Taming the Wild Aurochs   A

The first domesticated animals were captured to raise as pets. Others were used for sport or in religious ceremonies.

The dog was the first animal to be domesticated, probably 12,000 years ago. Sheep and goats came next. They were domesticated around 7000 BC in the Middle East and Central Asia.

By 4000 BC cattle had been domesticated in South Asia, the Middle East and Europe. Cattle were descended from the wild aurochs, a massive, longhorned herd animal that lived in heavily-wooded areas. Pigs and horses were domesticated at about the same time as cattle. Rabbits were domesticated about the 6th Century Ad by French monks. In the New World the alpaca and llama may have been domesticated as early as 5500 BC.

Herd animals like the aurochs were the easiest animals to domesticate. Herd animals follow the lead of a dominant member. They stay close together and move together.

Early farmers could put out surplus grains to attract a few hungry members of the herd. If the farmer could attract a few herd members, the others were likely to follow.

The farmers watched the animals and learned their food and water needs. They would lead them to suitable pasture and water. They would protect them from predators. The animals grew accustomed to having humans around. After awhile, they become tame.

For many years tame herd animals were used only as an easy source of meat. Later the farmer noticed crops grew better on plots where the animals grazed. That was how they learned that animal manure was a valuable fertilizer.

Eventually the farmer discovered other uses for herd animals. The milk of some animals could be a valuable food source. The hair of herd animals like sheep and goats could be woven into cloth. Cattle, goats and horses could help with the farmer's work.

The animals that were domesticated gradually changed through selective breeding. Modern cattle are much smaller than their wild ancestors. That is because the smaller animals were easiest to capture and domesticate. Hunters killed the larger animals until there were no more. the smaller animals were protected and encouraged to breed.

Taming the Wild Aurochs   B

Choose five words from the list at right to create idioms, analogies, metaphors, or similes. Share these examples through illustrations. (Use reference materials such as dictionaries and thesaurus.)

Complete an outline from the reading. Place the headings listed below in the correct sequence before listing the subheadings.

> How to Tame Herd Animals
> Characteristics of Herd Animals
> Changes in Domesticated Animals
> First Domesticated Animals
> Uses for Domesticated Animals

alpaca
aurochs
breed
descended
domesticated
dominant
fertilizer
herd
llama
manure
monks
predators
surplus
selective breeding

I. _____
    A._____
    B. _____ and _____
    C. _____
    D. _____ and _____
    E. _____
    F. _____
II. _____
    A. _____
    B. _____
III. _____
    A. _____
    B. _____
    C. _____
    D. _____
    E. _____
IV. _____
    A. _____
    B. _____
    C. _____
    D. _____
    E. _____
V. _____
    A. _____
    B. _____

Taming the Wild Aurochs (outline)

I. First Domesticated Animals
       A. Dog
       B. Sheep and Goats
       C. Cattle
       d. Pigs and Horses
       e. Rabbits
       F. Alpaca and llama

II. Characteristics of Herd Animals
       A. Follow lead of dominant member.
       B. Stay close together and move together.

III. How to Tame Herd Animals
       A. Use surplus grain to attract a few herd members so others will follow.
       B. Watch the animals and learn their food and water needs.
       C. Lead animals to suitable pasture and water.
       D. Protect animals from predators.
       E. Animals grow accustomed to having humans around and gradually become tame.

IV. Uses for Domesticated Animals
       A. Meat
       B. Fertilizer
       C. Milk
       D. Clothing
       E. Work

V. Changes in Domesticated Animals
       A. Change in size
       B. Change according to use

Taming the Wild Aurochs

C

Name_____

Read the information on Student Worksheet A. Place these animals on the timeline below according to when they were first domesticated.

| pig | horse | cow | goat | llama |
| sheep | rabbit | dog | alpaca | bison |

10000 BC	
9500 BC	
9000 BC	
8500 BC	
8000 BC	
7500 BC	
7000 BC	
6500 BC	
6000 BC	
5500 BC	
5000 BC	
4500 BC	
4000 BC	
3500 BC	
3000 BC	
2500 BC	
2000 BC	
1500 BC	
1000 BC	
500 BC	
0	
500 AD	
1000 AD	
1500 AD	
2000 AD	

Ancient farmers domesticated herd animals by following the steps listed below. Number the steps to place them in their proper order.

___The farmer led the herd to suitable pasture and water and protected the herd from predators.

___Farmers used grains to attract a few members of the herd.

___The animals became tame.

___Other herd members followed.

___The animals grew accustomed to being around humans.

___The farmer watched the animals to learn their food and water needs.

___Humans raised herd animals for their milk.

___Farmers used animal manure to fertilize their fields.

___Humans wove the hair of animals into cloth for clothing.

___Humans raised animals for their meat.

___Farmers kept animals to help with the work

Taming the Wild Aurochs (answers)

Name_____

C

Read the information on Student Worksheet A. Place these animals on the timeline below according to when they were first domesticated.

pig	horse	cow	goat	llama
sheep	rabbit	dog	alpaca	bison

Date	Animal
10000 BC	dog
9500 BC	
9000 BC	
8500 BC	
8000 BC	
7500 BC	
7000 BC	sheep, goat
6500 BC	
6000 BC	
5500 BC	llama, alpaca
5000 BC	
4500 BC	
4000 BC	cow, pig, horse
3500 BC	
3000 BC	
2500 BC	
2000 BC	
1500 BC	
1000 BC	
500 BC	
0	
500 AD	rabbit
1000 AD	
1500 AD	
2000 AD	bison

Ancient farmers domesticated herd animals by following the steps listed below. Number the steps to place them in their proper order.

_4_ The farmer led the herd to suitable pasture and water and protected the herd from predators.

_1_ Farmers used grains to attract a few members of the herd.

_6_ The animals became tame.

_2_ Other herd members followed.

_5_ The animals grew accustomed to being around humans.

_3_ The farmer watched the animals to learn their food and water needs.

_9_ Humans raised herd animals for their milk.

_8_ Farmers used animal manure to fertilize their fields.

_10_ Humans wove the hair of animals into cloth for clothing.

_7_ Humans raised animals for their meat.

_11_ Farmers kept animals to help with the work

World Map

Name