

Name _____



Bison's Daily Habits and Behaviors

Bison are large, powerful animals known for their daily routines and group behavior. They are mostly active during the day, which means they are diurnal. These animals spend much of their day grazing on grass, as they are herbivores. Bison can graze for up to 11 hours a day, constantly moving while feeding.

Bison live in groups called herds. Herds are important for protection and social bonding. Female bison, called cows, and their calves usually stay together in larger groups. Male bison, called bulls, tend to live alone or in smaller groups, except during the mating season when they join the larger herds.

Communication among bison is important for staying together and avoiding danger. They use body language, like lowering their heads, to show dominance or warning. Bison also make grunting sounds to stay in contact with the herd and warn of danger.

During the early morning and late afternoon, bison are often most active. In the middle of the day, especially in hot weather, they may rest in the shade or roll in the dirt, a behavior called wallowing. Wallowing helps them stay cool and keeps insects away.

Bison migrate based on the seasons. In summer, they move to areas with plenty of grass and water. During winter, they seek sheltered areas and use their powerful heads to push away snow to find food.