

Bison Weights Activity: Have you ever wondered how much a Bison weighs?



Answers

1. During what month of the year do most bison calves start to eat grass for the first time?
*= Most calves are born in April and it takes about 6 months for them to transition from milk to grass, so **September** is usually their first month on grass*
2. How much time do new bison calves have to eat grass before they are weighed in October?
*= Calves only have about **2 months** to eat grass before they are weighed for the first time during roundup, which is at the end of October.*
3. Who do you think would weigh more, a bison cow (adult female) or a bison bull (adult male)?
= Adult bison bulls are heavier than the cows. Bulls can weight up to 1,000 lbs. more than the cows.
4. Do you think all of the bison calves weigh the same in October?
= Bison calves can weigh as little as 150 lbs. up to 400 lbs. when they're weighed for the first time in October. The difference between the weight of calves will depend upon their gender; boys weigh more than girls, and when they were born; calves born earlier in the spring will weigh more than calves born later in the summer or even in early autumn.
5. Find the weight for the lightest calf. Now find the weight for the heaviest calf. What is the difference between their weights?
*Lightest calf = Female O009 = 162 lbs.
Heaviest calf = Male O032 = 378 lbs.*

 $378 - 162 = 216$ lbs. difference
6. Why do you think there is so much variation I the calf weights? Think about the kinds of things that could make a calf weigh less weight.
= Possible explanations for this difference:
 - *Male calves are larger than female calves*
 - *The male calf was born early in April while the female calf was born later in the year – perhaps even into the summer*
 - *The male calf has an older and more experienced mother while the female calf has a younger, less experienced mother*
 - *A combination of all or some of these explanations*