MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

WATUSI

Bos taurus

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

ANIMAL	Domestic cattle breed
DIET	Plants
GROUP	Herd
YOUNG	Calf



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- Watusi are also called Ankole-Watusi.
- The breed has African ancestry.
- The horn region helps disperse heat.
- Watusi chew cud.
- A calf drinks its mother's milk.

Words to know

Calf: A young cow or bull.
Herd: A group of cattle.
Herbivore: An animal that eats plants.
Cud: Food brought back to the mouth to chew.

Think about it

1. What is another name for Watusi?
2. Where does the breed have ancestry?
3. How can the horns help with heat?
4. What is cud?
5. What does a calf get from its mother?

Draw it

Draw Watusi cattle. Label the horns, ears and legs. Explain two functions of the horns.

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/watusi/ · **Sources:** Oklahoma State University; Roger Williams Park Zoo; Toronto Zoo; 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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WATUSI

Before and after your visit

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 ☐ Herd ☐ Herbivore ☐ 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 Watusi.

_____

_____

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: A cattle breed with African ancestry. 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.

• Where does the breed have ancestry?

_____

_____

• How can the horns help with heat?

_____

_____

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.