

Let US Teach That For You!

Whose Buffalo is This Anyway?

Overview: In this activity, students will contrast buffalo hunting as a business as seen by the buffalo hunter and buffalo hunting as a way of life as experienced by the Indians.

Objectives

Students will

1. Analyze different points of view.
2. Compare and contrast the use of the buffalo by two groups.
3. Understand the economic issues of supply and demand, profit.
4. Make a presentation to the class.

Materials

Educational Materials Provided by Frontier Texas!:

Displays (8), (9), (10), Spirit Guides Cynthia Ann Parker and J. Wright Mooar (21), (22)

Materials Needed:

Display copies of Attachment 1 and 2, student copies of Attachments 3 and 4

Teaching Strategy

Pre-visit Introduction

1. Before coming to Frontier Texas!, ask students to name as many uses for cows as they can think of, such as milk, meat, gelatin (from hooves), soap (from fat), asphalt (fatty acids), and rubber tires (cow fat) Cowhide also becomes leather shoes or sporting goods. According to "Scientific Farm Animal Production," a 1998 textbook, one cowhide can yield about 144



baseballs, or 20 footballs, or 18 soccer balls, or 12 basketballs. (See Attachment 1)

2. For further information on uses of cattle, Google “cattle byproducts.”
3. Display the attached graphic (Attachment 2), showing how the Indians used the various parts of the buffalo. Discuss with the students the difficulties that occurred when Indians no longer had enough buffalo.
4. Compare the loss of the buffalo to a potential loss of cows to Mad Cow disease. What would be the effect on the Texas economy?

Museum Instruction

1. Notice the big “shaggy” at Frontier Texas! display (9), the size of the herd at display (8), and read about the history of buffalo in this area on Rotator (10).
2. Complete the “Bountiful Buffalo” Information sheet (Attachment 3) from facts discovered on Rotator (10).
3. Listen carefully to Spirit Guides Cynthia Ann Parker (21) and J. Wright Mooar (22). They alternate back and forth, making observations about the use of the buffalo from their perspectives. Each makes three short dialogues.
4. While listening to Parker and Mooar, notice that they have very different views about what buffaloes should be used for. Take notes about each of their viewpoints on the prepared sheets (Attachment 4)

Post-Visit Synthesis Activity

1. When class returns to the classroom, divide them into 3 groups, one who will represent Cynthia Ann Parker, one to represent J. Wright Mooar, and one to represent the U.S. Government.
2. In a mock hearing, the group representing Parker will ask the government to stop the buffalo hunters from decimating the buffalo herds. The group representing Mooar will oppose such action.
3. Give each group time to prepare their arguments, while the group representing the U.S. Government will further study the issue.
4. At the assigned time, each group will present its arguments to the government group. The opposing side should not be allowed to interrupt, but will wait their turn to present their arguments. The government officials may ask clarifying questions.
5. After both sides have presented their arguments, the government group will reach a decision. Either it can be for or against a ban of buffalo hunting or it may be a compromise between the two sides.
6. Following the decision, each student will analyze the implications of the decision by writing a paragraph which begins:

- i. Because of the decision today,*
- ii. the Indians _____ and the buffalo hunters _____.*

Student Assessment

Assess student involvement by the arguments presented in the mock hearing.

Enrichment Activity

Allow students to further investigate Mad Cow disease, how the few instances have effected the cattle industry, and what precautions are taken to protect consumers.

Created for Frontier Texas! by Jeanne Wray

Cattle Byproducts

Fat from Cows

Human food (suet, lard, margarine)
Toothpaste
Ointments, topically applied medicines and cosmetic products
Shortening
Chewing gum
Adhesives for animal feeds
Lubricants
Soap
Candles
Glycerin

Hooves of Cows

Gelatin
Human food
Pet food
Glue
Buttons
Handles
Neatsfoot oil
Lubricants
Cow-heel jelly
Bone meal
Foam in fire extinguishers
Fertilizer

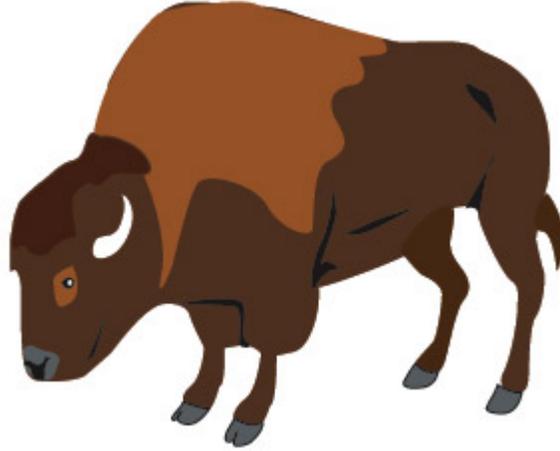
Indian Uses Of The Buffalo



<p>(Hide - Buckskin) moccasin tops cradles winter robes bedding breechclouts shirts leggins lance covers belts dresses pipe bags pouches paint bags pouches dolls coup flag covers quivers tipi covers gun cases</p>	<p>(Hair) headdresses saddle pad filler pillows rope ornaments halters medicine balls</p> <p>(Tail) medicine switch fly brush lodge exterior decorations whips</p> <p>(Hoof & Feet) glue rattles</p>	<p>(Horns) cups fire carriers powder horn spoons ladles headdresses signals toys</p> <p>(Meat) (every part eaten) pemmican (converted) hump ribs- immediately jerky (converted)</p> <p>(Skin Of Hind Leg) moccasins or boots</p>	<p>(Rawhide) containers clothing headdress food medicine bags shields buckets moccasin soles rattles drums drumsticks splints cinches ropes belts bullets pouches saddles horse masks lance cases armbands quirts bull boats knife cases stirrups thongs horse ornament</p>
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From: Malls, Tom, THE MYSTIC WARRIORS OF THE PLAINS 1972, p 190
(Picture of Buffalo - Artist: Black Lance - Courtesy of St. Joseph Indian School)

Bountiful Buffalo



1. How much buffalo meat did the Plains Indians consume each day? _____

2.. How much did a buffalo bull weigh? _____

3. What was the job of the children in the buffalo hunt?

4.. How fast could a buffalo run? _____

5. Who butchered and skinned the buffaloes? _____

6. What weapon was used to kill the buffalo? _____

7. How long did buffalo typically live? _____

Two Points of View

Buffalo Hunting as a Way of Life
Cynthia Ann Parker



Buffalo Hunting as a Business
J. Wright Moorar



Buffalo Hunting as a Way of Life
Cynthia Ann Parker

1. Mainstay of life – food, shelter, shields, etc.
2. Got some good items from the Whites – cloth, iron
3. Comancheros from Santa Fe traded good for buffalo robes
4. White hunters killed buffalo only for hides
5. Loss of buffalo meant having to go to reservations, end of way of life

Buffalo Hunting as a Business
J. Wright Moor

1. Big demand for buffalo hides in the East
2. Could make a lot of money
3. Didn't think herds could be wiped out, millions of them
4. Medicine Lodge Treaty supposed to protect herds in Texas, but largely ignored.
5. Herds gradually died out, found new source of income (ranching)