



## **Who Needs An Old Prairie Dog Anyway?**

Color in everyone who does. Answers on back of the page.

## **Answer: They All Do?**

### **Predators**

1. *Eagles* and *Hawks* rely on prairie dogs as a food source.
2. The wily *Coyote* and *Swift Fox* hunt prairie dogs for food a lot, but most of the time prairie dogs are smarter and know when they are coming!  
*Swift Fox* also is known to use prairie dog burrows for its living quarters after a little remodeling.
3. The *Black-Footed Ferret*, who is listed as an endangered species, relies completely on the prairie dog for a home and for a food source.

### **Non-Predators**

4. The *Cottontail Rabbit* can be found living around prairie dog burrows.
5. The *Burrowing Owl*, whose numbers are becoming scarce lives in abandoned burrows.
6. The *Prairie Rattlesnake* often lives in prairie dog communities, where it takes refuge in the burrows.
7. The *Great Plains Toad* can be found living in abandoned burrows also.
8. The *Long-Billed Curlew* often feeds on insects in and around prairie dog towns.

**Black-Tailed Prairie Dogs** are a "Keystone Species."  
This means that they have over 170 plants, animals and insects who live with them or need them in some way to assure their own survival.



