

Buffalo Song

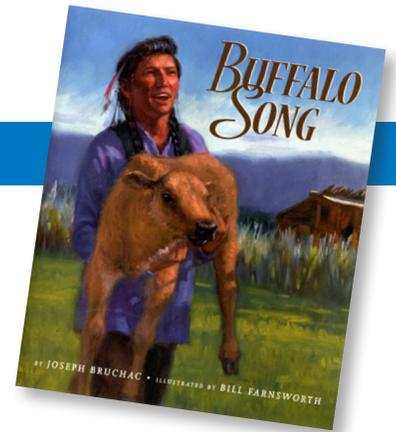
A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Ecology, Nature, Conservation, American Indian Culture

Book Brief: By the late 1800s, American buffalo were nearly extinct. This book tells the story of how one man and his family worked to save the buffalo.

Author:
Joseph Bruchac

Illustrator:
Bill Farnsworth



TIME TO READ!



Before reading, build background knowledge:

What does it mean when an animal is *extinct*? Buffalo once lived all across North America, but people hunted them until they were almost all gone.

While reading, track the time: The author doesn't

use days, months, or years, so how can you tell how much time has passed?

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Why does Walking Coyote name the baby buffalo Little Thunder Hoof?
- ◆ Why are buffalo so important to Walking Coyote and the Salish people?
- ◆ What might have happened if Walking Coyote and others hadn't helped the buffalo?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

CAULIFLOWER BUFFALO "WINGS"

Materials: cauliflower, 1/2 cup milk, 1/3 cup flour, 1 tsp. garlic powder, 1/2 tbsp. butter, hot sauce

Cut the cauliflower into bite-sized pieces. Mix together milk, flour, and garlic powder. Dip each piece of cauliflower in the mix and place on a greased cooking sheet. Cook for 18-20 minutes at 450°. Melt butter in a pan; add hot sauce to taste. When "wings" are done, toss them in the sauce. Enjoy!

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

Materials: paper, pencils or pens, markers or crayons

There's a herd of buffalo living on Catalina Island, off the coast of California. How did buffalo get all the way out there? Make a children's book that tells the story of how a bunch of buffalo ended up on an

island. Illustrate your book and be sure to give it a title! After you're done, look up the Catalina Island buffalo to find out the real story.

THE ENDANGERED ZONE

Buffalo aren't the only animals who've been hurt by humans. An *endangered species* is a plant or animal in danger of going extinct. Visit www.fws.gov/angered/map/index.html to learn about endangered species in your area. Make a list of at least five things you can do to help protect the wildlife around you.

TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit www.explore.org/#!/live-cams/player/plains-bison-grasslands-national-park-cam-1 to watch a live webcam of a buffalo watering hole.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

A Boy Called Slow (1998)

Crazy Horse's Vision (2006)

Many Nations: An Alphabet of Native America (2004)



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