

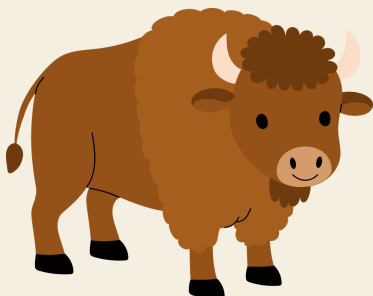
Water Quality

1. Water covers about 71% of Earth's surface, but less than 1% is fresh water that's actually accessible for people to use.
2. A single leaky faucet dripping at one drip per second (60 drips/minute) wastes about 6 gallons a day, which is over 2,000 gallons per year.
3. Wetlands act like natural filters, trapping sediment and pollutants before they reach rivers and lakes.
4. Oklahoma has over 200 lakes and reservoirs and most of them (including the biggest ones like Lake Eufaula and Lake Texoma) are man-made, created by constructing dams across streams.
5. Oklahoma has approximately 78,603 miles of river!



Wildlife & Habitat

1. A habitat must provide four basic things for wildlife to survive: food, water, shelter, and space.
2. A keystone species is an organism that helps hold the system together like a shark, beaver, or bees.
Without them, ecosystems would change dramatically!
3. Oklahoma offers the nation's most diverse terrain. It has over 10 ecoregions like Rocky Mountain foothills, cypress swamps, tallgrass prairies, and hardwood forests to pine-covered mountains.
4. Oklahoma's State Animal, the American Bison, can reach up to 2,000 pounds and stand at six feet tall!
5. Oklahoma's state bird, the Scissor-tailed flycatcher, is known for its aerial acrobatics while hunting insects.



Litter & Recycling



1. The most effective order for reducing waste is: Reduce first, then Reuse, then Recycle. Recycling is the last step, not the first.
2. Aluminum cans can be recycled and back on a store shelf as a new can in 60 days or less!
3. A plastic water bottles takes about 450 years to decompose in a landfill.
4. Trash that's littered or landfilled doesn't disappear, it just moves somewhere else in the environment.
5. Community cleanup events, like the Great American Cleanup in Oklahoma, remove tons of litter from roadsides, waterways, and public spaces statewide every year.





Native Plants

1. Native plants are species that occur naturally in a region without human introduction. They also typically need less water and fewer pesticides than non-native landscaping plants because they're already adapted to local soil and climate.
2. Invasive plants like the Eastern Redcedar and Bradford Pear trees can outcompete natives for sunlight, water, and space, sometimes taking over an entire habitat.
3. Oklahoma's diverse landscape supports nearly 3,000 plant species!
4. Oklahoma's state wildflower, the blanket flower (AKA the Indian Blanket), has a high tolerance of heat and arid conditions.
5. Oklahoma's state tree, the Eastern Redbud, has purple-pink heart-shaped leaves!



Pollinators



1. About 35% of the world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. That's one out of every three bites of food we consume.
2. Milkweed is the only plant monarch caterpillars can eat, making it essential to their survival.
3. The honeybee is Oklahoma's official state insect, and the black swallowtail is the official state butterfly.
4. Oklahoma sits directly in the migration path of the eastern monarch butterfly population, making it a critical stopover for refueling and breeding during both spring and fall migration.
5. Organizations like Okies for Monarchs bring together cities, tribal nations, and state agencies to help pollinators by planting native milkweed and creating pollinator habitats.

