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| Lesson 2 **Student Activity Sheets:** What do buffaloes eat and is there more of it for them to eat now? |

**OBTAINING INFORMATION from the Readings:**

**3.** As you complete your group’s assigned readings, complete the chart below about what conclusions you draw about buffalo feeding patterns, as well as what you learn about other organisms’ feeding patterns and how their feeding patterns might affect buffalo populations. Add questions to the chart that your group has after completing the reading.

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|  | **What Buffalo Eat** | **Other Organism’s Feeding Patterns** | **Questions We Have** |
| **Reading 1:**  **Forest Buffalo (*Syncerus caffer nanus*) Fact Sheet, 1999** |  |  |  |
| **Reading 2:**  **Dry Season Diets** |  |  |  |
| **Reading 3:**  **Wet Season Diets** |  |  |  |
| **Reading 4: Seasonal Diet Shifts** |  |  |  |
| **Reading 5: Feeding Selectivity** |  |  |  |
| **Reading 6: Primary Productivity and Precipitation** |  |  |  |

**MAKING SENSE:**

Once everyone in your group has had a chance to read, share the information so that everyone can complete the table. Then, work with your group to answer the questions below about the buffalo feeding patterns.

**4.** What do buffalo eat during the dry season?

**5.** What do buffalo eat during the wet season?

**6.** Do buffalo compete for food with other herbivores? If so, for what food and when?

**7.** Do you think there is a relationship between the amount of rainfall and the resources available to the buffalo to help them survive? If so, what evidence supports your conclusion?

**CONCLUSIONS:**

The readings did not include any information about the change in amount of food or in the amount of precipitation from 1960 to 1975.

**8.** What do you think could have happened to the amount of food and precipitation from that period to help explain the growth of the buffalo population?

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**NEXT STEPS:**

**9.** Data on total biomass are not available for the Serengeti during the period we are studying. Given that fact, what questions could we investigate to test our ideas about whether the amount of food increased during the time when the buffalo population was increasing?

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**10.** How can we go about answering those questions?

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