

Animals of the American West

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 about some of the animals that have been important to the people of the American West for a long time in this activity.

PART 1 – Look at the images from the Autry Museum of the American West. Then read the information about these animals underneath each image.



Bears: Bear fur has been used to make different items for thousands of years. Native communities across North America have also used the claws of bears to make necklaces.



Bison: Plains communities have been using the bison to make clothes, food, homes, and tools for thousands of years.



Horses: Horses have helped people work with animals like cows for hundreds of years. Horses can carry and pull things. Horses can also be pets.



Texas Longhorns: The skin of Texas longhorns has been used to make items for hundreds of years. Its horns can be used to make tools. People also eat its meat.

Glossary

Diverse: including many different types of people or 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

Solutions



A place to live



Something warm to wear



A spoon to eat with



A meal to eat



People and items to be moved

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

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PART 3 – What is your favorite animal? Pick your favorite animal. Then draw or paint a picture of it on a piece of paper or in the space below.

My Favorite Animal Picture

PART 4 – Why is this animal your favorite animal? Does it provide you with friendship, fun, love, warmth, or something else? Write why this animal is your favorite animal on a piece of paper or in the space below.

My favorite animal is a/an _____

It is my favorite animal because it provides me with _____

Resources

Images

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