

Lesson: What Do Bison Eat?

Grade Level: 1

Standard(s):

Social Studies- 1.5.1 Identify Earth’s geographical landforms (e.g., islands, mountains, plains, hills, bodies of water)

Science- 1.4.2 Identify characteristics of living things (e.g., grow, sometimes reproduce, change, and die over time)

ELA- 1.RL.1 Ask and answer questions about key/supporting details in a text before, during, and after reading.

NCSS Social Studies Theme: People, Places, and Environments

Objective: First graders will acknowledge that bison are herbivores, recognize different foods herbivores eat, and understand that a bison’s habitat is the grassy plains by correctly answering 4 out of the 6 questions presented on the bison/herbivore quiz. Quiz questions ask students to identify what animals eat only plants, circle the bison’s habitat, and differentiate which food bison would/would not eat.

Materials:

- *Herbivores* by James Benefield
- Brown paper bags
- Herbivore photos
- Food photos
- Habitat herbivore recording sheet
- Bison outline papers
- Plant materials (or photos)
- Quiz

Anticipatory Set/ Hook: *BISON song*

Students would sing a song about BISON to the tune of “BINGO.” The song describes how bison are herbivores and eat plants. This introduces the main topic of the day: Bison are herbivores.

Words for the song (to the tune of *Bingo*):

Herbivores. They do eat plants, and bison are their name---o.

B---I---S---O---N, B---I---S---O---N, and bison are their name---o.

Herbivores. They do eat plants, and bison are their name---o.

*---I---S---O---N, *---I---S---O---N, and bison are their name---o.

Herbivores. They do eat plants, and bison are their name---o.

------S---O---N, *---*---S---O---N, and bison are their name---o.

Herbivores. They do eat plants, and bison are their name---o.

------*---O---N, *---*---*---O---N, and bison are their name---o.

Herbivores. They do eat plants, and bison are their name---o.

------*---*---N, *---*---*---*---N, and bison are their name---o.

Herbivores. They do eat plants, and bison are their name---o.

------*---*---* , *---*---*---*---* , and bison are their name---o.

(* represents a clap)

Herbivore Introduction: After students sing through the Bison song, the teacher reads the book, *Herbivores* by James Benfield, to the class. Throughout the reading, the teacher stops to ask the students questions pertaining to the book's information. After reading, students pose questions to a partner about the story. The partner answers the questions. If students are unsure of the answers, they can reference the book for more information. After students have had a chance to ask and answer different questions, the teacher leads a brief discussion/review of what herbivores eat and different animals that are herbivores.

Activity/Procedures: *Habitat Herbivore Food Scavenger Hunt*

After students have learned the basic facts about herbivores, they choose a partner. Around the classroom are three different brown paper bags. Each paper bag represents a different habitat (prairie, jungle, mountains). That habitat is written on the outside of the bag. A photo of an herbivore that lives in that habitat is attached to the front of the bag (prairie---bison, jungle---howler monkey, mountains---rocky mountain goat). Students then open up each bag and take out the labeled photos from inside the bag. The partners then sort the food between food that herbivores would eat (plants) and food that herbivores would not eat. Each student has a recording sheet. After sorting the pictures, students write the names of the foods on their recording sheet in the proper column. These sheets are turned into the teacher to check for understanding and categorization skills.

Follow Up/Closure: *Bison Art*

At the conclusion of the lesson, students create artwork out of materials that bison may eat (grasses, flowers, berries, etc.). If the weather is nice, students may go on a nature walk outdoors to collect these items. If this isn't possible, the teacher can collect and bring in materials (real and/or artificial). Students are given a piece of construction paper with an outline of a bison on it. Students glue their plant materials onto their bison. After finishing gluing, students write a description of their animal, what it contains, and what it eats on the back of their artwork. (ex: A bison is an herbivore. It eats plants.)

**Photos from magazines could also be utilized for this activity as an alternative. *

Assessment: To assess understanding of herbivores, what they eat, animals that are herbivores, and bison habitats, students complete a short quiz. Proficiency is a score of 4 out of 6 on the quiz.

Additional Differentiated Activities:

For above average learners: Higher performing students could research other animals that are herbivores and compare their habitat to the habitat of the bison. This would encourage the students to think more deeply about what habitats can tell us about animals and their diet. This could be worked on after students have finished their bison artwork. Students could also write an explanation on their artwork about what they believe the importance of the bison's habitat is.

For below average learners: Lower performing students could have the sentence on their bison photo prewritten with only blanks left for the words *bison* and *plants*. (ex: _____ are herbivores. They eat _____.) Students could utilize resources (books in the room, the internet, etc.) to assist them in spelling.

Habitats & Herbivores Recording Sheet

Name _____

Date _____

Habitat: Prairie Herbivore: Bison

Herbivores Would Eat....

Herbivores Would NOT Eat....

Habitat: Jungle

Herbivore: Howler Monkey

Herbivores Would Eat....

Herbivores Would NOT Eat....

Habitat: Mountains

Herbivore: Rocky Mountain Goat

Herbivores Would Eat....

Herbivores Would NOT Eat....

Habitats/Herbivores Scavenger Hunt Photos:
Prairie Habitat:



Bison

Bluestem



Ford



Gamagrass



Prairie Dog



Squirrel

Jungle Habitat:



Howler Monkey



Tiger



Sloth



Canopy Leaves



Spider Monkey



Pitaya

Mountain Habitat:



Rocky Mountain Goat



Ferns



Ocellated Mountain Viper



Gazelle



Tapir



Mountain Big Sagebrush

Fill the buffalo with foods that a buffalo would eat (photos or the real item).



Name: _____

Date: _____

Circle the type of animal that eats ONLY PLANTS.

carnivores

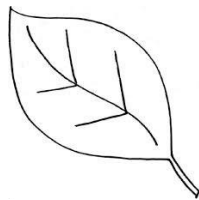
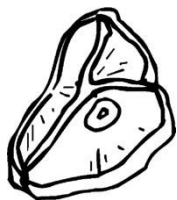
herbivores

omnivores

Circle the correct habitat for bison.



Cross out any food that bison WOULD NOT eat.



Name: _____

Date: _____

Circle the type of animal that eats ONLY PLANTS.

carnivores

herbivores

omnivores

Circle the correct habitat for bison.



Cross out any food that bison WOULD NOT eat.

