

Buffalo Song

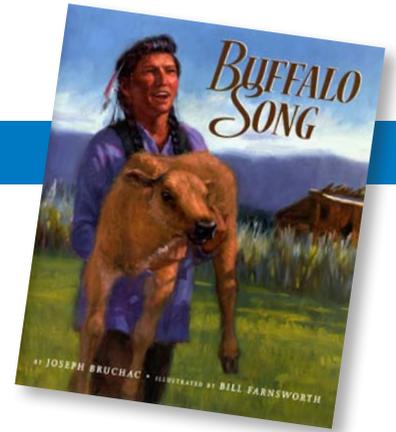
A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Ecology, Nature, Conservation, American Indian Culture

Book Brief: By the late 1800s, American buffalo were nearly extinct. This book tells the story of how one man and his family worked to save the buffalo.

Author:
Joseph Bruchac

Illustrator:
Bill Farnsworth



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: What does it mean when an animal is *extinct*? Can the children think of any animals that are extinct? Explain that buffalo once lived all across North America. After white settlers came, buffalo were hunted until they were almost all gone.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

COMMUNITY STORYTELLING (AGES 6-12)

Materials: paper, crayons or markers, pens or pencils

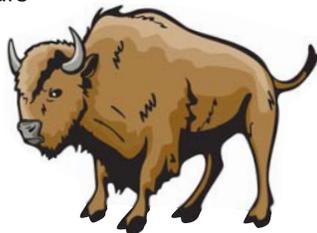
Retell the story—but from Little Thunder Hoof's point of view! Give each child a part of the story and have them draw a picture and write a few sentences to explain how Little Thunder Hoof feels. Bind all the pages together to make a book or display them in order on a bulletin board.

CALIFORNIA DREAMING (AGES 7-12)

Materials: paper, pencils or pens, markers or crayons

There's a herd of buffalo living on Catalina Island, off the coast of California. How did buffalo get all the way out there? Make a children's book that tells the story of how a bunch of buffalo ended up on an island.

Illustrate your book and be sure to give it a title! After you're done, look up the Catalina Island buffalo to find out the real story.



THE ENDANGERED ZONE (AGES 7-12)

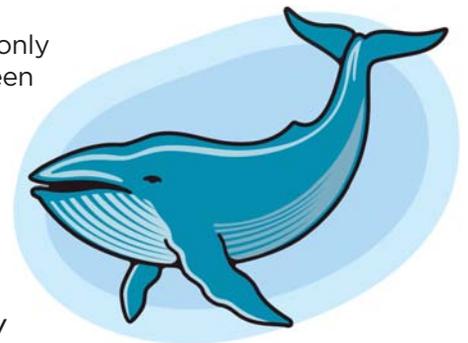
Buffalo aren't the only animals who've been hurt by humans.

An *endangered species* is a plant or animal in danger of going extinct. Visit

www.fws.gov/endangered/map/index.html

to learn about

endangered species in your area. Make a list of at least five things you can do to help protect the wildlife around you. Display the lists to help your center go green!



TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit www.explore.org/#!/live-cams/player/plains-bison-grasslands-national-park-cam-1 to watch a live webcam of a buffalo watering hole.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

A Boy Called Slow (1998)

Crazy Horse's Vision (2006)

Many Nations: An Alphabet of Native America (2004)



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A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

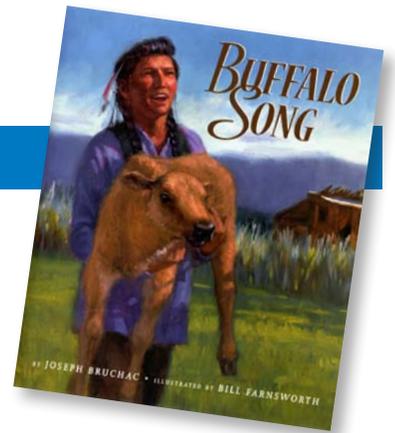
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Content Connections:
Science, Social Studies



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book based on the title and

the cover illustration. Who is on the cover? What is he holding? Look at the back cover—where is the story set?

The Pictures: Flip briefly through some of the pictures. What else can students tell about the setting? When does the story take place? What can they tell about the main characters?

Prior Knowledge: For centuries, buffalo lived all across North America. When white settlers came, they began hunting buffalo by the thousands, killing the animals for sport or for their valuable skins. Buffalo were saved from extinction by a few dedicated groups who worked to protect them.

