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BLACK-
FOOTED
FERRET



GETTING TO KNOW...

THE BLACK-FOOTED FERRET

Region & Habitat	Grasslands
Classification	Mammal
Size	1.5 - 2.5 pounds and 16 inches
Nocturnal or Diurnal	Nocturnal
Conservation Status	Endangered (population increasing)
Average Lifespan	1-3 years in wild and 4-6 in captivity
Gestational Period	43 days, between 1 and 6 kits
Diet	Carnivore
Scientific name	Mustela Nigripes
Fun Fact	Female ferrets are called "jills", males are "hobs" and young are "kits"

The Black-Footed Ferret, also called the Black-Eyed Ferret due to its "bandit" style mask marking on its face, has a long thin body with short legs and strong claws. Besides the black mask around its eyes it sports large, rounded ears on the side of its triangular head, a white muzzle, forehead, and throat, and a black nose. Their vocabulary consists of chatters, chuckles, barks, and hisses.

Out of the three ferret species in existence, the Black-Footed ferret is the only one native to the North American prairie. A solitary animal spending most of its time underground, they're active above ground only from dusk to mid-morning. They eat, sleep, and raise the young in dens called burrows. Despite their size, these animals are carnivores, with prairie dogs being their main food, but they have also been known to eat ground squirrels, rabbits, and birds.

The Black-Footed Ferret was actually declared extinct in 1979 until being rediscovered on a ranch in Wyoming in 1981. Today, with only about 400 in the wild, these creatures are one of the most endangered mammals in North America. Since one ferret can eat up to 100 prairie dogs in a year they must be reintroduced into locations with colonies of prairie dogs. Efforts to reintroduce the Black-Footed Ferret have been made in a range from Wyoming, South Dakota, Montana, Arizona, Colorado, Utah, Kansas and Chihuahua, Mexico. To this day, their existence remains under threat from predators, such as golden eagles, owls, and coyotes.

WORD SEARCH

B E P G W V Q Q C G D N
S L R K O T I J I L L O
G R A S S L A N D S B R
P Q I C E F Y T K O N T
O H R M K W W S H M F H
L U I N G F A L S Q E A
E N E F K M O W U M R M
C T D S T I O O L P R E
A E O S V R T S T U E R
T R G L R N J S N E T I
H S S U Z P N M C T D C
A Z B J W Q G V W T S A

Polecat

Hunters

Kits

Jill

Grasslands

Prairie Dogs

Black Footed

Hob

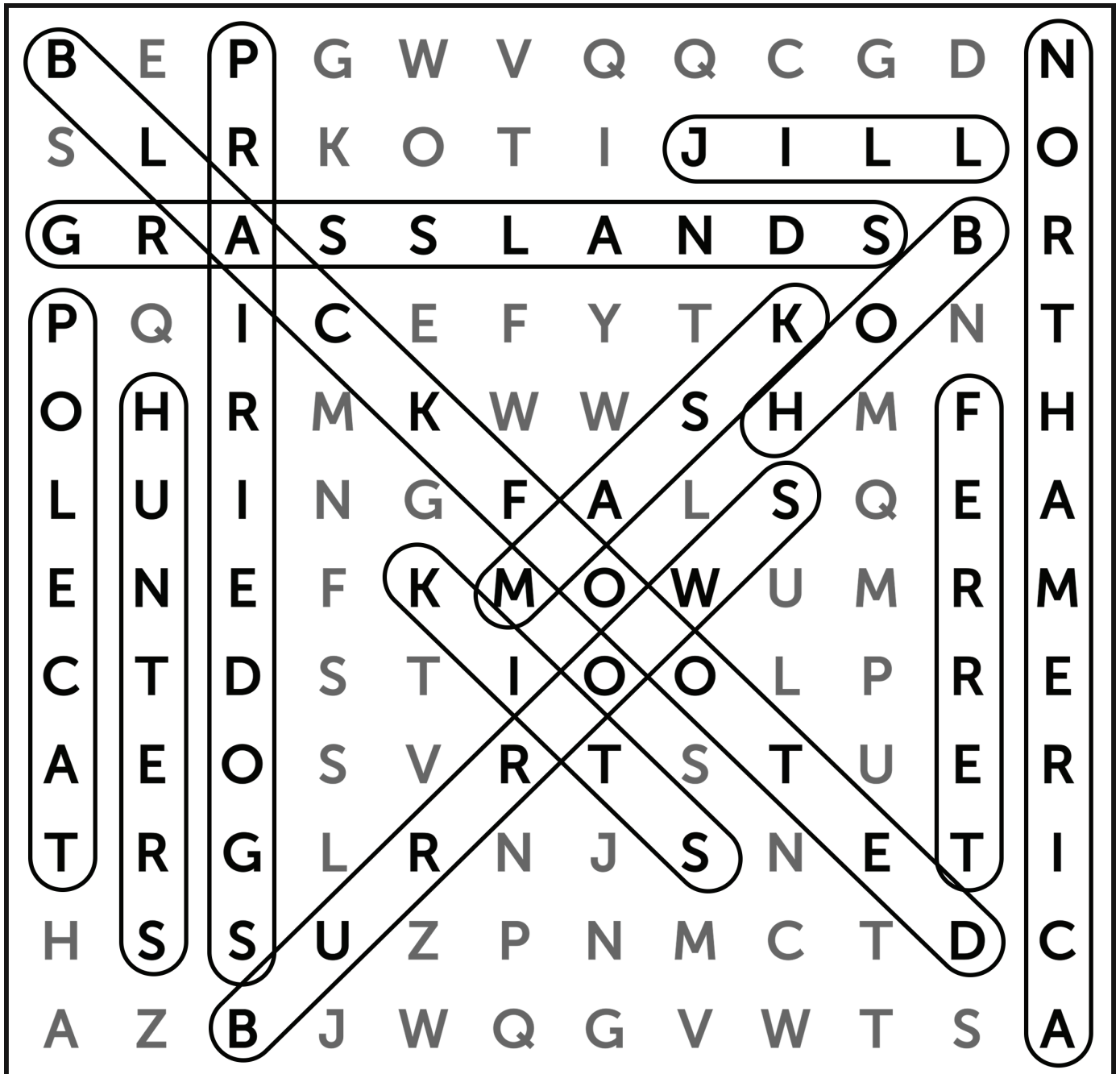
Ferret

North America

Mask

Burrows

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION



LEARN HOW TO DRAW THE BLACK-FOOTED FERRET

