One Day in the Desert ¡Criollo! Desert Cattle
3rd Grade

Overview

After a quick activity that demonstrates the relevance and importance of cattle to human life, students will play an active game that models the foraging behaviors of regional heritage cattle (Criollo) versus those of more recently introduced English breeds (Angus). Following a discussion of traits and inheritance, students will gather evidence to support an explanation of how cattle like Criollo come to have traits that help them survive by breaking into groups to collect 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 phenomena.

Phenomenon

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

Next Generation Science Standard

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. [Clarification Statement: Examples of cause and effect relationships could be plants that have larger thorns than other plants may be less likely to be eaten by predators; and, animals that have better camouflage coloration than other animals may be more likely to survive and therefore more likely to leave offspring.]

Asombro lessons are aligned with the three-dimensional learning model of the Next Generation Science Standards.

Science & Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions Developing and Using Models	LS4.B: Natural Selection Sometimes the differences in characteristics between individuals of the same species provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.	Cause and effect

Asombro Lesson can accompany 3rd Grade STEMScopes – Bundle 2 Scope 3
This lesson would best be incorporated at the conclusion of Engage for Bundle 2 Scope 3 within STEMScopes.

Date: _____   *Asombro staff: _____*