

Custer State Park

Middle and High School Programs

Middle School



BISON GENETICS 101

MS-LS1-4, MS-LS-5, MS-LS2-1, MS-LS3-2, MS-LS4-4

LEARN ABOUT THE GENETIC HISTORY OF THE CUSTER STATE PARK BISON HERD. HOW DID THE FOUNDING MEMBERS OF THE HERD PRODUCE THE BISON WE SEE TODAY? HOW DOES HERD GENETICS INFLUENCE MANAGEMENT DECISIONS?

PREDATORS INFLUENCE

MS-LS2-1, MS-LS2-2, MS-LS2-4

PREDATORS AFFECT THE ENTIRE ECOSYSTEM. HUMANS INFLUENCE THIS ALREADY COMPLEX INTERACTION BETWEEN PREDATOR AND PREY POPULATIONS. WE WILL MODEL PREY AND PREDATOR POPULATION FLUCTUATIONS AND EXAMINE HOW THE BEHAVIOR OF PREY CHANGES WITH OR WITHOUT A PREDATOR'S PRESENCE.



High School

FERRETS AND PRAIRIE DOGS

HS-LS4-6

PRAIRIE DOGS ARE A KEYSTONE SPECIES, MEANING THEY CREATE A NICHE ENVIRONMENT FOR OTHER SPECIES. WE WILL EXPLORE THE WAY PRAIRIE DOGS ALTER THEIR ENVIRONMENT TO PROVIDE HABITAT FOR OTHER SPECIES. WE WILL ALSO DISCUSS THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF THE ENDANGERED BLACK FOOTED FERRET, AN ANIMAL DEPENDENT ON THE PRAIRIE DOG FOR SURVIVAL.



FIRE: FRIEND OR FOE?

HS-LS2-6

FIRE IS ONE OF MANY COMPLEX INTERACTIONS THAT INFLUENCE ECOSYSTEMS. FIRE'S PRESENCE OR ABSENCE ON THE LANDSCAPE HAS THE POWER TO HELP MAINTAIN A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM AND THE POWER TO ALTER AN ECOSYSTEM. WE WILL STUDY LANDSCAPE CHANGES AFTER A FIRE.

**Bring Custer State Park into Your Classroom
with these Hands-On Learning Opportunities**

Contact Us: 605-255-4515 Custerstatepark@state.sd.us

