



¡Criollo! Desert Cattle **3rd Grade Classroom Program**

Program Summary

After a quick activity that demonstrates the relevance and importance of cattle to humans, students will play an active game that models the foraging behaviors of desert-adapted heritage cattle (Criollo) versus traditional English breeds (Angus). Following a discussion of traits and inheritance, students will gather evidence to support an explanation of how Criollo came to have traits that help them survive by collecting data on the geography and climate of the various arid locations where Criollo's ancestors originated. Finally, students develop a timeline of Criollo history and construct an explanation for the phenomenon.

Phenomenon

Certain types of cattle have traits that provide advantages for survival in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Next Generation Science Standards

3-LS4-2 Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.

Science & Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions Developing and Using Models	LS4.B: Natural Selection	Cause and effect

Common Core State Standards

Math

3.D.1.1 Collect and organize data using observations, measurements, surveys, or experiments.

English Language Arts

SL.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups, and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 3 topics and texts, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

SL.3 Ask and answer questions about information from a speaker, offering appropriate elaboration and detail.