

# The Big Red Barn

## Goat Barn and Pasture

### Before your visit:

- Read several books about goats and discuss the information with the students.

### **Books About Goats:**

Beatrice's Goat by Page McBrier, Extraordinary Goats: Meetings with Remarkable Goats, Caprine Wonders & Horned Troublemakers by Janet Hurst, G is for Goat by Patricia Polanco, Goats: Nannies, Billies and Kids (On the Farm) by Lorijo Metz, Gregory, the Terrible Eater by Mitchell Sharmat, The Goat Lady by Jane Bregoli, The Three Billy Goats by Paul Galdone

- Introduce and define vocabulary: goat, kid, bovine, mammal, udder, cud, ruminant, herbivore, and caprine (relating to or characteristic of a goat)
- Explain that goats eat plant matter (leaves, bark, grass, hay, etc.) that is difficult to digest. They regurgitate and re-chew their food or 'cud' for 6-8 hours a day. They chew their cud to make up for not chewing much while actually eating the grass. This breaks up the plant matter into smaller and smaller chunks.
- Brainstorm facts about goats and make a circle map. (If the children do not state that a goat is a mammal, guide them to this fact and remind them of the characteristics of a mammal...fur, warm blooded, babies born alive, and feed babies milk)

### **Share these interesting facts about goats:**

1. A male goat is called a buck or billy, a female goat is called a doe or nanny, and babies are called kids.
2. Goats are curious, social, herd animals. They will become depressed if they are kept alone.
3. Goats can live 8 – 12 years.
4. Goats are ruminants. This means that they have four stomach parts. They chew regurgitated and partially digested food known as cud.



5. Goats are herbivores. They prefer to reach upwards for their food, and they like to eat leaves, fruit and the bark of small trees. Although they have a reputation of eating anything, they are actually picky eaters.
  6. Goats are good climbers. Sometimes they climb to the top of trees to eat the leaves.
  7. Goats have rectangular pupils. This allows them to see all around without having to move their heads.
  8. Goats were one of the first domesticated animals. They were first kept by humans 9,000 years ago.
  9. Goats are kept throughout the world. People use their milk, meat, and hides. The milk can be made into yogurt, butter and cheese.
  10. Sometimes, goats are kept as pets. They are commonly seen in petting zoos in the United States.
- Transfer the information from the circle map to the tree map (goats...can/have/are)
  - Watch an online video of a goat being milked. There are several available on YouTube.

*Place the following traditional song in a pocket chart. Read it many times so that the students can memorize it. This is an echo song. The teacher will sing one line, and the children repeat.*

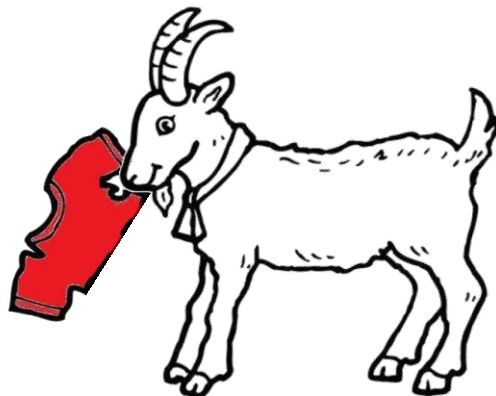
*(If you don't know the tune, simply look on YouTube for one of the many videos available.)*

### Bill Grogan's Goat

(an echo song)

Bill Grogan's goat was feeling fine,  
ate three red shirts right off the line.  
The man, he grabbed him by the back,  
and tied him to a railroad track.

Now, when that train  
came into sight,  
the goat grew pale  
and green with fright  
He heaved a sigh,  
as if in pain,  
coughed up those shirts  
and flagged the train.





### During your visit:

- Look at the goats. How are they alike/different?
- Do you see the goats eating? What do they eat?
- Can you see the goat's teeth? Are they flat or pointed? Why?
- Notice the goat's eyes. How are they different from ours?
- Watch a goat being milked. Do you think it would be hard work to take care of a goat? Why or why not?

### After your visit:

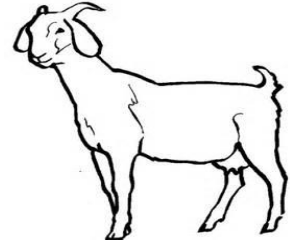
- Discuss the goats that you saw at Fairview Farms. Add information to your circle map and tree map as needed.
- Use the thinking maps to write an opinion paragraph about goats. (Assign the number of sentences that is appropriate for your grade level.) Illustrate your sentences.
- Read and discuss The Three Billy Goats Gruff. Divide students into groups and have them act out the story.
- Brainstorm words that rhyme with goat. Write a class poem about a goat.

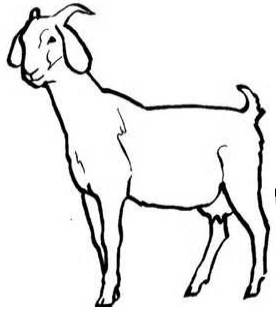
Grades: Primary



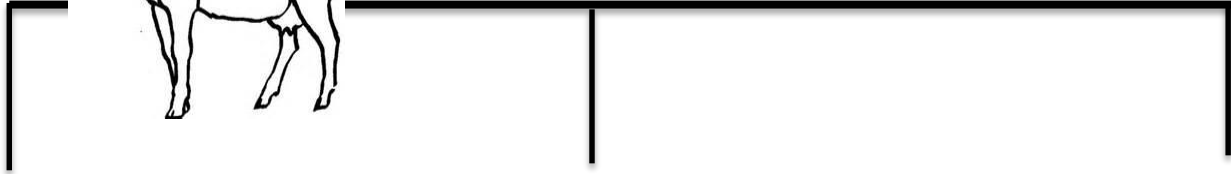
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Think about your visit to the Dairy Goat Barn and Pasture. Some people keep goats for pets. Would you like to have a goat living in your yard? Why or why not? Write a paragraph to explain your opinion. Remember to include a topic sentence, three detail sentences and a conclusion sentence. Draw a picture to match your sentences.





# Goats



can

have

are

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Grades: Primary

Goats Thinking Map/Circle Map

Name \_\_\_\_\_

