

# Buffalo Song

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

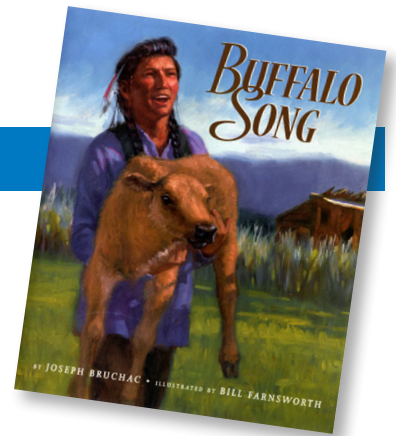
**Themes:** Ecology, Nature, Conservation, American Indian Culture

**Book Brief:** By the late 1800s, American buffalo were nearly extinct. This book tells the story of how one man and his family worked to save the buffalo.

**Author:**  
Joseph Bruchac

**Illustrator:**  
Bill Farnsworth

**Content Connections:**  
Science, Social Studies



## TIME TO READ!

### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the book based on the title and

the cover illustration. Who is on the cover? What is he holding? Look at the back cover—where is the story set?

**The Pictures:** Flip briefly through some of the pictures. What else can students tell about the setting? When does the story take place? What can they tell about the main characters?

**Prior Knowledge:** For centuries, buffalo lived all across North America. When white settlers came, they began hunting buffalo by the thousands, killing the animals for sport or for their valuable skins. Buffalo were saved from extinction by a few dedicated groups who worked to protect them.

**Vocabulary:** calf, corral, defiance, descent, herd, orphan

**Purpose for Reading:** Read the short passage on the page before the story starts. "As we read, think about why so many people in the story are willing to work so hard to save a few buffalo. Why do they care?"

## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ What happens to the calf's mother?
- ◆ Why do you think Walking Coyote names the calf Little Thunder Hoof?
- ◆ Why does Walking Coyote give Red Elk his bracelet?

- ◆ How does Little Thunder Hoof lead her herd?
- ◆ Why can't Walking Coyote keep the herd?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** Revisit the introductory passage; why is the buffalo a sacred animal for many American Indians? Other people worked to save the buffalo, too. Why? Would you have helped?

**Extending Our Thinking:** When an animal goes extinct, the rest of the world is affected. What might have happened if the buffalo had gone extinct? With a partner, think of a few ways the world might be different today. Share your ideas with the rest of the class.

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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