

**Osage and the Bison:** The Osage probably began hunting buffalo on **horseback** around the **early 1700's**. They established many east-west buffalo hunting trails and camps in **Kansas and Oklahoma** (Burns 61-69). The last Osage bison hunt took place in **1876**. It was a failure as there were few bison remaining on the southern plains. This resulted in great suffering and the end of a way of life (Bailey 12).



**The Animal: Research Bison** - at [Bison - Smithsonian National Zoo](#)

SEE tab section - **FACT SHEET**: list **one interesting fact** for each category below:

1. Physical Description:
2. Size:
3. Native Habitat:
4. Communication:
5. Food/eating habits:
6. Social structure:
7. Reproduction & Development:
8. Sleep Habits:
9. Lifespan:

See tab section - **CONSERVATION**:

10. How many buffalo were there historically? \_\_\_\_\_ by 1890's? \_\_\_\_\_
11. What was intended effect of the bison slaughter on American Indians?
12. How many are managed today in livestock herds? \_\_\_\_\_ in conservation herds? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Buffalo meat is low in fat and cholesterol. It is high in Omega 3, which can help prevent disease and prolong good health. What consumers might be interested in this?
14. Read about bison are being preserved in the Osage / Flint Hills at [Tallgrass Prairie Preserve - Osage County, Oklahoma](#). How many acres do the bison have? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many bison are in this herd? \_\_\_\_\_

\*The Tallgrass Prairie National Preserve in Chase County, KS also has a small bison herd.

15. Read about how in 2017 the **Osage Nation** started its own [bison herd on the new Osage-owned Bluestem Ranch](#). At the 43,000-acre ranch dedication in 2016, Chief Geoffrey Standing Bear stated he hopes someday to "see this land as a refuge for our sacred bison."  
How important do you think this effort is to the Osage? Why?