MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND COW

Bos taurus

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Fast facts

ANIMAL	Domestic cattle breed
DIET	Plants
ORIGIN	Scotland
YOUNG	Calf



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- Highland cattle have two coat layers.
- The outer coat helps shed rain.
- Both sexes normally grow horns.
- A group is often called a fold.
- A calf drinks its mother's milk.

Words to know

Calf: A young cow or bull.
Fold: A group of Highland cattle.
Insulation: A covering that reduces heat loss.
Cud: Food brought back to the mouth to chew.

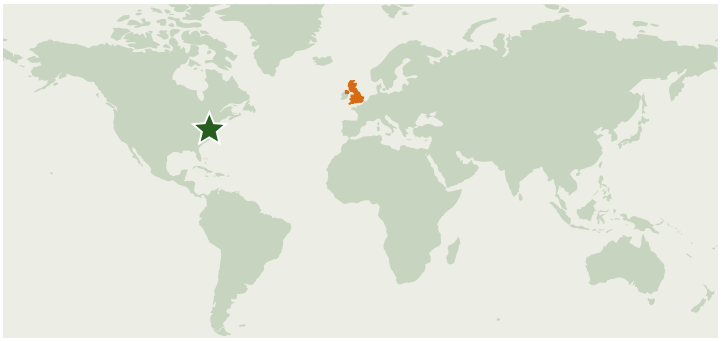
Think about it

1. How many coat layers do Highland cattle have?
2. What does the outer coat do?
3. Which animals normally grow horns?
4. What is a fold?
5. What does a calf get from its mother?

Draw it

Draw Highland cattle. Label the horns, legs and shaggy coat. Explain one job each coat layer does.

Where the breed began



Breed developed here ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

STANDARDS · GRADES 1–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.1.B**

Draw here

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/scottish-highland-cow/ · **Sources:** Highland Cattle Society; American Highland Cattle Association; Wildlife Trust BCN; Animal Diversity Web
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
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SCOTTISH HIGHLAND COW

Before and after your visit

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Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where did people first raise this breed?

Circle one:

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?

☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.

☐ Calf ☐ Fold ☐ Insulation ☐ Cud

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

_____

_____

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the Scottish Highland cow.

_____

_____

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?

☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching ☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Where the breed began: Scotland. Was your guess right?

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Plants. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

_____

_____

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

• What does the outer coat do?

_____

_____

• Which animals normally grow horns?

_____

_____

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT

Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/scottish-highland-cow/ · Fact sheet page 1 has the fast facts, map and vocabulary this page refers to.

Grades 1–4 · Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2** · Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.1.B**

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