

Buffalo Trace Education Box Lesson 6

How Big is a Bison?

Purpose: Students will draw on the playground the actual size of a bison by using the measurements and guidelines from “Actual Size.”

Subject Areas: Life Science, Math

Time Needed: approximately one hour

Materials Needed: Activity 6 Page for Bison (provided), Plan 6 Page for Bison (provided), sidewalk chalk (lots of it), a meter or yardstick, a measuring tape and/or a measuring wheel, a carpenter’s square, chalk line reel, playground space (paved or concrete)

Steps:

Before beginning, communicate with school personnel about your plan. Involve volunteers and students.

1. On the playground, draw a 10-foot line, and draw another line 6 feet and 6 inches long at a right angle to the end of the first line. This is the actual size of a bison.
2. Then complete the rectangle.
3. Draw an outline of a bison within the rectangle.
4. Compare student’s size and bison size.

Extensions:

- If students have participated in the lesson about the bison’s digestive system (where measured yarn showed the length of the digestive system parts), take the yarn out to the playground. Imagine where the digestive system could be placed.

Resources:

- Actual Size (Science) has 36 complete lesson plans and blueprints where students can create full-scale drawings right on the playground. The Actual Size Science has: Life Sciences (13 animals), Physical Sciences (such as the Grand Canyon) and Technology (such as the first computer). There is another Actual Size for Social Studies, such as Statue of Liberty. (SunflowerEducation.net)

