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History
Feb. 20, 1995

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The Return of the Buffalo

At one point in the early twentieth century, it seemed that the American buffalo, *Bison bison*, would continue to exist only in pictures or on the buffalo nickel. Its population of 100 million around 1700 had been reduced to 1,000 by 1889. Today, that number has increased to nearly 200,000 (Hodgson 71). The buffalo, once endangered, has returned.

The American bison roamed the Great Plains of North America undisturbed when the French *voyageurs* first encountered them. Knowing they were not true buffalo like the African or Asian buffalo, the French called these bison *les boeufs*, the oxen. The English altered that word to *buffle*, and later to *buffalo*.

Before the Europeans came to North America, the native people of the North American plains and the buffalo were one *Pte-Oyate*, or Buffalo Nation. The big bull *tantanka* was life itself. These Native Americans followed the herds and used the buffalo for food, clothing, shelter, religious ceremonies, and medicine. A Lakota leader summed up this unity between human and animal: "When the Creator made the buffalo, he put power in them. When you eat the meat, that power goes into you, heals the body and spirit" (qtd. in Hodgson 69).

During the expansion of the United States, a cultural clash occurred, and the Europeans practically destroyed the buffalo. By the year 1800, it was reported that there were about 30 million buffalo left in the United States. In 1876, Representative James Throckmorton of Texas

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Works Cited (centered)

"Buffalo." Software Tool Works Multimedia Encyclopedia.

Computer software. Novato, CA: Software Tool Works, 1991. CD-ROM.

Caras, Roger A. North American Mammals. New York: Galahad Books, 1992.

Hodgson, Bryan. "Buffalo: Back Home on the Range."
National Geographic Nov. 1994: 65-69.

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The second and third lines are indented.

The sources cited in the paper are listed in alphabetical order.

① The entire report should be in the default font and size of Word:

Times New Roman, Size 12. Make sure your header is also.

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