

The Demise of the North American Bison
Middle School Social Studies
Teaching with Primary Sources from the Library of Congress
“Not Just Flyover Country: Exploring Kansas History through Primary Sources”

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Topeka Public Schools, UD 501

Overview: Buffalo also known as North American Bison roamed the Great Plains in huge numbers and supported the Native American culture of the Plains. Buffalo hunting for profit and for sport became important to the economy and the culture of the post-Civil War Plains. In this lesson students will discover the daily life of someone who chose to hunt buffalo for a living in the 1870s near Dodge City, Kansas. The lesson is a multidisciplinary lesson that incorporates history, science, math and language arts.

Standards

Kansas History, Government and Social Studies

Standard 5: Relationships between people, places, ideas and environment are dynamic.

Benchmark: 5.1: The student will recognize and evaluate dynamic relationships that impact lives in communities, states, and nations.

Kansas College and Career Ready Standards

RH.6-8.1: The student will read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

RH.6-8.1: The student will determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions.

Objectives

Content

- Students will understand the life of the buffalo hunter on a personal level by analyzing a buffalo hunter’s diary from 1872.

Skills

The students should be able to:

- explain the impact of buffalo hunting on the Great Plains.
- calculate the opportunity cost of buffalo hunting.
- illustrate the multiculturalism of the Great Plains in the late 19th century.

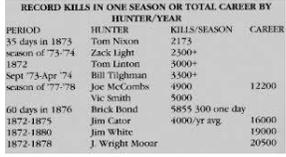
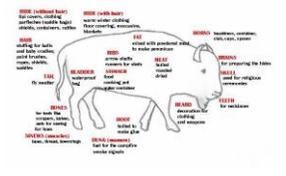
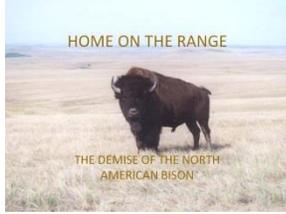
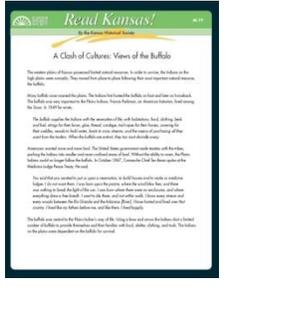
Compelling Questions:

1. How do primary sources provide evidence to piece together the past?

2. How did climate play a role in buffalo hunting?
3. Was it profitable to hunt buffalo for a living? What were some of the hardships?
4. Explain the dynamic relationships among people on the plains.

Resource Chart

Image	Description	Citation	URL
	<p>Henry Raymond Diary Entries from Nov 1872-Nov 1873 The diary describes his trip to Kansas. Henry and brother, Theodore, and the Masterson brothers began hunting bison (buffalo) and Henry describes their efforts in brief but graphic detail. Nov.23, 1872-Jan 2, 1873 included in lesson</p>	<p>Raymond, Henry H., November 11, 1872-November 11, 1873 Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Memory. www.kansasmemory.org.</p>	<p>www.kansasmemory.org/item/211135</p>
	<p>Pile of buffalo skulls waiting to be turned into fertilizer</p>	<p>“Pile of buffalo skulls,” Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia. Wikimedia Foundation, Inc., (27/05/2011). Web. Date accessed (15 June 2016, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bison_hunting#/media/File:Bison_skull_pile_edit.jpg</p>	<p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bison_hunting#/media/File:Bison_skull_pile_edit.jpg</p>
	<p>Buffalo hides in Dodge City, Kansas A pile of approximately 40,000 hides purchased by RM Wright of Dodge City</p>	<p>“Buffalo hides in Dodge City, Kansas,” April 4, 1874 Kansas Historical Society. Kansas Memory. www.kansasmemory.org.</p>	<p>www.kansasmemory.org/item/2088</p>

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	<p>Slaughtered buffalo in a field of snow</p>	<p>Legends of America: Old West Legends- Buffalo Hunters © Kathy Weiser/Legends of America, updated April, 2015.</p>	<p>http://www.legendsofamerica.com/we-buffalohunters.html</p>																																																
	<p>Ways Native Americans used the buffalo</p>	<p>Texas State Historical Association- Comanche Indians</p>	<p>https://tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/bmc72</p>																																																
	<p>Home on the Range, PowerPoint</p>	<p>Evans, Lucinda. "Home on the Range," June 17, 2016</p>																																																	
	<p>"Diary of a Buffalo Hunter" This lesson can be used as an extension if desired.</p>	<p>"Diary of a Buffalo Hunter" <i>Read Kansas! M-19 Kansas Historical Society</i></p>	<p>www.kshs.org/p/read-kansas-middle-school-m-19-depletion-of-the-buffalo/15364</p>																																																

