



Black-Footed Ferret Junior Biologist Kit

Welcome to your Black-Footed Ferret Junior Biologist Kit!

1. Start by filling in your Junior Biologist badge. You can even replace the black-footed ferret (BFF) photo with your own. Place your badge in the badge sleeve (included).
2. Raise your right hand and recite the following pledge: "On my honor as a junior biologist, I promise to observe, study and protect black-footed ferrets and prairie species."
3. Observe: *Black-footed ferrets are nocturnal animals. On the prairie, biologists use high-powered lights to go spotlighting in order to locate and identify BFFs. BFFs have a unique emerald green "eye shine" that is reflected by a spotlight at night.*

Ask a friend or adult to hide your black-footed ferret in a dark or dim spot (with black-footed ferret eyes visible). Then, use your PWR flashlight to "spotlight" or observe your BFF. Look for the telltale green eye shine.

4. Study: *After a black-footed ferret is observed in the wild, biologists capture the ferret in order to study them. Biologists will study and record data on each BFF that is captured. This information is kept in a field notebook and used to gain knowledge about a species.*

Capture your BFF and study it. Record your data in your field notes (on back of page).

5. Protect: *BFFs are an endangered species. That means that they are in immediate danger of becoming extinct - completely disappearing from Earth. In fact, there were once so few BFFs that they were considered extinct more than once! In the U.S., BFFs (and many other species) are protected by the Endangered Species Act. Biologists are working hard to protect BFFs by learning as much as they can about BFF biology and behavior, as well as their prairie habitat and associated prairie species.*

Protect BFFs by learning as much as you can. Read The Ferret Capture (included) and share what you have learned with others.

6. Visit Prairie Wildlife Research online at www.prairiewildlife.org to learn what we are doing to help BFFs and other prairie species. Check out our features section for BFF games, activities and more!





Black-Footed Ferret Field Notes

Now that you have observed and captured your BFF, it is time to study it:

1. How difficult was it to locate your BFF? (circle one)
easy difficult I'm still searching!
2. What color do your BFF's eyes reflect in the beam of your flashlight? _____
3. Adult BFFs average 20 - 23 inches when full grown. What is the length of your BFF?
(Use the ruler to the right.) _____
4. Do you think your BFF is a juvenile or adult (circle one)? juvenile adult
Why? _____
5. BFFs live an average 1 - 3 years in the wild. What is the estimated age of your BFF?

6. Describe your BFF's physical traits (fur color, markings, etc.). _____

7. Describe your BFF's habitat (where it lives). _____

8. What other species would you expect to observe while searching for BFFs on a prairie?

Draw A Line To Match The Name of Each Prairie Species To Its Photo:

Black-Footed Ferret

Burrowing Owl

Ferruginous Hawk

Plains Bison

Prairie Dog

Pronghorn

Swift Fox