Vocabulary: calf, corral, defiance, descent, herd, orphan

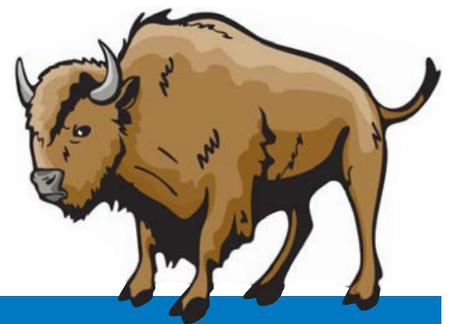
Purpose for Reading: Read the short passage on the page before the story starts. "As we read, think about why so many people in the story are willing to work so hard to save a few buffalo. Why do they care?"

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What happens to the calf's mother?
- ◆ Why do you think Walking Coyote names the calf Little Thunder Hoof?
- ◆ Why does Walking Coyote give Red Elk his bracelet?

- ◆ How does Little Thunder Hoof lead her herd?
- ◆ Why can't Walking Coyote keep the herd?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: Revisit the introductory passage; why is the buffalo a sacred animal for many American Indians? Other people worked to save the buffalo, too. Why? Would you have helped?

Extending Our Thinking: When an animal goes extinct, the rest of the world is affected. What might have happened if the buffalo had gone extinct? With a partner, think of a few ways the world might be different today. Share your ideas with the rest of the class.

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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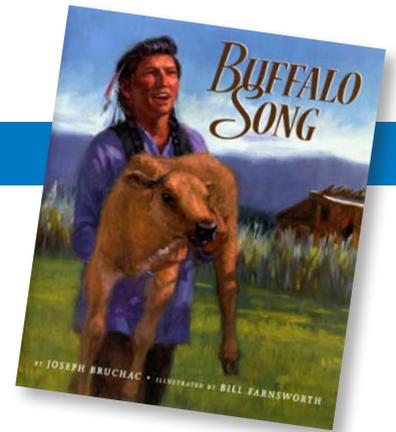
A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Ecology, Nature, Conservation, American Indian Culture

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Author:
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Illustrator:
Bill Farnsworth



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background knowledge:

What does it mean when an animal is *extinct*? Buffalo once lived all across North America, but people hunted them until they were almost all gone.

While reading, track the time: The author doesn't

use days, months, or years, so how can you tell how much time has passed?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why does Walking Coyote name the baby buffalo Little Thunder Hoof?
- ◆ Why are buffalo so important to Walking Coyote and the Salish people?
- ◆ What might have happened if Walking Coyote and others hadn't helped the buffalo?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

CAULIFLOWER BUFFALO "WINGS"

Materials: cauliflower, 1/2 cup milk, 1/3 cup flour, 1 tsp. garlic powder, 1/2 tbsp. butter, hot sauce

Cut the cauliflower into bite-sized pieces. Mix together milk, flour, and garlic powder. Dip each piece of cauliflower in the mix and place on a greased cooking sheet. Cook for 18-20 minutes at 450°. Melt butter in a pan; add hot sauce to taste. When "wings" are done, toss them in the sauce. Enjoy!

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Materials: paper, pencils or pens, markers or crayons

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THE ENDANGERED ZONE

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TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit www.explore.org/#!/live-cams/player/plains-bison-grasslands-national-park-cam-1 to watch a live webcam of a buffalo watering hole.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

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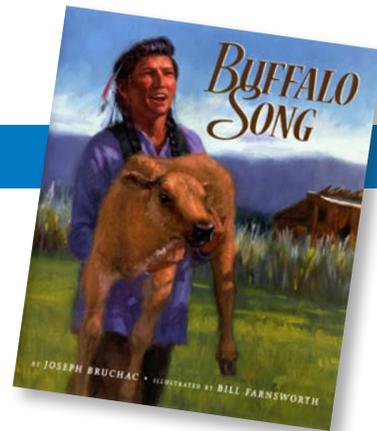


