

Houston Zoo at Home

ANKOLE CATTLE

Ankole cattle are known for their massive horns that can be six feet across in length! However impressive, these huge horns aren't just for show. They are hollow and contain blood vessels. The blood runs through the vessels in the horns, cools off, then circulates back through the animal's body, much like an elephant flapping its ears. This helps Ankole cattle to be able to withstand the high temperature in their habitats in Africa. Ankole are also drought tolerant animals, meaning they do not require a lot of water and can survive on very sparse grasses. This makes them very valuable cattle to the different ranchers and nomadic communities in Africa.

For these activities watch the video of our Zookeepers with the Ankole cattle; Luni Toon, Ali Oop, and Danny Boy. [Click here to watch!](#)

Cattle Balance

Ages 2 and up

These cattle often must move their bodies in different ways in order to balance these massive horns without falling over or bumping into each other. See if you have what it takes to balance like our Ankole.

Materials Needed: Stackable items that have some weight to them (blocks, small books, tree cookies, notebooks, flat toys, etc.)

Steps:

1. Have the participant stand with their feet slightly apart and their arms out to their sides like the letter "T" and palms facing up.
2. Add an item to the palms of their hands and steady it. The participant should not put their arms down
3. In 15 second increments, add an item to both palms.
4. Keep adding until the pile falls or the participant can't hold their arms up any more

Level Up: If you're really good at stacking the items, try moving around your house without dropping your stack!

Share your project with us!

Tag your photo using #HoustonZoo or email us your story at communications@houstonzoo.org.

Water Saver Relay

Ages 5 and up

Ankole do not need to drink a lot of water which makes them perfect for drier climates. In this relay, you will compete with your family to see if you can go the distance with as little water as an Ankole would have.

Materials Needed:

- Two clear containers
- Water
- Sponges
- Timer/stopwatch
- Food coloring (optional for added fun)

Steps: Be sure to take this one outside!

1. Fill one container halfway with water.
2. Place the other container some distance from the first one (around 10 to 20 feet to allow for running).
3. Line participants up at the container with water and hand the first person a sponge.
4. The participants will have 30 seconds to see how much water they can move from the first container to the next.
5. On the word Go, the first participant will run fill the sponge up with water then run to the container across from them and squeeze it out. They will then run back and hand the sponge to the next person in line. The next person repeats these steps.

Level Up: Create teams and use food coloring to distinguish between different teams' water.

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