

# BIODIVERSITY OF THE LLANO ESTACADO HIGH SCHOOL



## Answer Key

- 1 What are 3 things that *Grus canadensis* eat? ( Sandhill Crane) Critical thinking bonus: Why do you think they overwinter in Texas?

**They eat corn, sorghum, and insects. Sandhill cranes overwinter in Texas because it is warmer than their northern habitats and food is more available.**

- 2 What type of mammal migrates between the northern U.S./Canada and Mexico? Critical thinking bonus: Why are there few of these mammals on the Llano Estacado year-round?

**Bats, they are not very common on the Llano Estacado because of limited sites for roosting and breeding, such as trees, cliffs, and caves. But many bats migrate through the area in the spring and fall.**

- 3 What is the common name of *Urocyon cinereoargenteus*? Critical thinking bonus: Are they a true carnivore, herbivore, or omnivore? Are they selective or opportunistic feeders?

**The name is common gray fox. Gray foxes are opportunistic omnivores. They eat meat (mice, birds, small reptiles, and insects) as well as plant matter (such as fruits), and in urban areas they will take advantage of pet food and refuse (garbage).**

- 4 What factors caused the elimination of the gray wolf, black bear, and black-footed ferret from Short- and Mixed- Grass Prairies? Critical thinking bonus: Are any of these species making a "comeback" in Texas? Why or why not?

**Predator-control programs, prairie dog control programs, human population growth, urbanization, and subsequent conversion of wild lands into agriculture fields. The gray wolf and black-footed ferret are not likely to return to Texas due to lack of suitable habitat, and opposition from ranchers to wolves. But the black bear is making a comeback in Texas!**

- 5 Name three mammals that live in the Canyonlands Habitat. Critical thinking bonus: What is the most significant canyon on the Llano Estacado and how big is it?

**Southern Plains Woodrat, Ringtail, White-tailed Deer, Long-tailed Weasel, Mountain Lion, North American Porcupine, Common Gray Fox, Striped Skunk  
The most notable canyon of the Llano Estacado is Palo Duro Canyon. It is second largest canyon in the United States after the Grand Canyon.**

- 6 What is neotony and what Playa Habitat animal is a good example?

**When metamorphosis is interrupted and the organism retains juvenile characteristics. The Barred Salamander can exhibit neotony.**