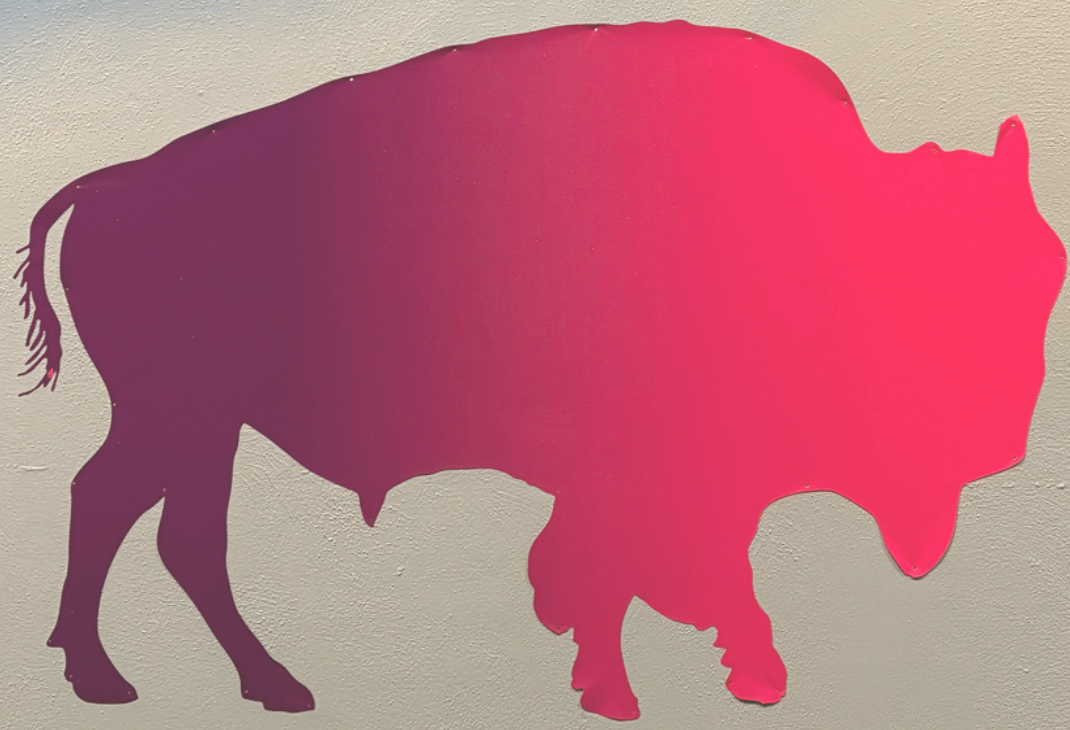




Buffalo, Deer, Bird

Activity workbook



Buffalo Bill Center of the West

About the Artists

Emily Arthur

Emily Arthur (American) is a contemporary artist and Associate Professor of Art at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Arthur specializes in printmaking and practices a nature-based approach to her designs. By incorporating environmental research, Arthur aims to highlight the relationship between modern culture, ancient lands, and living nature.



John Hitchcock



John Hitchcock (Kiowa / Comanche) is a renowned muralist, printmaker, and installation artist, based out of Madison, Wisconsin.

Hitchcock incorporates intense colour, abstract representations, and stories into his work. Through visual storytelling, he presents narratives of resilience and survival to understand the relationships between community, land, and culture.

About the Art

The Mural

Buffalo, Deer, Bird was installed by John Hitchcock and his studio assistants in July 2025. The mural is comprised of ink on paper, galvanized steel nails, vinyl, and acrylic paint.

The mural installation embraced spontaneity, changing direction and adapting to various challenges faced during the process.



Buffalo, Deer, Bird “celebrates the enduring connection between land, people, and buffalo” - John Hitchcock, 2025

Some animals burrow in the ground or swim in the water. Buffalo, deer, and reptiles thrive on the earth. Birds of all kinds rise into the sky, where the Big Dipper shines bright. This constellation represents the four seasons, and the seasons of life: birth, childhood, adulthood, and death. The silver and black animals are moving into the spirit world.

While the creatures included in the mural are culturally significant to a diversity of people, some have special significance to artist John Hitchcock and his communities. The water birds resonate with his Kiowa and Comanche upbringing, and the raptors represent the birds of the Draper Museum Raptor Experience here at the Center of the West.

What Can You See?

List as many animals, symbols, or objects possible that you can spot in the mural!

