





Use for back of poster where students label cow parts themselves. Can be found at [http://abcteach.com/directory/clip\\_art/animals/](http://abcteach.com/directory/clip_art/animals/)

### **Breeds of Cows; 10 minutes**

Teach the breeds of the animals and list some characteristics of each breed.

Holstein – black and white. Known as the world’s highest production dairy animal.

Brown Swiss – light brown. Produces the second largest quantity of milk.

Hereford – mostly red with white face. Used mainly for beef production. Most are easier to handle than other breeds.

Guernsey – white and brown. Known for the rich flavor of its milk.

Ayrshire – mostly white with red spots. Many say they have a very ‘spirited’ nature’. Calves are strong and easy to raise.

## Holstein



## **Brown Swiss**



## Guernsey



## Hereford



## Ayrshire



**5 minutes**

Go over the “Did you know...” poster by having each child read a fact out loud.

**10 minutes**

Let the children draw a scene on a piece of paper of what they think a cattle farm should look like. They can use the cut-outs to draw their cows.

If there is time at the end, have them stand up and explain why they made the farm look the way they did. For example, why did they put the barn in the corner or the cows in the back? What breeds of cows are on their farm?

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

Facts that are on the poster board

- Beef contains 39% Zinc, 14 % Iron, 50 % Protein, 37 % Vitamin B12, 18 % Niacin, and 16 % Vitamin B6
- A cow has 4 stomachs
  - They have one stomach with 4 compartments
  - They are ruminant animals (meaning they use the compartments in their stomach to chew, regurgitate, and chew their food again before digesting)
- There are a billion cows in the world; 200 million in India (beef cattle, not dairy)
- There are 98 million head of cattle in the U.S.; TX being the biggest producer with 14 million head of cattle
- A cow has no upper front teeth
- The average life span of a beef cow is 7 years
- 76 million people eat beef each day and most of it is hamburgers and roast beef
- The oldest cow ever noted was named Big Bertha. She reached 48 years old in 1993 and 38 calves. She also holds the record for most calves born to a single cow.
- A cow grazes up to 8 hours per day, taking in about 45kg (100 lbs.), which is equivalent to a bath tub FULL of water
- The cattle industry is the largest segment of American Agriculture

## TRIVIA GAME

1. What do you call the meat that comes from a cow?
  - a. Pork
  - b. Beef
  - c. Chicken
2. What is the number one source of nutrients in beef?
  - a. Zinc
  - b. Iron
  - c. Protein --There is 50% Protein in beef
3. What is the average life span of beef a cow?
  - a. 6 years
  - b. 7 year
  - c. 8 years
4. What is the cow's name who holds the record for having the most calves born to one cow?
  - a. Big Red
  - b. Big Mama
  - c. Big Bertha --She had 39 calves and lived 48 years
5. How many hours does a cow graze?
  - a. 8 hrs.
  - b. 10 hrs.
  - c. 12 hrs.
6. How many stomachs does a cow have?
  - a. 2
  - b. 4 --They have one stomach with 4 compartments...They are a ruminant animal
  - c. 6
7. How many Americans eat beef each day?
  - a. 62 million
  - b. 70 million
  - c. 76 million
8. How many states are cows raised in?
  - a. 30 states
  - b. 40 states
  - c. All 50 states
9. What kind of foods do cows eat?
  - a. Hay
  - b. Grain
  - c. Grass

- d. Silage
- e. Corn
- f. All of the above –there are more that can be added to this list of what they eat.

### **Answers**

- 1. b
- 2. c
- 3. b
- 4. c
- 5. a
- 6. b
- 7. c
- 8. c
- 9. f