Weed	4-6'	5'
Lead Plant	18"-3'	2'
Evening Primrose	< 12"	8"
Aster	2-4'	3'
Wild Indigo	2-3'	2.5'
Beardtounge	1-2'	1.5'