

Name _____



All About Bison

Bison are large, powerful animals that live in North America. They are often called buffalo, but their true name is bison. Bison are famous for their massive size, shaggy brown fur, and curved horns. They can grow up to 6 feet tall and weigh as much as 2,000 pounds, making them one of the heaviest land animals in North America.

Bison live in grasslands and prairies where they graze on grasses and plants. They are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. A bison can eat around 24 pounds of grass in a single day! These animals are important to the ecosystem because they help keep the grass healthy and create spaces for other plants to grow.

Bison are social animals and live in groups called herds. Herds protect bison from predators like wolves and help them find food. Male bison, called bulls, are larger than female bison, called cows. During the summer, bulls and cows come together for mating season. Baby bison, called calves, are born in the spring and have reddish fur that turns brown as they grow older.

Long ago, millions of bison roamed North America. Native American tribes relied on bison for food, clothing, and tools. Every part of the bison was used, and they were respected as an important part of life. However, in the 1800s, bison were hunted nearly to extinction by settlers and traders. Today, conservation efforts have helped bison populations grow, but they are still considered a protected species.

Bison are strong and fast despite their size. They can run up to 35 miles per hour! Their thick fur keeps them warm during the winter, and they can even survive in snowstorms. Bison also use their large heads to move snow and find food underneath during the cold months.

Bison are amazing animals that play an important role in nature. They remind us of the beauty of wildlife and the importance of protecting animals for future generations.