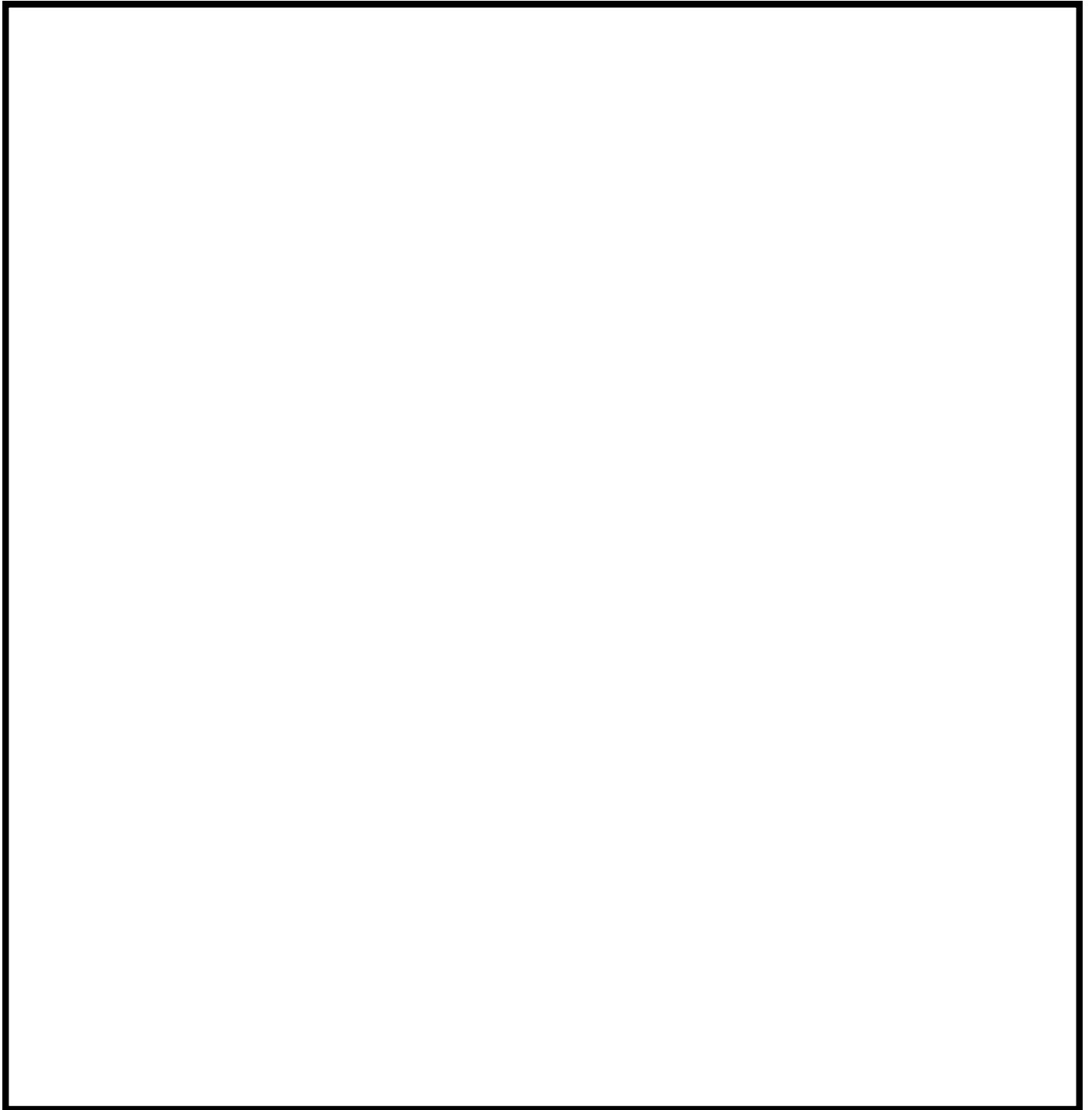
1. _____
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11. _____
12. _____

What's your favorite?