<p style="text-align: center;">DIARY OF A BUFFALO HUNTER: GRAPHIC ORGANIZER</p> <p>Math 1. 2. 3. 4.</p> <p>Science 1. 2. 3. 4.</p> <p>Eng/Lang Arts 1. 2. 3. 4.</p> <p>History 1. 2. 3. 4.</p>	<p>Diary of a Buffalo Hunter graphic organizer</p>		
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Lesson Procedure:

The Preparation

1. Show the PowerPoint, **Home on the Range**. Instruct students to take notes over the presentation. They will need to pay special attention to numbers and profits tied to the buffalo trade.
2. Divide students into four or eight groups depending upon class size (student groups should number no more than three).
3. After groups are organized, assign a discipline to each group:
 - a. Math
 - b. Science
 - c. Language Arts
 - d. History

The Process

1. Student groups write the answers to the 'discipline questions' assigned to their content area.
 - a. Math—What was the total number killed/skinned? What is the profit overtime?
 - b. Science—Climate, time of year, is this typical/atypical for this time of year? What about the rest of the animal? What are they doing with it? Decomposition of the rest of the carcass (until there were bones to sell)?
 - c. Language Arts—Reading, inference...where are they, living conditions, how many in the camp? New vocabulary?
 - d. History—Where are they? Why are they there? Is this a profitable enterprise? Will it continue to be a profitable enterprise? What does the diary tell us about the time period? Why is there German dialog? Why would Indians be in their camp (tribe)?
2. If there is more than one group studying each discipline, have all students who worked on the same content area conference before classroom presentations.

The Presentation

1. Each content area selects a spokesperson to describe their discoveries.

2. Students at their desks take notes on the **Diary of the Buffalo Hunter** graphic organizer.

Exit Slip: Explain the dynamic relationships among people on the plains. How do they get along?

Assessment

Students rewrite the **Henry Raymond Diary** in a narrative format using the notes written during the power point presentation and the group presentations. One page minimum requirement.

Extension Activities:

- **Resources:** “Diary of a Buffalo Hunter”-**Middle School Read Kansas! Lesson M-19**
<http://www.kshs.org/p/read-kansas-middle-school-m-19-depletion-of-the-buffalo/15364>

DIARY OF A DODGE CITY

BUFFALO HUNTER

1872

The diary of Henry H. Raymond is in the collection of the Kansas State Historical Society. The diary is published in the Kansas Historical Quarterly, Volume XXXI, Winter 1965, pages 345-395.

Henry was born in 1848 in Illinois. He had an older brother Theodore who he refers to as "The" in the diary. Henry followed Theodore to Kansas. Theodore and his friends Bat and Ed Masterson were doing work for the Santa Fe railroad near Dodge City.

In this excerpt from the diary Raymond comments on the number of buffalo killed and skinned. Note: Spelling and other errors left in on purpose.



Nov. Saturday 23. 1872

Went out, helped skin 17 buffaloes. Very warm and pleasant. The killed 5 of them. Abe Mayhue came in, saw badger and prairie dogs.

Nov. Sunday 24. 1872

Killed two buffaloes myself. helped skin 4. Very windy

Nov. Monday 25 1872

Abe and Bat started for Dodge City this morning. Ed killed 19 buffalos. Skinned 15 of them. I killed one at night. Saw jack rabbit. Saw pack of wolves. Sent for pants and overalls, and cup and camphor gum, by Bat. Made ring of hoof.

Nov. Tuesday 26 1872

killed and skinned 20 buffalos. I killed 3 of them. Beautiful day until night, turned very cold and windy.

Nov. Wednesday 27 1872

Cold day. The and me skinned 14 buffalo. Steve and Jim fixed shanty. Ed killed wild turkey. Saw village of prairie dogs.

Nov Thursday 28 1872

Killed and skinned 7 buffalos. Abe and Bat got back, also all of Nixons camp returned.

Nov Friday 29 1872

Killed and skinned 13 buffalo. I killed one. The sick. Abe and Steve went to town, or rather started.

Nov Saturday 30 1872

Ed and Bat and me killed and butchered 17 buffalos. Jim pegged.

Dec Sunday 1 1872

Ed and me butchered 10 bulls. Jim pegged. Indians at camp.

Dec Monday 2 1872

Hunted with Nixons outfit. Butchered 23 today. Jim and me 13.

Dec Tuesday 3 1872

Butchered 17 buffalo, The, Ed and me. Abe got back bot ein gallon schnaps mit gebraucht (brought a gallon of whiskey along). Nixon teams came back.

Dec Wednesday 4 1872

Butchered 20 buffalos, The, Bat, Ed and me. Three Indians in camp today.

