



Introducing Rangelands-Session 1

Created by: IRRC	Date:
Subject: Science	Grade Level: 4th
Time Required: 30 minutes	Standards: Social Studies <u>Standard 2:</u> Geography Language Arts <u>Standard 1:</u> Reading Process Science: <u>Standard 3:</u> Biology

Overview	Students will be introduced to rangeland. A pretest, reading and a vocabulary review will define rangeland and illustrate its relevance to the student.
Goal(s) & Objective(s)	Students will demonstrate the ability to discern between rangeland and other land types. Students will read a booklet on rangelands.
Materials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u><i>Rangeland: Idaho's Roots</i></u> booklets <p>Photocopies of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. -What's your Range IQ? 2. -Who cares about rangeland?
Teaching Activities: Instructional Approaches/Strategies	<p>Introduction:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Have students complete the "<i>What's your range IQ?</i>" quiz. Use the key to go over the quiz in class. The answers address common misconceptions in a humorous way. <p>Procedures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explain to students that nearly half their state is classified as rangeland. 2. Define rangeland as the large expanses of shrub and grassland that are not covered by ice, rocks, thick forest, cities, or farms. 3. Have students read "<i>Who cares about rangeland?</i>" individually or out loud in class. <p>Closure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss how rangelands are significant to students.

Assessment:	
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Vocabulary: (used in session 2/3) Arid, bunchgrass, drought, food web, fossil, grass, grazer, habitat, livestock, precipitation, predator, shrub, trapper, trading post, weed, wildlife

Attachments:

What's Your Range *IQ* Quiz & Key
"Who Cares about Rangeland?" Article

Background:

Nearly half of Idaho's land is classified as rangeland. Rangelands are huge areas of grasses, shrubs and wildflowers. Ice, rocks, thick forest, cities or farms do not cover them. Rangelands are important for water, wildlife, mining, ranching and recreation.

**This Lesson Plan is part 1 of 3 There are two 30 minute sessions and one 15 minute session in the *Introducing Rangelands* Lesson Plan.

What's Your Range IQ?

1. What is range?
 - a. A series of mountains
 - b. A cooking stove that has an oven and a flat top with burners
 - c. A place where shooting or golf driving is practiced
 - d. The region throughout which a kind of organism or ecological community naturally lives or occurs
 - e. All land in the world that is not cultivated farmland, dense forest, barren desert, or covered by solid rock, concrete, or glaciers

2. How much of the world is rangeland?
 - a. 10 to 20%
 - b. 25 to 35 %
 - c. 40 to 50%
 - d. 65 to 75%

3. Which state has the highest percentage of its lands classified as rangeland?
 - a. Texas
 - b. Nevada
 - c. Wyoming
 - d. Montana

4. How much of Idaho's land is classified as rangeland?
 - a. 10%
 - b. 25%
 - c. 44%
 - d. 78%

5. What is the average amount of precipitation received by rangelands in one year?
 - a. 0-10 inches
 - b. 10-30 inches
 - c. 30-60 inches
 - d. More than 60 inches

6. What is rangeland good for?
 - a. nothing
 - b. target practice
 - c. long boring stretches of highway
 - d. livestock production, wildlife habitat, water, minerals, native plants, recreation, and open space.

7. What percentage of the wild mammals in the United States call rangelands home for at least part of their lives?
- 0 to 25%
 - 25 to 50%
 - 50 to 75%
 - 75 to 100%
8. What is rangeland management?
- managing just for livestock forage and production
 - careful use and management of rangeland resources to meet the changing needs of society
 - careful management of only wildlife habitat
 - management of driving ranges on golf courses
9. What do you think is the ecological condition of public rangeland today compared to 50 years ago?
- significantly worse
 - about the same
 - notably better
 - greatly improved
10. How much of Idaho's land area is grazed by livestock?
- 28%
 - 41%
 - 55%
 - 65%

What's Your Range IQ?

Quiz Key

1. What is range?

d. All of these definitions describe a type of “range.” The science of rangeland ecology and management defines range as all land in the world that is not cultivated farmland, dense forest, barren desert or land covered by solid rock, concrete, or glaciers. This includes grasslands, open forests and shrublands.

2. How much of the world is rangeland?

c. 47% of the world's land is classified as rangeland. The remaining land is 25% forest, 10% cropland, 15% ice, rock, and barren desert, and 3% urban development.

3. Which state has the highest percentage of its lands classified as rangeland?

b. Nevada is the highest with 80% of its lands classified as rangeland.

4. How much of Idaho's land is classified as rangeland?

c. 44% of Idaho's land is classified as rangeland. The remaining land is 40% forest, 14% cultivated crops, and 2% urban development.

5. What is the average amount of precipitation received by rangelands in one year?

b. 10 to 30 inches is the average amount of precipitation found on most rangelands. In fact vast expanses of rangeland receive less than 15 inches of precipitation per year.

6. What is rangeland good for?

d. Rangeland is good for all these things and more!

7. What percentage of the wild mammals in the United States call rangelands home for at least part of their lives?

d. 84% of the mammals, 74% of the birds, 58% of the amphibians, and 38% of the fishes are represented in rangeland ecosystems.

8. What is rangeland management?

b. Rangeland management is careful use and management of rangeland resources (plants, animals, soil, and water) to meet the changing needs of society. The tricky part of range management is that the needs and values of society" are continually changing!

9. What do you think is the ecological condition of public rangeland today compared to 50 years ago?

d. The condition of public rangelands has improved immensely over the last fifty years. In fact, the acreage in the combined category of excellent and good has doubled, and that in poor has decreased by more than half. U.S. rangelands, with some exceptions, are in their best condition this century!

10. How much of Idaho's land area is grazed by livestock?

d. Livestock graze 65% of Idaho's total land area and are found in every county. Range livestock production is one of Idaho's major agricultural activities when measured in terms of land use and cash receipts.

Who cares about rangeland?

I already know "Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!" I know Woodsy the Owl and Smokey the Bear. My family recycles, and we try to remember to turn off the lights to save electricity. Why do I need to know more stuff about natural resources? What else is there to know?

There is a lot more to know about natural resources! For example, rangeland is a natural resource you probably know little about. So who cares about those miles and miles of shrubs and grass that cover nearly half of Idaho, the western United States and the world?

We should all care! Rangelands affect everything from the quality of the water coming from your tap, the number of fish in your favorite hole, the price of a hamburger and whether there are enough tax dollars to fund schools. How those lands are used and who cares for them affects you!

Rangelands support many kinds of plants and provide wildlife habitat. They contribute to Idaho's economy by supporting mining, ranching and recreation such as hunting, hiking and camping. Their soils, vegetation, water and open spaces are important to the ecological and economic health of Idaho.

Smokey and Woodsy have shown you just a few of the many connections between your life and the land you live on. Learn more about rangeland and you'll understand what keeps the wild open spaces of Idaho productive and healthy.

