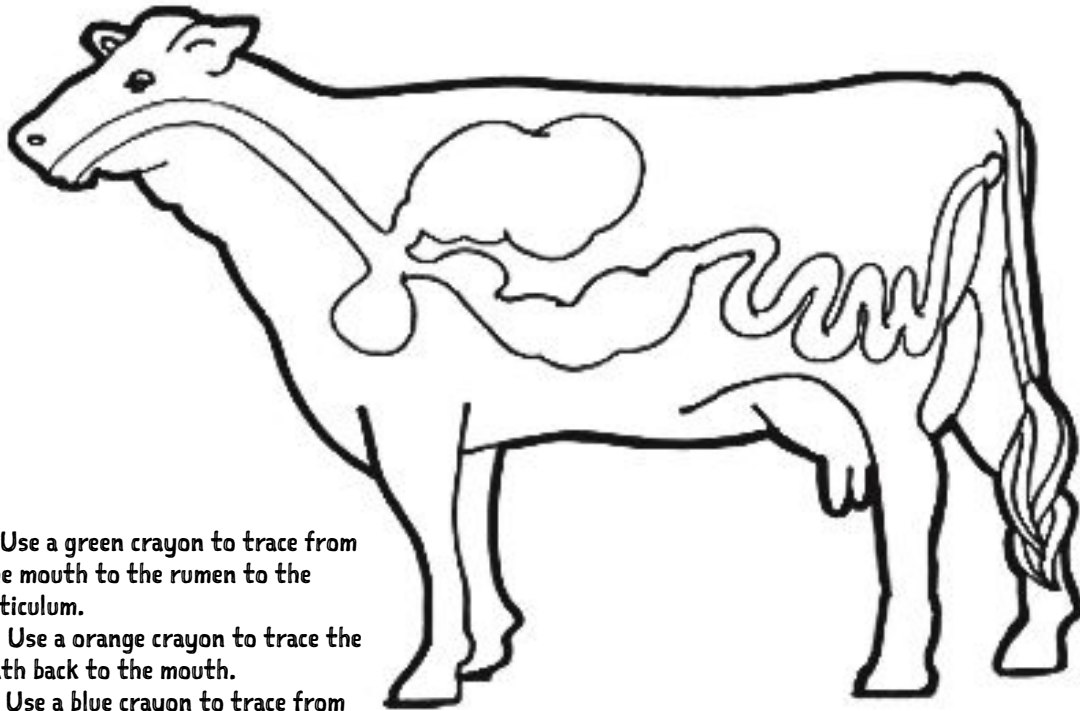


The Beef Brief

3RD TO 5TH GRADE ACTIVITY NEWSLETTER

For almost 500 years, the cattle industry has contributed significantly to Florida's economy and natural resources. Multi-generational family ranches have cared for the land, provided jobs for many residents and contributed greatly to communities.

Bite Once, Chew Twice



1. Use a green crayon to trace from the mouth to the rumen to the reticulum.
2. Use an orange crayon to trace the path back to the mouth.
3. Use a blue crayon to trace from the mouth to the omasum to the abomasum to the intestine.

Cattle Herding Game

Directions for the game:

1. Provide each student with three white balloons. These represent the student's "cattle herd."
2. Students will blow up the balloons. Balloons that pop will be considered a loss to the cattle rancher.
3. Students will use markers to draw their "brands" on their "cattle" (balloons).
4. When all the cattle are branded, they must be "trucked" to the range. Students will decide how many cattle will fit comfortably in each truck (large plastic garbage bags). Then students must figure out how many "trucks" they will need to transport all the cattle. Explain that overcrowding will cause distress and the possible death of an animal. Too few animals could allow too much movement, which could result in an animal slipping and hurting itself.
5. After all the cattle are turned out on the "range" (playground, cafeteria, gym, etc.) and allowed to graze for awhile (move the balloons around to mix them up, similar to what they would do on an open range) the ranchers must gather their cattle. The first cattle rancher to successfully gather all his/her cattle wins. Remember that a popped balloon at any time is a loss to the rancher.

Activity created by Oklahoma Ag in the Classroom

Have you ever noticed, whenever you see a cow, it always seems to be chewing? That is because a cow has to chew its food twice. What you are watching is the cow "chewing its cud." A cow is a ruminant, which means its stomach is divided into four parts; the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum. Each part has a different function. Because of these extra parts a cow can digest and use food that humans cannot, like grass and hay. Some examples of other ruminants include deer, giraffes, and sheep.

First the cow (ruminant) takes a bite of food, and the food moves to the rumen. It is partially digested by bacteria that live in the rumen. It then goes to the reticulum, which has ridges like a honeycomb. The ridges break the food down into smaller pieces. The cow then regurgitates (throws up) those pieces so it can chew them again. The food that comes back up is called "cud." The cow rechews the food with the strong back teeth and they break it down even more. The cow is now "chewing its cud." The cow swallows the food again and it heads into the omasum, the third section of the stomach. In the omasum, the food breaks down into vitamins and nutrients that the cow's body needs. The fourth part of the cow's stomach is the abomasum, and the last part of the digestive process takes place. In the abomasum, the cow's body gets all the good stuff that's left. Then it passes through the intestines and eventually out of the body.

Florida Agriculture in the Classroom is funded by the sale of the specialty license plate, the AgTag.



FLORIDA
Agriculture
IN THE CLASSROOM

A Cheeseburger Paragraph

How do you eat your hamburger? Do you like lots of toppings, like pickles, ketchup, lettuce, or tomato? Why do we put toppings on hamburgers? To make it taste better! Writing a paragraph is just like making a hamburger! Topic: How do you prepare the best hamburger?

Introduction

Topic Sentence

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Supporting Detail

Conclusion

The top bun is the introduction - Every cheeseburger needs a top bun; every paragraph needs an introduction.
The cheese is the topic sentence - This is the most important part. You cannot have a cheeseburger or paragraph without it!
The burger with all the toppings are supporting details - Supporting details are the meat of the paragraph. They also support or describe the topic sentence. They make the paragraph more interesting to read, just as ketchup, mustard, lettuce, tomato, or pickles make a cheeseburger more interesting to eat.
The bottom bun is the conclusion - A conclusion finishes a paragraph and leaves you with a final thought or idea. A paragraph is unfinished without a good conclusion, just as a cheeseburger is without a bottom bun. Your burger would fall apart and so would your paragraph.