MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

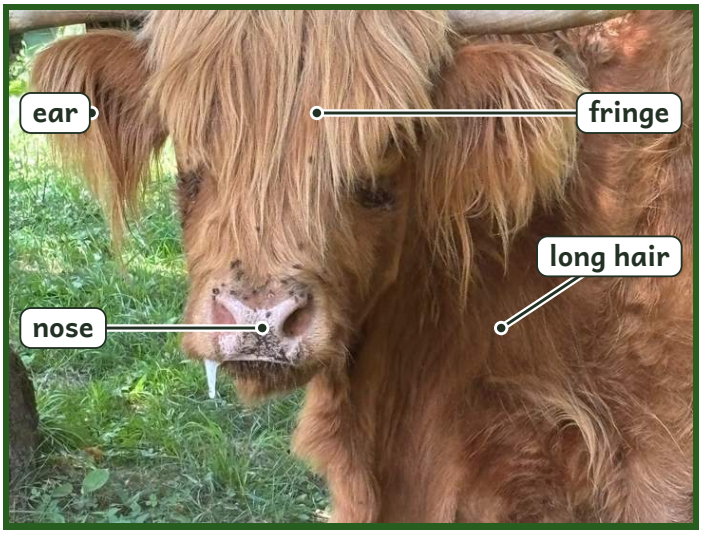
SCOTTISH HIGHLAND COW

Bos taurus

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 Highland cow at our zoo.

Its body

It has 2 coats of hair.
The top coat sheds rain.
The soft under coat keeps it warm.
Cows and bulls have long horns.

Its home (habitat)

This cow came from Scotland.
A group is called a **fold**.
Highland cows live at our zoo.



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

Its food

It eats plants.
It brings food back up to chew.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby is a **calf**.
A mother usually has 1 calf.
It stands soon after birth.
It drinks its mother's milk.

Fun facts

Look for the **fringe** over its eyes!

Words to know

calf: a baby cow
fold: a group of Highland cows
fringe: long hair over its forehead

Talk about it

1. How do two coats help a Highland cow?
2. What can a calf do soon after birth?
3. Which ones grow horns?

Learn more: 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: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
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

SCOTTISH HIGHLAND COW

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the scottish highland cow 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 Highland cow has long hair. **YES** **NO**
2. Only bulls have horns. **YES** **NO**
3. A baby is a calf. **YES** **NO**
4. It eats meat. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ shaggy hair
- ☐ horns
- ☐ nose
- ☐ ears
- ☐ fringe
- ☐ tail

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · watching · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a Highland cow. Show its shaggy hair and horns.

Draw here

This cow has _____

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 scottish highland cow 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/scottish-highland-cow/ · 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 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
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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