

A Thematic Lesson on Cows

Cows supply us with milk, cheese, meat and leather. They stare at us from milk cartons and postcards, and in India they are considered holy. Where do they live, how are they kept, why do they have five stomachs, and where do they descend from? Primary Six had the chance to learn all of this and more about cows. Here is how a student describes her learning experience.

A PRIMARY SIX STUDENT WRITES...

One of our recent thematic lessons in class was on cows and we were quite interested to learn more in depth about this animal. The first thing we learned about cows is their different body parts and the respective names for it. We also took a closer look at the cow's digestion system, which was probably the one thing that seemed a bit gross to everyone. So basically, it works like this: A cow eats grass and it goes down into the first stomach, rumen, where the food gets softened. It is regurgitated up into the cow's mouth before moving down into the second stomach. After that, it goes to the third stomach known as the omasum where some of the water will be absorbed before it is actually digested in the abomasum.

When people think of cows, mostly an image of a black and white dairy cow pops up. However, it was quite astounding to learn that there are many different breeds of cows and the regular dairy cow, also known as the Holstein, is the most popular breed.

The most exciting aspect of this lesson was making a cow out of paper mache. To do this, first, you will need to cover the whole cow in cling wrap so the paper mache will not stick to it. The next step is to prepare the paste and dip the little strips of newspaper in so that you can cover the cow with several layers. Then you overlap it with white paper strips. Once the whole thing is dry, you will have to cut through the middle section of the hollow structure so that you can remove it from the base structure. Next comes the insulation foam, which will give the cow a stable and firm structure so that it remains in shape. The insulation foam will have to be sprayed into the hollow legs so that it is able to stand firmly on its limbs. The ears and horns of the cow were made of actual styrofoam and glued onto the head. For the rest of the hollow body part, you will have to fill it with different types of styrofoam, both in liquid and solid form.

My classmates and I really enjoyed this lesson on cows, as it was not only interesting but informative as well. Making the paper mache cow was the most enjoyable part. We were able to finish the whole project within a short span of time due to efficient teamwork.

