

Name _____



Where Does a Bison Live?

Bison are large, powerful animals that are native to North America and parts of Europe. These animals prefer wide, open spaces where they can graze on grass and plants. Their primary habitat is grasslands, also known as prairies, which provide the food they need to survive. Bison also live in

meadows and plains, areas with few trees and plenty of open space.

Grasslands are perfect for bison because they are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. These open areas give bison easy access to the grass they need to graze on throughout the day. Bison can eat up to 24 pounds of grass each day! Grasslands also allow bison to spot predators from far away and stay safe in herds.

In North America, bison once roamed across most of the continent, from Canada to Mexico. Today, they are mainly found in protected areas like Yellowstone National Park in the United States and Wood Buffalo National Park in Canada. Conservation efforts have helped increase their numbers after they were nearly wiped out due to overhunting in the past.

European bison, called wisent, live in forests and grasslands in countries like Poland and Belarus. While similar to their North American cousins, European bison prefer areas with more trees where they can find shelter and food.

Bison are well adapted to their habitats. Their thick fur keeps them warm during cold winters, and their large heads help them push through snow to find food. These strong animals can run quickly, which helps them escape danger in the wild.