MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

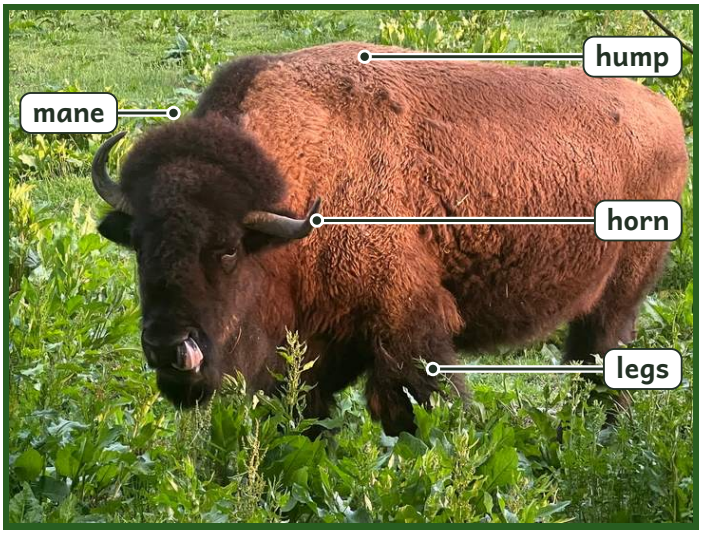
AMERICAN BISON

Bison bison

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A bison eats in the tall grass at our zoo.

Its body

A bison is very big.
It has a tall **hump**.
It has a shaggy **mane**.
Males and females have horns.

Its home (habitat)

Bison live in North America.
They live on grassy land.
Six live at our zoo.
One is named Snow White.



■ Lives in parts of this area ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

A bison eats grass.
It eats other plants too.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby bison is a **calf**.
Two calves were born at our zoo.
They are Nicholas and Mackenzie.
Nicholas's mother is Kyra.

Fun facts

It is the U.S. national mammal.
It rolls in dust and mud.

Words to know

calf: a baby bison
hump: the high part over its shoulders
mane: long shaggy hair on its head and neck

Talk about it

1. Which bison grow horns?
2. What does a bison eat?
3. Who was born at our zoo?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/american-bison/ · **Sources:** Smithsonian's National Zoo; National Park Service; IUCN Red List
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo · Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

AMERICAN BISON

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the american bison fact sheet for grades K–2 · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A bison has a hump. **YES** **NO**
2. Only male bison have horns. **YES** **NO**
3. A baby bison is a calf. **YES** **NO**
4. Bison eat meat. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ hump
- ☐ horns
- ☐ shaggy mane
- ☐ tail
- ☐ big head
- ☐ calf

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · resting · rolling

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a bison eating grass. Show its hump and horns.

Draw here

A bison has a _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular american bison sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/american-bison/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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