

# Animals of the American West

**PART 1** – The American West is full of many animals that mean different things to *diverse* groups of people. Animals can be pets. They can also *provide* clothes, food, homes, tools, and *transportation*. Learn more about some of the animals that have been important to the people of the American West for hundreds and thousands of years. Look at the images from the Autry Museum of the American West below. Then read the descriptions about these animals beneath each image.



**Bears:** Grizzly (brown) bears and black bears can be found living in the forests of the American West. Bears are called omnivores because they eat both plants and animals. The fur of bears has been used to make many different items. Native communities such as the Sioux have also used the claws of bears to make necklaces.



**Horses:** Spaniards brought horses to the American West hundreds of years ago. Horses live in different habitats. They are called herbivores because they eat plants such as grass. In addition to being pets, horses can help people work with other animals like cows. Horses also provide transportation by carrying items and people. They can even pull carriages, carts, and wagons.



**Bison:** The bison can be found in the *Great Plains* of the American West. Bison are called herbivores because they eat plants called grass. Plains communities have been using bison to make many different items including clothes, food, homes, and tools. Bison meat provides food. Clothes and homes called tipis can be made from the skin of the bison. Even the bison's bones and horns can be used for tools.



**Texas Longhorns:** Spaniards also brought Texas longhorns to the American West hundreds of years ago. Texas longhorns are part of the cow family and can be found in the Great Plains. They are called herbivores because they eat plants such as grass. People make leather items out of the Texas longhorn's skin and eat its meat. The horns of the Texas longhorn have also been used to make tools and containers.

## ***Glossary***

**Diverse:** including many different types of people or things

**Great Plains:** a region of valleys and grasslands in North America

**Habitats:** the natural homes or environments of living things

**Provide:** to make something available for use; to give something wanted or needed to someone

**Transportation:** the movement of people and things from place to place

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**PART 2** – After learning about some of the different animals in the American West, read about some of the *needs* that people have on the left-hand side. Then read the solutions that animals can provide to fill these needs on the right-hand side. Match the solution to the correct need by drawing a line between them.

## Needs



A place to live.



Something warm to wear.



A spoon to eat with.



A meal to eat.



People and items to be moved.

## Solutions

Bison meat provides food.



Bison horns provide tools.



Bison skin provides homes.



Horses provide transportation.



Bison fur provides clothes.



## ***Glossary***

**Needs:** something very important that people must have

# Animals of the American West

**PART 3** – What is your favorite animal? Is it your pet? Is it an animal that you see outside or at the zoo? Pick your favorite animal to make a picture of and to write a poem about. Your poem will include the Five W’s. The Five W’s include who, what, where, when, and why. Plan your picture and your poem by answering the questions below on a piece of paper or in the space provided.

FIVE W’S QUESTIONS	ANSWER EXAMPLES	MY PLAN
<p><b>WHO</b> Who is your favorite animal?</p> <p>“Who” usually describes people. In this poem, “who” will describe animals.</p>	<p>Birds Cats Dogs Fish Insects Lizzards Zoo animals Other animals</p>	
<p><b>WHAT</b> What does your favorite animal do?</p> <p>Pick one action word that describes what your favorite animal does.</p>	<p>Crawl Eat Fly Hop Bark/chirp/howl/meow Play Run Sleep Swim Other action words</p>	
<p><b>WHERE</b> Where does your favorite animal do this action?</p>	<p>In the desert In the forest In the grass In the house In the ocean In the river In the sky In the trees In the zoo In other places</p>	
<p><b>WHEN</b> When does your favorite animal do this action?</p>	<p>During nighttime During the day During the morning During other times of the day</p>	
<p><b>WHY</b> Why does your favorite animal do this action?</p>	<p>Because they are being chased Because they are hungry Because they are lonely Because they are tired Because they want to play Because of other reasons</p>	
<p><b>SKETCH</b> What does your favorite animal look like?</p> <p>Make a sketch (a simple and quick drawing) of your favorite animal.</p>		

# *Animals of the American West*

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**PART 4** - Before you create a picture of and a poem about your favorite animal, look at the example below.



## Sleeping Cats

Cats  
sleep  
in the house  
during the day  
because they are tired

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**PART 5** – Now it is your turn to make a picture of your favorite animal. Use your sketch from PART 3 to help you make a picture (drawing or painting) of your favorite animal on a piece of paper or in the space below.

My Favorite Animal Picture

**PART 6** – Then use your answers from PART 3 to help you write a poem about your favorite animal on a piece of paper or in the space below. Include a title for your poem.

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(Write the poem title on the line above.)

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(Write *who* on the line above.)

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(Write *what* on the line above.)

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(Write *where* on the line above.)

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(Write *when* on the line above.)

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(Write *why* on the line above.)

# Resources

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Pen and ink drawing for the book, *Yamino-Kwiti, Boy Runner of Siba*, written and illustrated by Donna Louise Preble, 1940. Autry Museum; 14.C.493

Bison display, photo by Sarah Wilson, 2020

Photograph of Doc Carver with horse (detail of horse), late 1800s. Autry Museum; 88.179.75

Longhorn cattle display, photo by Sarah Wilson, 2019

Photograph by Walter McClintock of Blackfeet painted tipis, with Buffalo Tipi in foreground, Blackfeet Reservation, Montana, circa 1908. Autry Museum; MCC.382

Full-length brown buffalo coat, circa mid-1870s, double-breasted, shawl collar, cuffed sleeves, and black cloth lining. Autry Museum; 90.143.17

Spoon of either Eastern Woodlands (Plains Ojibwa, Winnebago, Sauk, Fox, or Potawatomi) or Eastern Sioux origin, black carved bison horn with hooked and serrated handle and perforated decoration in heart shape, circa 1850. Autry Museum; 30.L.206

Lantern slide of a Southern Cheyenne woman cooking, Calumet, OK, 1902. Autry Museum; LS.14302

Photograph of horse and wagon on Navajo Indian Reservation (detail of wagon), circa early 1900s. Autry Museum; P.9932

Buffalo skull with horns, collected by Walter McClintock, circa 1937. Autry Museum; 528.G.2

Buffalo hide from Red Desert, Wyoming, circa 1800s. Autry Museum; 191.L.9

Large, folded buffalo skin robe, circa 1800s. Autry Museum; 577.G.86

Photograph by Charles F. Lummis of the Lummis family cat, Los Angeles, California, 1884-1895. Autry Museum; A.8.17