



Introducing Rangelands-Part 2

Created by: IRRC	Date:
Subject: Science, Social Studies, Language Arts	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 and answer comprehension questions. Students will use clues to complete a vocabulary puzzle.
Prerequisites & Materials	Prerequisites: Introducing Rangelands Lesson- Part1 Materials: 1. <u><i>Rangeland: Idaho's Roots</i></u> booklets Photocopies of: 1. -Rangeland; Idaho's Roots Comprehension questions 2. -Vocabulary puzzle
Teaching Activities: <i>Instructional Approaches/Strategies</i>	Introduction: 1. Go over the vocabulary words listed below. This could be done as a KWL format either individually or as a class on a flip chart. Procedures 1. Have students read <u><i>Rangeland: Idaho's Roots</i></u> and answer the comprehension questions. (attached below)

	<p>Closure</p> <p>1. Go back to the KWL and have students write down what they have learned about either the vocabulary or rangelands in general. Review answers to comprehension questions using answer key.</p>
Assessment:	Have students complete the vocabulary puzzle after reviewing the vocabulary words.

Vocabulary: (used in part 1) Arid, bunchgrass, drought, food web, fossil, grass, grazer, habitat, livestock, precipitation, predator, shrub, trapper, trading post, weed, wildlife

Extensions:

Go over “Rangeland PowerPoint”

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.

Rangeland: Idaho's Roots

Comprehension Questions

Read **Rangeland: Idaho's Roots**, and answer the following questions:

1. How much of Idaho is classified as rangeland?
2. How have the animals of Idaho changed since prehistoric times?
3. What types of land are *not* rangelands?
4. Why is rangeland important?
5. What are two different types of rangeland in Idaho?
6. How do scientists know that rangeland plants have not changed much, but the grazers have changed a lot?

7. How did the Native Americans manage rangeland?

8. Why do you think people decided to settle in Idaho after the gold ran out?

9. Why do you think it was so difficult to make a living on a homestead?

10. What made it easier to travel across the U.S. in the late 1800's?

11. Name two changes that helped ranchers improve their land and their profits after 1886.

12. Why are land managers needed for today's rangelands?

Rangeland: Idaho's Roots

Comprehension Question Key

1. How much of Idaho is classified as rangeland?

44% of Idaho is classified as rangeland.

2. How have the animals of Idaho changed since prehistoric times?

Prehistoric grazers and predators included ground sloths, wild horses, burros, musk oxen, bison, woolly mammoths, bears, wolves, and saber tooth cats. Today wild grazers and predators include deer, elk, antelope, wolves, bears and cougars. Since the Native Americans began grazing horse herds, domestic livestock such as sheep, horses and cattle have also been a part of today's rangeland ecosystem.

3. Name some types of land that are *not* rangeland?

Farmed land, seeded and irrigated pastures, thick forests, rocky cliffs, polar regions, the rainforest, city parks and barren deserts are a few examples of land types that are not rangeland.

4. Why is rangeland important?

Rangeland is important for water, wildlife, mining, ranching, and recreation. Students may also mention open space, natural beauty or specific uses of rangeland they enjoy.

5. What are two different types of rangeland in Idaho?

Students may record any two of these types: Pacific Bunchgrass, Sagebrush Grasslands, Juniper Woodlands, Salt-Desert Shrublands, and Coniferous Forests and Mountain Meadows.

6. How do scientists know that rangeland plants have not changed much, but the grazers have changed a lot?

Scientists use the fossilized remains of plants and animals to re-create the ecosystem that existed in prehistoric Idaho and compare that to botanical and wildlife surveys of today's rangeland.

7. How did the Native Americans manage rangeland?

They harvested native plants and animals, set fires across acres of rangeland and pastured large horse herds after 1730.

8. Why do you think people decided to settle in Idaho after the gold ran out?

Though each settler had unique reasons for staying in Idaho, the abundant game, fertile soil, water, and other valuable natural resources were attractive to everyone. Settlers also had the unique opportunity to become landowners if they could meet the government's homestead conditions.

9. Why do you think it was so difficult to make a living on a homestead?

Much of the west did not have the soil and climate suitable for the farming the homestead claim required. It would have required many more acres than the few allotted by homestead laws to produce enough crops to make a living in the dry climate of the west. Tools and methods were much more primitive. Usually the only help a man had was his family. The country was dangerous and services like doctors and sheriffs were often remote or non-existent.

10. What made it easier to travel across the U.S. in the late 1800's?

Completion of the transcontinental railroad and the construction of four rail lines across Idaho made getting in and out of Idaho as easy as buying a train ticket. The area's increasing population also provided more services helpful to travelers.

