

EDUCATIONAL GUIDE

GENERAL QUESTIONS

1. What did Plains Cree People use the buffalo for? (Name three uses.)
2. Name three uses for buffalo hide.
3. Name three uses for buffalo bones.
4. Name three uses for buffalo fur.
5. Name three uses for buffalo meat.
6. According to Mosōm, from where did Plains Cree People move to the Great Plains?
7. How did the Plains Cree People figure out how to use the buffalo?
8. Why do Plains Cree People preserve part of the buffalo?
9. How do Plains Cree People honour the buffalo and its gifts?
10. Why do the Plains Cree People still honour the buffalo?
11. How do the buffalo honour the People?
12. Why did Mosōm sing to the buffalo?
13. This story is written in English and in Cree. How do written Cree words look different from written English words?

INFERENTIAL QUESTIONS

1. How does this story show Plains Cree People passing on their knowledge?
2. Why did the Old One stop to look at Mosōm?
3. Why did the grandson want to learn the ways and songs to honour the buffalo?
4. Why do you think the story is also written in the Cree language?

SYNTHESIS QUESTIONS

1. What do you think is the most interesting thing made from the buffalo? Why?
2. What item do you think people might still use today?
3. How did it make you feel to read and learn about the Plains Cree People using the buffalo to survive?
4. Why do you think the story is told from the buffalo's point of view?
5. Have you ever been told a story from your culture? Briefly write a story that has been passed on in your family or among your people.
6. The grandson is frightened as the buffalo draw near, but his Mosōm's presence gives him courage and comfort. Retell an experience from your life when you felt brave in a scary situation and why.

7. How would the lives of the Plains Cree People have been different in the past without the buffalo? Choose one item made from the buffalo and imagine what you would use instead.
8. Many people speak two or even more languages, such as English and Cree. Do you think it is important to learn or continue speaking the language of your people, or should you speak only English or French, the official languages of Canada?

RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES

1. Buffalo still live in Saskatchewan and other places. Where do they live today?
2. What do buffalo eat?
3. How did the Plains Cree People hunt the buffalo?
4. What other resources did the Plains Cree People use?
5. Many cultures tell stories to explain how things have come to be or how things were in the past or are today. Research another story from another culture and tell what it explains.
6. Choose another animal or plant that is or was used by people. Tell its story from its own point of view, much the way the buffalo told the Creator about its uses. Can you put yourself in that animal or plant's place?
7. Draw a picture of the buffalo. Label the major parts of the buffalo.
8. Cook bison/buffalo burgers or make pemmican.
9. Make a list of objects that are made from one part of the buffalo. Select one object and write a riddle that's a clue to the object's identity. Present your riddle to a partner or your small group or class. See if your classmates can guess what the object is.
10. Draw a web with a part of the buffalo in the middle. In the web, list all the items for which that part is used.
11. Mike Keepness is an amazing artist. Draw and colour or paint your own buffalo hunting or buffalo part scene.
12. Many stories come from other languages. Find someone you know who speaks another language. Write down five words from the other language with their English translations.
13. Some places around southern Saskatchewan are named from Cree words, such as "Pasqua" and "Wascana." Find other places whose names come from other languages. (eg. Ottawa—Anishinaabe).

NOTE: *Honouring the Buffalo: A Plains Cree Legend* meets Social Studies Curriculum Outcomes for Grades 1–6.