

Project 2.1.2 Animals Then and Now**Purpose**

You and your friends sit down to watch a rodeo one summer evening. As you watch the agility of the barrel horses, the speed of the roping horses, and the determination of the bucking horses, you wonder how the horse developed into such a versatile animal. You observe cattle used in roping events as well as bucking events. This channels your thoughts toward how people first interacted with horses and cattle. When and why did humans start using these animals?

Scientists have linked animal domestication to human civilization. Without domesticated animals, humans were hunters and gatherers living a nomadic existence. Upon domesticating animals, humans increased their ability to produce food and were able to settle into communities. Domestication led to humans selecting the most desirable animals for specific traits and the development of breeds and animal husbandry. How have humans domesticated animals over time?

Materials**Per group of four students:**

- 6 feet butcher paper (or rolled paper)
- Construction paper
- 2 glue sticks
- 1 box assorted markers
- 2 yard sticks
- Agriscience Library
- 2 computers with Internet access and word processing software

Per student:

- Pencil
- *Agriscience Notebook*

Procedure

For this project, you will be researching the history of an animal. You will be working in a group of four to develop a timeline of events pertaining to the animal you select to research.

Part One – Selecting and Researching an Animal

Your teacher will assign you to a group and facilitate the class while your groups select an animal to research from the list provided.

Cattle
Dog

Horse
Sheep

Swine

For your groups' chosen animal research and determine the answers to the following questions.

- Are there any predecessors or extinct species?
- When was it domesticated?
- Where was it domesticated?
- What adaptations has your animal made over time?
- List important events in the history of your animal.
- List past uses.
- List present uses.
- List interesting facts you may learn.

Suggested References – The following references may be used during your research.

Websites:

Animal Domestication: Table of dates and places

<http://archaeology.about.com/od/dterms/a/domestication.htm>

Domestication from Wikipedia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Domestication>

History World: History of domestication of animals

<http://www.historyworld.net/wrldhis/PlainTextHistories.asp?historyid=ab57>

Livestock from Wikipedia

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Livestock>

Books:

Clutton-Brock, J. (1999). *A natural history of domesticated animals*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Clutton-Brock, J. (1981). *Domesticated animals from early times*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

Diamond, J. (1999). *Guns, germs, and steel*. New York, NY: Norton.

Part Two – Developing a Timeline

Upon compiling your research, you and your group will develop a timeline from the earliest evidence of your animal through today. Use the paper provided to construct your timeline.

Hint: Some species may have branched timelines as domestication and development may have occurred differently in varying locales.

Table 1. Example: Condensed History of the FFA

Smith-Hughes Vocational Education Act	Future Farmers of America formed	Official FFA Jacket adopted	New Farmers of America merge with FFA	Girls allowed in FFA	Name changes from Future Farmers of America to National FFA Organization	National FFA Convention moves to Louisville, KY	National FFA Convention moves to Indianapolis, IN
1917	1928	1933	1965	1969	1988	1999	2006

Part Three – Presenting Your Findings

When you have finished, you and your group will present your group’s timeline to the class. It is important that each member of the group can answer questions and be able to discuss your group’s animal.

Conclusion

1. Based on the presentations given, when was your animal domesticated in relation to the other animals researched by the class? Why do you suppose this is so?
2. What adaptations have occurred in your animal through domestication?
3. How has the use of your animal changed over time?
4. What was the most interesting historical fact you discovered about your animal?
5. What was the most interesting fact you heard regarding the animals discussed in the presentations?