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A RIF VOCABULARY SCAFFOLD



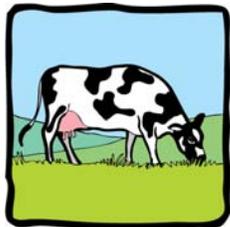
feast: a lot of food;
a really big meal



journey: a long trip;
when you go to
somewhere far away



pasture: open land
with grass on it for
animals to eat



porridge: a kind of
hot, soft food like
oatmeal or hot cereal



rancher: a person
who works on a
ranch, which is a big
farm where lots of
animals like cows
and horses live



scent: smell



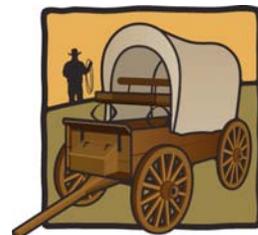
shelter: a place or
thing that covers
you or keeps you
safe from bad things



valley: the low land
in between two
mountains or big hills



wagon: a kind of
cart with wheels,
usually pulled by
horses; people used
wagons a lot before
cars were invented

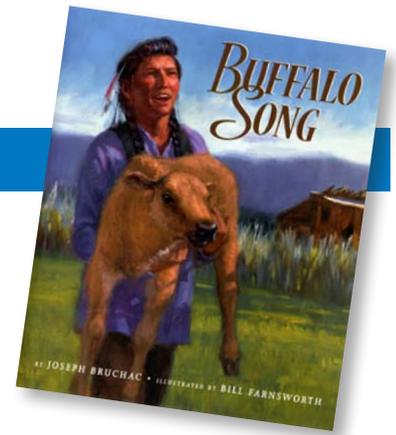


wealthy: rich, with
a lot of money



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RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS



THINK-TAC-TOE ACTIVITY OPTIONS

- ◆ Individual students can choose an activity to complete.
- ◆ Student pairs or cooperative groups can work together on a choice of their own.
- ◆ Educator can assign an activity for an individual, pairs, or groups.

<p>A CERTAIN POINT OF VIEW</p> <p>Retell the story—but from Little Thunder Hoof’s point of view. How does she feel when her herd is killed? Is she scared when Two Swans and Red Elk find her? Is she sad to leave Walking Coyote? You can write a short story or draw a comic strip.</p> <p><i>Writing, Art, Social Studies, Science</i></p>	<p>PROBLEM SOLVING</p> <p>Walking Coyote’s herd was eventually sent to Canada. What would you need to think about when shipping buffalo by train? How often would you stop to feed and water them? How would they go to the bathroom?! Make a list of problems you might have and how you would solve them.</p> <p><i>Engineering</i></p>	<p>THE ENDANGERED ZONE</p> <p>Buffalo aren’t the only animals humans have hurt. An <i>endangered species</i> is a plant or animal in danger of going extinct. Visit www.fws.gov/endangered/map/index.html to learn about endangered species in your area. Make a list of 5-10 things you can do to help protect the wildlife around you.</p> <p><i>Science, Technology</i></p>
<p>HAVE YOU HERD?</p> <p>The <i>herd</i> is very important to buffalo. What other animals live in herds? Research to find at least 5 herd animals. What do herd animals have in common? Why might an animal want to live in a herd? Do <i>people</i> have herds? Explain your answer.</p> <p><i>Science, Writing</i></p>	<p>PROTECTORS OF THE HERD</p> <p>Research to find out more about the Salish people in the past and today. Where do they live? What are some of their special traditions? Why are buffalo so important to them? Share your findings in a paper, poster, or PowerPoint presentation.</p> <p><i>Social Studies, Writing</i></p>	<p>CALIFORNIA DREAMING</p> <p>There’s a herd of buffalo on Catalina Island, off the coast of California. How did buffalo get <i>there</i>? Make a children’s book that tells explains how a bunch of buffalo ended up on an island. Illustrate your book. After you’re done, look up the Catalina Island buffalo to find out the real story.</p> <p><i>Writing, Art, Science</i></p>
<p>AT THE WATERING HOLE</p> <p>Go to www.explore.org/#/live-cams/player/plains-bison-grasslands-national-park-cam-1 to watch a live webcam of a buffalo watering hole. Visit the site several times a day for a week. Record when you go and what you see each time. When is the hole busiest? Why? Make a chart to show your results.</p> <p><i>Science, Technology, Math</i></p>	<p>WHAT’S IN A NAME?</p> <p>American buffalo are actually <i>bison</i>. Compare the two; research to find out the differences between buffalo and bison. Where does each animal live? What do they eat? How big are they? Show your findings in a poster or PowerPoint presentation. Include pictures!</p> <p><i>Science</i></p>	<p>BUFFALO SONG</p> <p>Walking Coyote sings a song to calm the buffalo. Write your own song inspired by Little Thunder Hoof’s story. Write down lyrics for your song and perform it in front of the class or a small group.</p> <p><i>Writing, Art, Music</i></p>