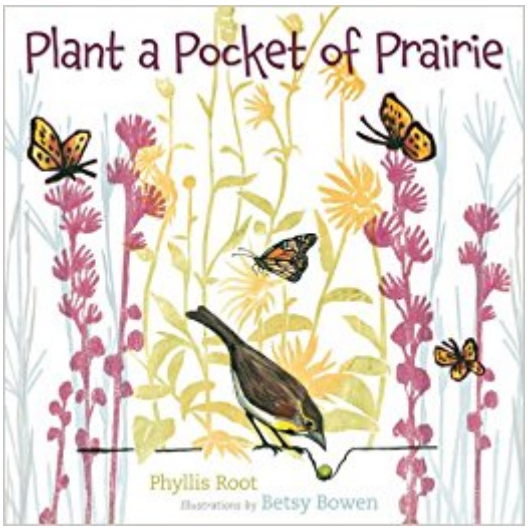
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Plant A Pocket Of Prairie



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Synopsis

Author Phyllis Root and illustrator Betsy Bowen last explored the vast, boggy peatlands of northern Minnesota in their book Big Belching Bog. Now, in Plant a Pocket of Prairie, Root and Bowen take young readers on a trip to another of MinnesotaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s important ecosystems: the prairie.Once covering almost 40 percent of the United States, native prairie is today one of the most endangered ecosystems in the world. Plant a Pocket of Prairie teaches children how changes in one part of the system affect every other part: when prairie plants are destroyed, the animals who eat those plants and live on or around them are harmed as well. Root shows what happens when we work to restore the prairies, encouraging readers to Ã¢â ¬Å“plant a pocket of prairieÃ¢â ¬Â• in their own backyards.By growing native prairie plants, children can help re-create food and habitat for the many birds, butterflies, and other animals that depend on them. Ã¢â ¬Å“Plant cup plants,Ã¢â ¬Â• Root suggests. Ã¢â ¬Å“A thirsty chickadee might come to drink from a tiny leaf pool. Plant goldenrod. A Great Plains toad might flick its tongue at goldenrod soldier beetles.Ã¢â ¬Â• An easy explanation of the history of the prairie, its endangered status, and how to go about growing prairie plants follows, as well as brief descriptions of all the plants and animals mentioned in the story.With Betsy BowenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s beautiful, airy illustrations capturing the feel of an open prairie and all its inhabitants, readers of all ages will be inspired to start planting seeds and watching for the many fascinating animals their plants attract. What a marvelous transformation could take place if we all planted a pocket of prairie!

Book Information

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Environment

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

Customer Reviews

Gr 1Ã¢â ¬â œ4Ã¢â ¬â •This exploration and imaginative re-creation of the prairie habitat that once covered almost 40 percent of the United States is much more than a mere gardening book. Double-page woodblocks on stark white backgrounds depict the habitat replaced by wheat farms and cattle ranches. The delicate colors belie the strength and importance of these grasses and flowers in creating a self-sustaining environment for animals and insects. Free verse poems invite readers to plant flowers and reconstruct pockets of lost prairie in backyards and on balconies to entice insects and birds to return, such as butterfly weed to attract monarch butterflies or rough blazing star for great spangled fritillaries. A map shows the once extensive prairie in Minnesota and the less than one percent now remaining, while the plant list will inspire the planting of at least some of the 14 recommended flowers and grasses. Perhaps all the seven prairie birds, nine butterflies and insects, four reptiles and amphibians listed and described will visit, and with a lot of luck, a bison or elk may just show up as well. A beautiful and informative offering that will be snapped up from any display.Ã¢â ¬â •Frances E. Millhouser, formerly at Fairfax County Public Library, VA

"In lilting, free-verse passages, [Root] lets kids know that even small plots of native plants can replicate prairie conditions. BowenÃ¢â ¬â„¢s woodblock illustrations lend the right low-tech, homemade feel to the pages."Ã Â Ã¢â ¬â •Publishers Weekly"Could well inspire a new generation of conservationists." Ã¢â ¬â •Kirkus Reviews"Although the description here is of the inhabitants of a Midwestern prairie, the conservation and restoration message is universal." Ã¢â ¬â •Horn Book Magazine"Plant a Pocket of Prairie is one of the spring season’s most beautiful and useful books." Ã¢â ¬â •Pioneer Press

Timely, accurate information, beautiful pictures. It would be helpful for any organization working to instill in children a love and care for the natural world; as well as an appreciation for the way "things were".As a long time practitioner of the practice of planting "Prairie Pockets" this book could also be a simple guide for adults starting to plant natives in their own yards.I’m getting a few more books to share with interested folks.

While the focus of this book is on Minnesota prairie and wildlife, the principles in regard to building a small prairie in your backyard certainly apply to a lot of other places. I loved how the author and illustrator go through the building of a prairie from one plant and animal to more and more until a full-blown prairie has taken root. I enjoyed hearing about the different animals and plants and how interconnected their lives were. It was sad though to think how little prairie is left in its natural state. This book would make a great teaching tool for teaching about the prairie habitat as well as teaching about environmental repair. A great resource and enjoyable look at the beauty of the natural world that we would do well to take care of before it’s gone altogether.

Although the book is based in Minnesota, the prairie plant drawings are beautiful and the information is accurate and easily applicable to nearby Michigan, where I live. It is a great book to introduce prairie and native plants to children.

Wonderful to introduce why we should care about the most endangered ecosystem - and feel like you can help! Inspired writings at school. Beautiful pictures.

This should be a part of every child’s earth science education. We are loosing too much prairie land and the life that grows within.

Sweet little bookÃƒÂ Ã Å¸Ã ËœÃ Å

Christmas gift to spouse= perfect

Plant a Pocket Of Prairie is a book I am head over heels for.I am so thankful that this book has come into our lives.I feel like the author took a thread of my thoughts and ran with it when coming up with this gem.Plant a Pocket of Prairie is a book about attempting to save the prairies geared towards kids.But it is also so much more than that.Plant a Pocket Of Prairie engages the reader with beautiful illustrations and a great story.You can’t help but love this book.But what I loved almost as much as the beautiful poetic words and gorgeous illustrations was the fact they went above and beyond with this book. Included in the back you find a glossary, you also find a section on the animals, birds and plant life you would find in the prairie as well as a how to to plant your own pocket of prairie.The educational component with this book is amazing. You could really use this book and start a whole unit on prairies for a young child. A great tool for homeschooling families, as

well as schools and libraries everywhere.Even very young children appreciate this book. Kidlet was all over this book the second I took it from the fedex envelope.Not quite three and we have read this numerous times at her insistence.Definitely a top five favourite.LOVE this book so much.Don’t miss this book. It is a gem.I will be buying this book for every new baby, because it really stole my heart and ran away with it.

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