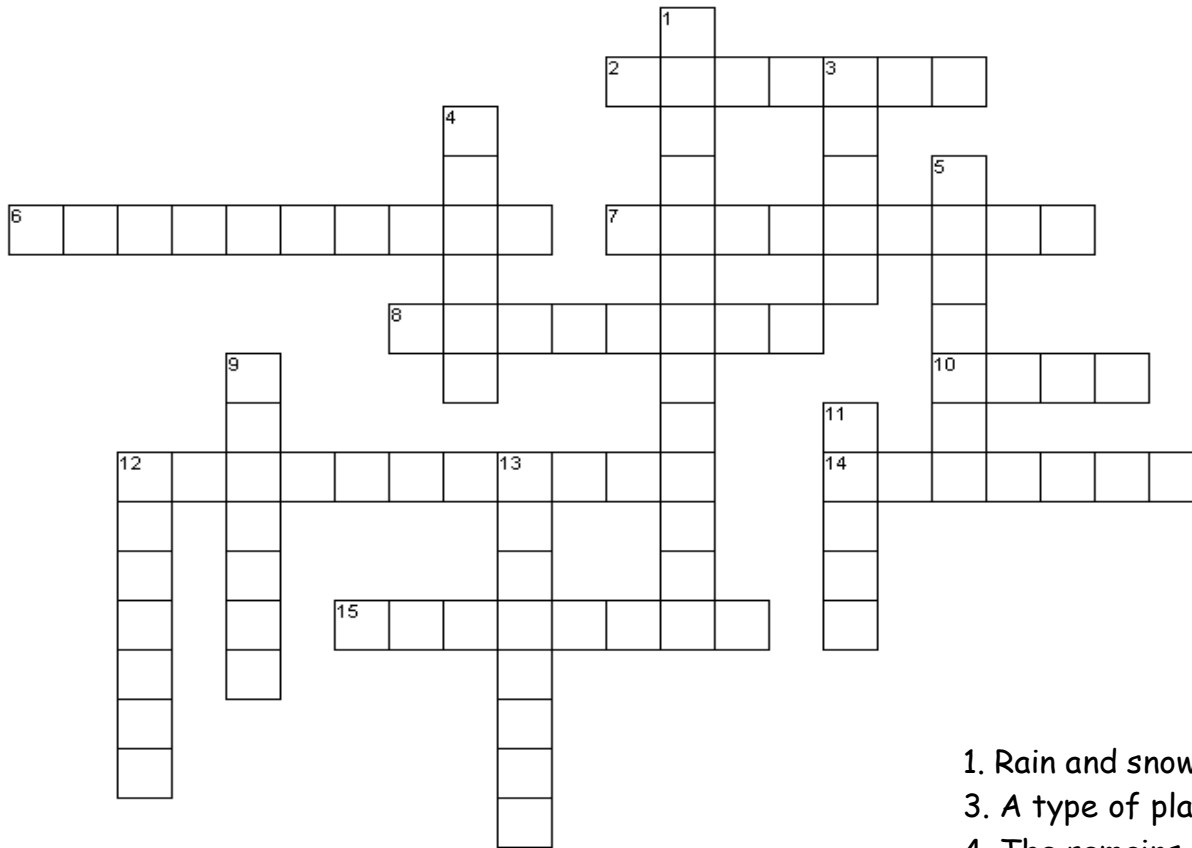
11. Name two changes that helped ranchers improve their land and their profits after 1886.

Several changes made ranchers more successful. They changed their grazing to fit the arid climate and the plants of the west. They ran smaller herds, improved the quality of their livestock, developed water sources, raised hay, constructed fences and managed their grazing to allow rest for the land.

12. Why are land managers needed for today's rangelands?

Management is needed to assure that the use of rangeland resources meets the changing needs and values of society and is sustainable

Rangeland Idaho's Roots Vocabulary Puzzle

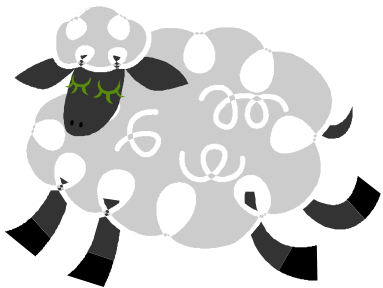


Across

2. Years with little rain or snow
6. A grass that grows in a cluster
7. Humans use them for food & clothing
8. Animals or plants in their original habitat
10. An undesirable plant
12. A place to buy and sell goods
14. Animals live here - this area provides food, water, shelter, and space.
15. An area of land that receives very little rain

Down

1. Rain and snow are examples of this.
3. A type of plant without showy flowers
4. The remains of any living thing preserved in rock
5. Overlapping food chains
9. A grass-eating animal
11. A plant with woody stems and no "trunk"
12. A person who earns money trapping and selling fur
13. An animal that hunts, kills, & eats its prey



Rangeland Vocabulary Puzzle Key

Across

2. Years with little rain or snow **DROUGHT**
6. A grass that grows in a cluster **BUNCHGRASS**
7. Humans use them for food & clothing **LIVESTOCK**
8. Untamed animals in their natural habitat **WILDLIFE**
10. An undesirable plant **WEED**
12. A place to buy and sell goods **TRADING POST**
14. Animals live here - this area provides food, water shelter and space **HABITAT**
15. An area of land that receives very little rain **ARID LAND**

Down

1. Rain and snow are examples of this **PRECIPITATION**
3. A type of plant without showy flowers **GRASS**
4. The remains of any living thing preserved in rock **FOSSIL**
5. Overlapping food chains **FOOD WEB**
9. grass-eating animals **GRAZERS**
11. A plant with woody stems and no "trunk" **SHRUB**
12. A person who earns money trapping and selling fur **TRAPPER**
13. An animal that hunts, kills and eats its prey **PREDATOR**