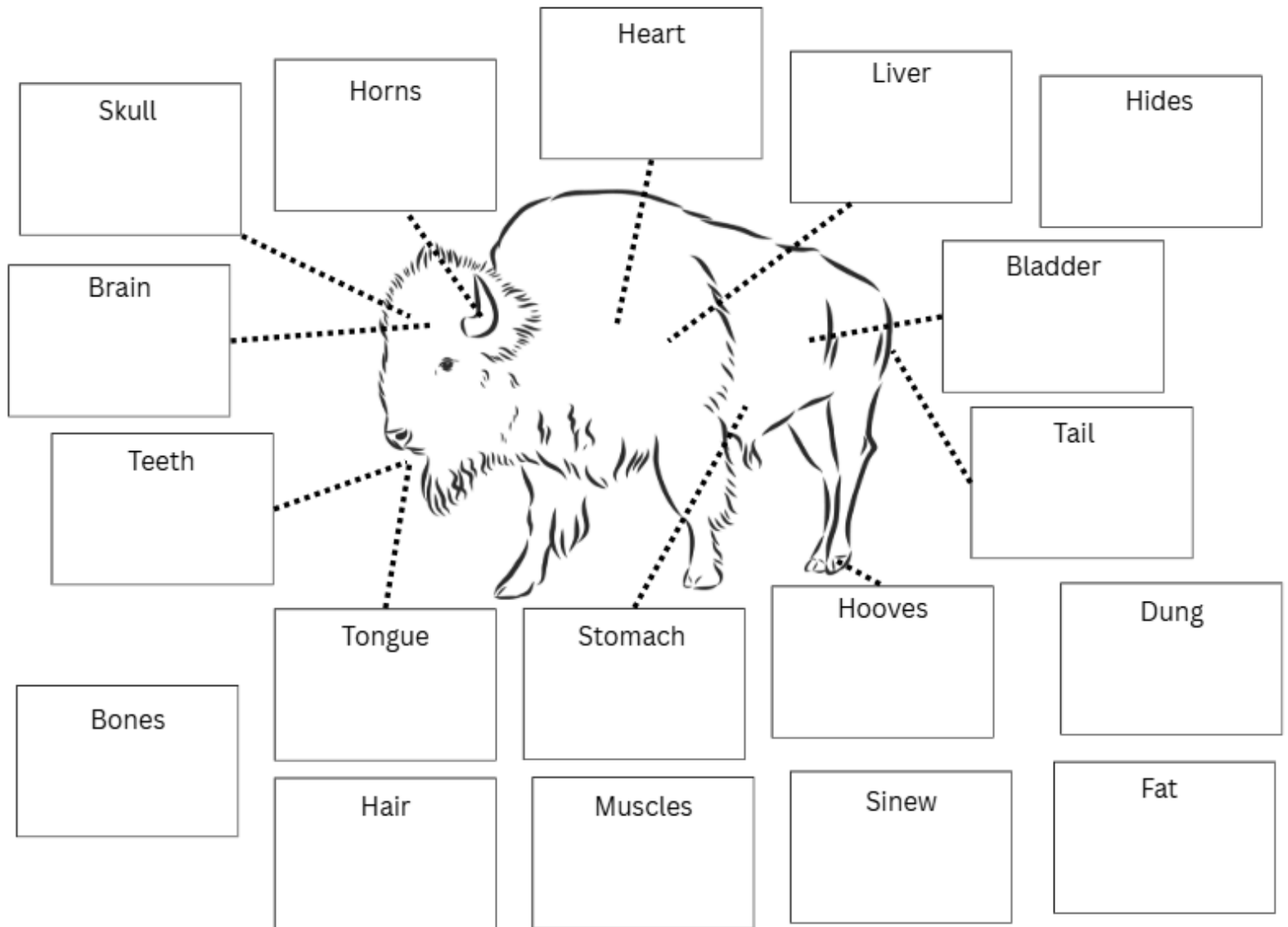
Design Your Own Animal

Imagine you are part of the mural design team. What animal / object would you add in and what does it represent?

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for a drawing or design. It occupies the lower two-thirds of the page.

Bison Uses

Many indigenous people and cultures utilize parts of bison as tools and technologies. For example, many tribal nations in the plains use bison hides to make tipis. Using the below, place each tool with the appropriate body part.



Religious altar, spoons, food (hint: this fits under 3 parts of the bison), tipi cover, water canteen, shovels, process leather, brush, decorations, ropes, cups, jerky, fuel, soap, glue, bow strings

Match That Bird

Can you pair our Draper birds to the birds in the mural?



Great
Horned Owl



Raven



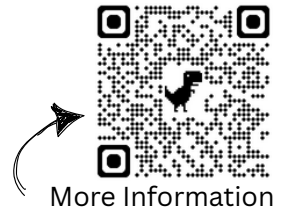
Bald
Eagle



Red-Tailed
Hawk



Who's Who



Meet the birds who made it into the mural! During your time here, go watch the Raptor Experience and add in some fun facts about each bird!



Teasdale

Teasdale is a female Great Horned Owl who hatched in 2010. She was found near Teasdale, Utah, after breaking her right wing. This healed incorrectly, preventing her from having stable flight.