Dec Thursday 5 1872

Butchered 19 buffalos, Ed, The, Bat and me. Abe loaded and started for Dodge City. Three Indians in camp today.

Dec Friday 6 1872

Butchered 12 buffalo, The, Ed, Bat and me. I shot some wounded ones. Spring day. Some little rain at evening, turned cold and clear. Went to Yahoo's camp at night, The, Nixon, Hunt and me

Dec Saturday 7 1872

Skinned 26 buffalo. Nixon moved camp today.

Dec Sunday 8 1872

Shaved with pocket knife. Ed, Jim and me went to Indian Village. Saw the squaws tanning robes. Arapahoe tribe

Dec Monday 9 1872

Skinned 30 buffalo. Very cold a[ll] d[ay]. Cloudy and windy at night. I killed 3 of buffalo.

Dec Tuesday 10 1872

First snow, last night. Warm today. Wounded buffalo this morning. Big John here, Jim and I went aft turkys. Abe came at night brought (???) letter from Lisa Lane.

Dec Wednesday 11 1872

Bat, Abe, Ed, Jim, Rigney and me went to Indian camp to trade. The went to Dodge with Nixen. Killed my first grouse today. Saw Indians eating lice.

Dec Thursday 12 1872

Sat up nearly all night last night. So cold did not work. Hauled load of wood, went to Yahoos camp at eve.

Dec Friday 13 1872

Butchered 4 buffalos. Snow on ground. Quail hunting. Abe tried to kill some. I shot kyote on run, grazed his back

Dec Saturday 14 1872

Terrible windy and cold. Did not work only pegged a few hides. The('Theodore') came in at night

Dec Sunday 15 1872

Did not work, went to Big Johns camp to take saddle and ammunition bought Navy pistol of Big John for five dollars. Two strange Indians came to camp today. Jim Barber here. Went to yahoo camp at night. Abe and Ed started for Dodge.

Dec Monday 16 1872

The, Bat and me butchered 6 buffalos cold in fore [room]. Three Indians in camp today.

Dec Tuesday 17 1872

Jim and I went to East Chiwa to kill turkeys, had Dutch Freds gun. Got ball fast (?). killed grouse, didn't work.

Dec Wednesday 18 1872

Staid in camp. Yahoos hunted with our boys today. I thawed and pegged hydes. Rigney here in morn. Boys killed 12 buff. wrote to Seth.

Dec Thursday 19 1872

Terrible wind and snow storm last night and this morning. Bull train came last night. Borrowed flour of Yahoos. Cold day

Dec Friday 20 1872

Very cold day. Shook snow off hydes. The and Bat went to Big Johns. Started to town. 4 bull whackers here to spend eve. Sang songs and played violin, snowed.

Dec Saturday 21 1872

Jim and I at camp alone. Shot a grouse. Cam near shooting Moore. Jim Barber here after shovel. Boys did not come.

Dec Sunday 22 1872

Went to creek to hunt turkeys. All gone. Beautiful day boys didn't come borrowed flour of Yahoos

Dec Monday 23 1872

Terrible, cold and windy all night and today. Wright Moore called on his way to Nixens. Boys did not come

Dec Tuesday 24 1872

Cold day. Two of Yahoos here. Moore here aft[er] yeast pwd [powder]. Abe and Ed came at night. Ed brough pair gloves \$3.00. got letter from Seth

Dec Wednesday 25 1872

Christmas day. Shot at mark to see whose treat. Ed and me best. Fine day in morning. wind rose about noon. Went to Nixens camp, played fiddle for stag dance in dugout. Terrible windy and cold. Stayed all night. Slept with bosses.

Of interest:

Jan Thursday 2 1873

Got up this morning and found ourselves snowed under and surrounded by wolves. I shot at them, very cold day. Stopped at Mulberry, watered horses. I killed rabbit with needle gun. Got to Hunts ranche. Got supper on their stove. Had heap of fun with clown Keiser

DISCIPLINE QUESTIONS

(Teacher cuts into strips and distributes to specific group)

MATH: Total number killed/skinned. What is the profit over time?

LANGUAGE ARTS: Reading, inference...where are they, living conditions, how many in the camp? New vocabulary?

SCIENCE: Climate, time of year, is this typical for this time of year -atypical? What about the rest of the animal-what are they doing with it?-decomposition of the rest of the carcass (until there were bones to sell)?

HISTORY: Where are they, why are they there, is this a profitable enterprise? Will it continue to be a profitable enterprise? What does the diary tell us about the time period? Why is there German dialog? Why would Indians be in their camp (tribe?)

DIARY OF A BUFFALO HUNTER: GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

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- 2.
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