

WHAT IS A BUFFALO?

- 🗨️ A buffalo, which scientists call bison, is the largest land mammal in North America.
- 🗨️ A male buffalo, known as a bull, may weigh over a ton.
- 🗨️ When you compare buffalo to marine mammals, the only mammal larger is the whale.

TYPES OF BUFFALO

- 🗨️ There are two types of buffalo are found in North America.

Plains Buffalo

- 🗨️ Today's Plains buffalo weighs about approximately 2000 pounds and has a horn span of about 3 feet.
- 🗨️ Both male and female buffalo have horns they never shed.
- 🗨️ A buffalo stands about 5 ½ -6 ½ feet high at its shoulder and is about 9 ½ -11 ½ feet long. They have a 1 ½ foot tail.

Wood Buffalo

- 🗨️ Wood buffalo are larger than Plains buffalo. Some bulls weigh more than 2,500 pounds.
- 🗨️ Their fur is darker and woollier. They also have a broader skull.
- 🗨️ They are mostly found in Canada.

MORE BUFFALO FACTS

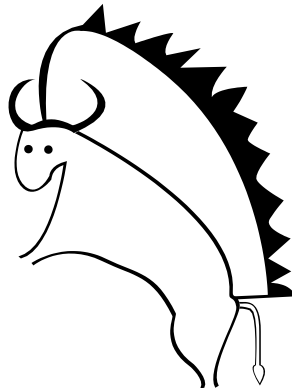
- 🗨️ A buffalo can live to be 30 years old, but most live for about 15-20 years.
- 🗨️ Buffalo are fast! They can run up to 35 miles per hour.
- 🗨️ Their huge hump is made of muscle, which helps them move their head through the snow to find grass.
- 🗨️ When buffalo have to scratch an itch, they make what is called a buffalo wallow. They lie on their sides and move around lifting the soil up and around them. This also covers them with dust to prevent bug bites and helps them rub off their winter coat.
- 🗨️ Family groups, called herds, can number 30 to 60 animals. The herd is made up of the lead cow, her daughters and their calves, and young bulls. Mature bulls only join the herd during breeding season.

BUFFALO IN THE PAST

- Pre-historic buffalo were huge animals! They weighed about 5000 pounds and had a horn span of about 6 feet. They were about 2 times larger than today's buffalo. Hard to imagine!
- Buffalo herds numbered 30,000,000 to 70,000,000 before contact with settlers. If you compare those numbers of buffalo to people, it would equal the amount that live in the state of California today.
- Besides the Great Plains region, the remains of ancestral or pre-historic buffalo have also been found in southern Mexico, Northern Canada, Florida, and Virginia. That means, at one time, buffalo roamed all across North America's vast grassland from coast to coast!

BUFFALO POPULATION INCREASES

- By the efforts of the Tribal governments, colleges, and organizations, buffalo are returning to Indian country.
- Today's buffalo population in the U.S. is over 250,000 and continues to grow.



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