

# Buffalo as a Resource

## HIDE

tipi cover  
clothing  
robe  
bedding  
packing case (parfleche)

## HAIR

rope  
ball and doll stuffing  
moccasin lining  
saddle  
fetish wrapping

## HEART

food

## BOSS RIB

hide scraper  
arrow shaft straightener  
arrow point  
children's sled

## SHOULDER BLADE (SCAPULA)

hoe  
spatula  
flesher

## RAWHIDE (UNTANNED HIDE)

cooking utensils  
binding  
horse equipment  
cradle  
knife sheath  
shield  
drum cover  
rattle

## BRAIN

tanning medium  
food

## RIBS

tally stick  
rasp

## LIVER

tanning medium

## SKULL

fetish  
headdress

## KIDNEY

food

## TAIL

tipi decoration  
whip  
fly swatter  
sweat lodge water sprinkler  
fetish

## HORN

spoon  
bowl  
cup  
headdress

## BLADDER

water bag

## EYE

glue

## SCROTUM

rattle  
stirrup cover

## TONGUE

choice food  
sacred food

## BLOOD

soup

## TEETH

necklace  
clothing decoration

## SINEW (TENDON)

bowstring  
sewing thread  
leather binding  
bow backing

## FAT

food  
tanning medium  
paint mix  
deodorant for traps

## LUNG

food

## INTESTINE

tripe  
water bag  
bow wrapping

## GALLSTONE

yellow paint

## BUFFALO CHIPS (DUNG)

fuel

## LEG BONE

digging stick tip  
scraper  
awl  
paint pencil

## BEARD

dress ornament

## TOE

paint pencil  
toy horse

## HOOF

glue

## STOMACH (PAUNCH)

water bag  
boiling bag  
basin  
cup  
contents used as medicine

## Buffalo in Kansas

Prior to white settlers entering Kansas there were an estimated 20 million American Bison, commonly called buffalo, roaming the Great Plains. These animals were hunted by native peoples and used for food, clothing, housing, and many other essential items. Some of the plains tribes followed buffalo herds throughout the year.



When settlers first entered territorial Kansas they too saw the value of these large animals. Many settlers began hunting buffalo to sell the meat and hides for profit. Dodge City was a major shipping point for buffalo meat and hides. In the first three months of 1872, more than 43,000 buffalo hides and nearly 1.5 million pounds of meat were shipped to the East on the Santa Fe Railway. Bone pickers were paid \$4 to \$6 a ton for the dried buffalo bones. Shipped east, the bones were then ground and used in the manufacture of fertilizer, combs, dice, buttons, and bone china dishes. Some homesteaders used this business to supplement their farm income.

Many railroad companies considered the buffalo to be a nuisance, as they could wander onto tracks and cause problems. They hired men to hunt the buffalo so as to exterminate them.

Yet another use for the buffalo was specialized hunting trips for those easterners who considered themselves adventurous. They would pay guides for buffalo hunting excursions. In 1872 George Armstrong Custer took the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia on a sport hunting trip through Nebraska, Colorado, and Kansas.

The coming of settlers in Kansas had a large impact on the buffalo. Hunters were known to kill hundreds of buffalo in a matter of days and thousands in a matter of months. Buffalo hunter Frank Mayer commented: "We never killed all the buff we could, but only as many as our skinners could handle. Every outfit had its quota, which was determined by the ambition and the number of skinners. My regular quota was twenty-five a day, but on days when my crew weren't tired, I sometimes would run this up to 50 or even 60. But there I stopped, no matter how plentiful the buff were. Killing more than we could use would waste buff, which wasn't important; it also would waste ammunition, which was."

Charles Jesse "Buffalo" Jones was a breeder and trainer who owned the largest herd in Kansas, close to 150 head. By the 1900s there were only an estimated 500 buffalo left in the United States. Recognizing the danger of losing the buffalo, the government began breeding and protection programs to raise the species numbers.

The word buffalo came from the French word "les boeufs" which means oxen. In prehistoric times a buffalo could grow to weigh as much as 5,000 pounds. Today's bison are much smaller, averaging around 1,400-3,000 pounds for males and 900-1,200 pounds for females. On average buffalo will eat 25 pounds of grass in a day.

Buffalo can be found on specialized farms or roaming free within parks such as Yellowstone National Park. The plains bison, or buffalo, roams Kansas today on private land and in state parks.

The American Bison was named the official state animal of Kansas in 1955.



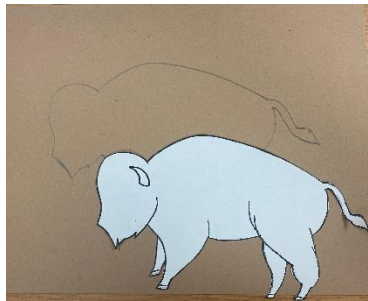
## American Buffalo

### Supplies:

- Buffalo Template
- Brown Yarn
- Cardstock
- Coloring Utensils
- Glue
- Scissors
- Popsicle Stick



1. Print out the buffalo template on cardstock. Color the buffalo brown. You can also trace the buffalo on brown paper.



2. Using the brown yarn, cut a handful of small yarn pieces.



3. Glue the yarn to the front half of the buffalo's body (not the head).



4. Cut out the buffalo and glue on a popsicle stick.

