

BISON ANSWERS

1.



A. The Plains Bison has rounded shoulders, afro-like hair; defined cape, shorter horned, and chaps on forelegs.



B. The Woods Bison has square shoulders, straight hair, indistinct cape, longer horns, and no chaps on the front legs.

2. C. Bison make wallows by wallowing: They roll around on bare ground in the dust.
3. D. Two hundred years ago, there were at least 60 million bison. Tragically, they were gunned down by European settlers, to a few hundred by the end of the 19th century. They began to recover once governments set up reserves, but the Wood Bison is still at risk.
4. B. Bison prefer to live in open areas. They were once common on the vast grasslands of the Great Plains and the meadows of the boreal forest.
5. A. True. Like a cow, a bison isn't done with its food after swallowing. Food soaks and mixes with microorganisms in the stomach for a few hours then gets regurgitated for another chew.
6. B. False. Bison don't actually have four stomachs, but their stomach does have four separate chambers. Bison ruminate, which refers to the long digestion process of animals with four-chambered stomachs. Each stomach chamber has a different role to play in digestion.
7. D. Digesting food ferments in the bison's stomach to release nutrients and energy for the bison's nourishment. This creates a lot of gas. So the bison doesn't explode, it has to burp. Lots.
8. C. Since a buffalo is really a bison and North American antelope are actually pronghorn, the old time song "Home On The Range" is doubly wrong. Bison and pronghorn are the correct terms for the species in North America.



9. B. Male bison find their mates using smell. Bulls literally have to sniff out their mates. They figure out which females are ready to mate by smelling their hormone levels.
10. A. Bison calves weigh 14-18 kg when they are born, about as much as a kindergartner.