Prairie Management Game

GAME MATERIALS:

- PRAIRIE MANAGEMENT POWER POINT SLIDES
- PRAIRIE NOTES WORKSHEET
- GAME BOARD
- RANGE TOOLS CARDS
- PRAIRIE FACT CARDS
- SIX-SIDED DIE
- GAME PIECES

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Show prairie management power point slides to class.
   a. Reading Strategy
      i. Choral Reading – As you move through the power point, have a student read each section with you.
      ii. After each slide ask:
           1. Are there any words you do not understand?
           2. Are there vocabulary words we should remember?
   b. Note Strategy
      i. Have students take notes on the Prairie Notes Page during the powerpoint presentation.

2. Play the Prairie Management Game!
   a. Set up
      i. Shuffle the Prairie Fact Cards and Range Tools Cards. Place the tools cards face down on the marked space on the game board. Place the fact card beside the game board.
      ii. Select a game piece and place it on “start”
      iii. Roll the die to see who goes first. Play passes to the left.
   b. Game Play
      i. Roll the die and move the number of spaces shown.
      ii. If you land on a space with Hank on it, another player will ask you a question from a Prairie Fact Card. (All questions are True/False)
3. If you answer correctly, draw an Range Tools Card and remain on the same space until your next turn. If answered incorrectly, do not draw a card and remain on the same space until your next turn.
4. Keep Range Tool cards for use when a range problem arises.
   i. If you land on a Range Problem space, select the correct tool to solve the problem from your Range Tools Card. If you do not have the correct card, follow directions on the Range Problem space.
   ii. Winner is the first player to reach the last square on the game board.
   iii. Tie – if 2 or more players reach the end at the same time, the player with the most Range Tool cards is the winner.

STUDENT SKILLS ASSESSMENT:

Quiz class using the Prairie Fact Cards.
Prairie Management Game

SECURITY BRIEFING —

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HANK THE COWDOG:

When the prairie is healthy, so is the ranching business! Ranchers must manage where, when and how much grass cattle eat. This is a job that takes a lot of knowledge and careful observation of the prairie. Another name for this job is RANGE MANAGER.

Range managers care for our country’s vast rangelands. They maintain plants for forage; wildlife for aesthetics and hunting; livestock for meat, milk, and fiber production; and clean water. Let’s test your ranch management skills in the Prairie Management Game.

PLAY THE PRAIRIE MANAGEMENT GAME!

a. Set up
   i. Shuffle the Prairie Fact Cards and Range Tools Cards. Place both stacks face down on the marked spaces on the game board.
   ii. Select a game piece and place it on “start”.
   iii. Roll the die to see who goes first. Play passes to the left.

b. Game Play
   i. Roll the die and move the number of spaces shown.
   ii. If you land on a space with Hank on it, another player will ask you a question from a Prairie Fact Card. (All questions are True/False)
      1. If you answer correctly, draw an Range Tools Card and remain on the same space until your next turn. If answered incorrectly, do not draw a card and remain on the same space until your next turn.
      2. Keep Range Tool cards for use when a range problem arises.
   iii. If you land on a Range Problem space, select the correct tool to solve the problem from your Range Tools Card. If you do not have the correct card, follow directions on the Range Problem space.
   iv. Winner is the first player to reach the last square on the game board.
   v. Tie – if 2 or more players reach the end at the same time, the player with the most Range Tool cards is the winner.
Grazing livestock are carnivores, they eat mainly meat.

FALSE
Grazing livestock are herbivores, designed for eating only plant materials.

Machines are used by range managers to remove vegetation.

TRUE

The original grazers of the prairie were buffalo, pronghorn and elk.

TRUE

More than 120 million acres of prairies are added to North America each year.

FALSE
The prairie loses 1.5 million acres every year.

Fire controls the weather on a prairie.

FALSE
Fire controls invasives and woody shrubs on a prairie.

Examples of grasses that grow on the shortgrass prairie are blue grama, buffalo grass and side oats grama.