Fun Facts:

Becky

Becky is a female Common Raven, who, as a young bird, was taken illegally to be a pet. As a consequence, she became imprinted on humans and does not know how to survive in the wild. She will live in human care the rest of her life.

Fun Facts:



Who's Who pt 2



Isham

Isham is a male Red-tailed Hawk who hatched in 2001 or 2002. He was found in Tiejeras, New Mexico, after being hit by a car. The resulting damage required removing his right eye.

Fun Facts:

Jade

Jade is a female Bald Eagle that hatched in 2013. She was found on the side of the road in central Wisconsin after being hit by a car when she was a year old. Unstable flight prevents her from surviving on her own.

Fun Facts:



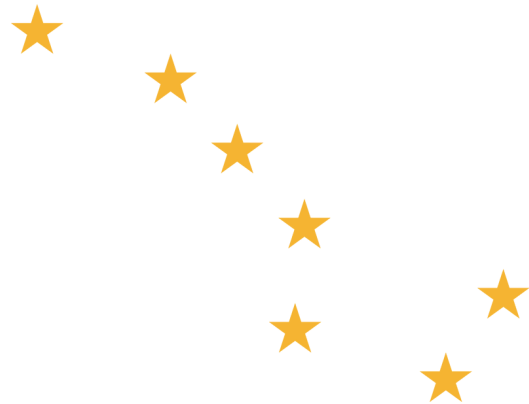
Who else did you meet?

Stars, Stars, and more Stars!

The Big Dipper constellation is included in the mural.
Can you find it?

Join the stars up to see
what shape they make

What does it look like?



Stories of the Stars

Seven Sisters - Kiowa

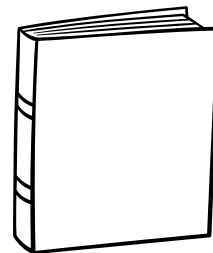
There was once seven sisters who were out playing with their brother. Suddenly, he turned into a bear. As the sisters ran away, they climbed a tree which lifted them high into the sky. When the bear reached them, the sisters had already reached the stars and transformed into the Big Dipper constellation.

Seven Buffalo - Crow

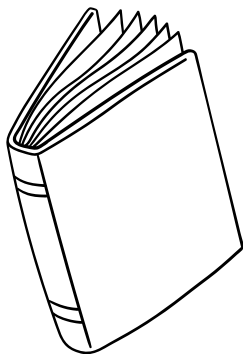
Seven Buffalo Bulls roamed the landscape. One day, they decided to become something permanent to forever watch over the people. As they considered the options; trees, rocks, rivers, and mountains, they realised that all these would eventually get used up or disappear. Finally, one suggested stars - stars would not vanish. The Seven Buffalo Bulls became the Big Dipper constellation.



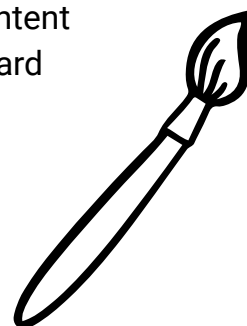
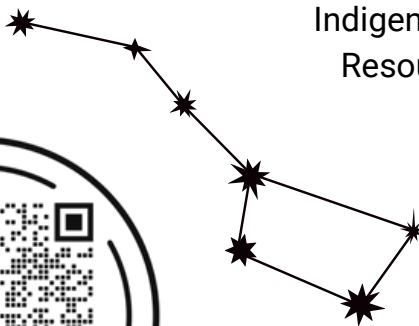
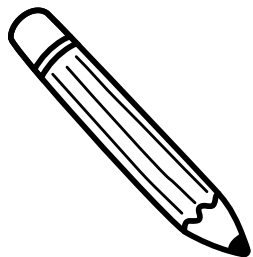
Further Resources



Reading Recommendations



Indigenous Content
Resource Board



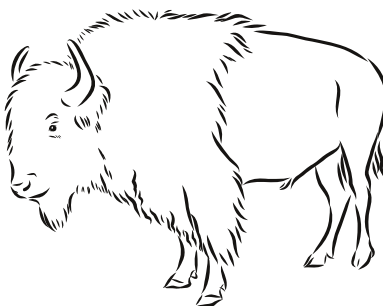
Buffalo Content
Resources



Indigenous Art
Resources



Sovereignty and Tribal
Government



For more information on our Indian Education for All resources, or if you need assistance navigating our digital collection, please contact Heather Bender at heatherb@centerofthewest.org



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What's your favorite?





**PLAINS INDIAN
MUSEUM**

Name _____

Parent's Contact _____

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