



ACTIVITY 1

Large Animal Sorting Activity



RANCH LIFE SERIES | BOOK 3 | RANCH WILDLIFE:

Chapter 2

Content Area:

Science

Topic:

Animal Characteristics, Habitat and Behaviors

Objective:

Students will identify habitats, traits, and behaviors for large animals covered in chapter 2.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

2.10A, 3.10A, 4.10A, 4.10B, 5.10A, 5.10B





Large Animal Sorting Activity

CONTENT AREA: Science

TOPIC: Animal Characteristics, Habitat and Behaviors

ACTIVITY MATERIALS:

- LARGE ANIMAL CARDS (PAGE A1 - 3): 1 PER STUDENT TABLE GROUP
- LARGE ANIMAL SORTING MAT (page A1 - 4): 1 per student table group
- LARGE ANIMAL SORTING MAT ANSWER KEY (page A1 - 4): 1 for teacher
- THE BOTTOM LINE (page A1 - 5): 1 per student or student table group

READING STRATEGY:

- Students will read chapter 2 pages 2-15.
- As students are reading, they will look for each animal's habitat, traits, and behaviors within the chapter.

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Each group will need a set of LARGE ANIMAL SORTING CARDS and a LARGE ANIMAL SORTING MAT.
2. As students are reading, they will look for each animal's habitat, traits, and behaviors within the chapter. Once they identify one of these components, they will find the matching card and place it on the sorting mat.
3. Once all groups have completed their sorting mat, have groups volunteer to share their answers and discuss any information that is different. Remind students, opposing ideas should be grounded in evidence from the chapter.

STUDENT SKILLS ASSESSMENT:

- Have students (or student groups) complete THE BOTTOM LINE worksheet at the end of the activity.

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SECURITY BRIEFING –

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HANK THE COWDOG:

Being the head of ranch security is a big job! As you can imagine, I must know a lot of information about the ranch and the many **animals** on and around the ranch. If you are going to be my deputy, here on Loper's ranch, you are going to have to learn a few things about the large animals we have on the ranch. For example, if you need to find one of these animals you need to know their **habitat** and how to identify the animals. If you know the **inherited traits** for the animal, it makes identification a breeze. No matter where you are, each **species** of animal has unique traits that will help you identify them by observable **characteristics**. The last thing you need to understand about large animals are their **behaviors**. Some large animals are gentle giants and others, like the Long Horn you learned about during Ranch Life Series book 1: Ranching and Livestock, can be a bit frisky and downright mean! Handling those critters should only be done by a trained professional like myself.

ACTIVITY MATERIALS:

- LARGE ANIMAL SORTING CARDS
- LARGE ANIMAL SORTING MAT
- THE BOTTOM LINE

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Your group will need a set of LARGE ANIMAL SORTING CARDS and a LARGE ANIMAL SORTING MAT.
2. As you read, look for each animal's habitat, traits, and behaviors within the chapter. Once you identify one of these components, find the matching card and place it on the sorting mat.
3. Once your group has completed the sorting mat, check your answers. Your information will be shared with your classmates during a discussion led by your teacher.

WRAP UP:

Fill out THE BOTTOM LINE worksheet after you have completed the activity.

Eats vegetation (flowers, shrubs, bushes and tomatoes)	Camouflage	Jumps over fences
White tail	Long ears like a mule	Response to Danger: Flight or Freeze
Antlers that are shed	Habitat: Rough country with deep canyons	Scoots under fence
Antlers that are kept all year	Habitat: Flat open country	Response to Danger: Flight
Fast runners	Have large litters	Long tusks
Large body (300-400 pounds)	Root and dig up food	Nocturnal
Eats vegetation, roots, grains, nuts, grain, eggs and small animals	Response to Danger: Fight	Habitat: Northern Texas Panhandle
Shy	Big curled horns	Sandy brown coat
"Beard"	Large body (300 pounds)	Habitat: Rough, rocky terrain
Good eyes		

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**USE LARGE RANCH ANIMALS SORTING MAT
11X17 PAPER**

**TEACHERS: USE LARGE RANCH ANIMALS SORTING
MAT KEY
11X17 PAPER OR USE ONLINE PDF**

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