TRUE

The ecosystem of the prairie includes the wildlife, plant life, climate, geography, and organisms in the soil.

TRUE

Grazing management is the process of organizing grass into neat rows.

FALSE
Grazing management is the process of organizing livestock to make best use of the land and managing the frequency and intensity that livestock are allowed to graze.
By the middle of the 20th century, nearly all the North American prairie grasslands were put into national parks.

FALSE
By the middle of the 20th century, nearly all the North American prairie grasslands had been destroyed due to extensive farming.

Range managers are working to provide such things as habitat for a variety of plant and animal species, clean water, and sustainable grazing and browsing.

TRUE

Prairie soils host the most diverse communities of microorganisms of any ecosystem on earth.

FALSE
These hooves turn up the soil, just like a plow does. This aeration the soil and allows it to hold more water.

Hooves of livestock tear up and damage prairie soil.

TRUE
Prairie grass roots are very good at reaching water more than a meter deep, and they can live for a very long time.

An acre of intact prairie can absorb one ton of carbon in its roots and soil per year, and under certain conditions, even more.

TRUE

Prairie grass roots are very good at reaching water more than a meter deep, and they can live for a very long time.

The shortgrass prairie is not home to any wildlife.

FALSE
Species native to the dry, shortgrass prairie are rattlesnakes, prairie-chickens, coyotes, foxes, red tailed hawks, quail and many other species.

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TRUE

Prairie plants are adapted to drought. Cattle producers have found that their livestock gain weight faster, and are healthier, when they eat prairie forage rather than non-native grasses.

TRUE
Soil Management is not necessary on the prairie. Cows don’t eat dirt.  

*FALSE*  
Ranchers manage soil to ensure the right plants grow for healthy prairie and healthy cattle.

Over 100 plant species can occur in a prairie of less than 5 acres.

*TRUE*

Up to 60 million bison grazed on the plains and prairies of North America when European explorers first arrived and fewer than 600 existed by 1885.

Prairie fires were important to the development of the tallgrass prairie as they kept the prairie from becoming a forest.

*TRUE*

Prairies are flat lands dominated by trees.

*FALSE*  
Prairies are flat, fertile lands dominated by grasses.

As a group, ranchers tend to be conservative in their grazing of prairies – after all, their livelihoods depend upon healthy grasslands.

*TRUE*

What we call prairies here in the United States and North America exist elsewhere in the world, but they aren’t called prairies. In South America, large swaths of grasslands in Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay are called the Pampas

Prairie plants have deep root systems that help keep topsoil in place.

*TRUE*
Answer the questions below:

1. Define Conservation.

2. Ranchers must manage when, where and how much________ __________.

3. Three types are prairie are:
   1.
   2.
   3.

4. Five tools range managers use are:
   1.
   2.
   3.
   4.
   5.

6. Areas with too much wildlife may have the following problems:
   1.
   2.
   3.

4. Brush Management is:

5. Prescribed Fire can benefit the prairie in the following ways:
   1.
   2.
   3.

4. Grazing Management can be used to improve the prairie in the following ways:
   1.
   2.
Answer the questions below:

1. Define Conservation.
   *Conservation is the practice of using resources wisely.*

2. Ranchers must manage when, where and how much Cattle Eat.

3. Three types are prairie are:
   - Short
   - Mixed
   - Tall

4. Five tools range managers use are:
   - Cattle
   - Bulldozer
   - Hunting/Trapping
   - Match/Prescribed Fire
   - Dirt Work

5. Areas with too much wildlife may have the following problems:
   - Habitat Loss
   - Starvation
   - Death

6. Brush Management is:
   *The removal of plants that are bad for the prairie or livestock.*

7. Prescribed Fire can benefit the prairie in the following ways:
   - Increase plant diversity
   - Control invasive plants
   - Improve soils

8. Grazing Management can be used to improve the prairie in the following ways:
   - Churn soil
   - Grasses remain healthy