

## **How Cattle Turn Grass Into Beef**

Cattle eat and digest their food in a very unique way. Cattle are \_\_\_\_\_ animals which means they have a \_\_\_\_\_ part stomach that allows them to eat grass, hay, and other \_\_\_\_\_ by-products. As a cow eats, the food is passed from the \_\_\_\_\_ through the esophagus into the \_\_\_\_\_, the largest compartment of the stomach. Tiny \_\_\_\_\_, which help to digest food live in this compartment. The food is then passed to the reticulum, which has a membrane with “\_\_\_\_\_” ridges. These ridges break the \_\_\_\_\_ down into smaller pieces which will be chewed again. The partly digested food that comes back into the cow’s mouth is called \_\_\_\_\_. The cow rechews the food with its powerful back \_\_\_\_\_ to break it down more. This is what the cow is doing when it \_\_\_\_\_ its cud”. As the cow swallows, \_\_\_\_\_ washes the cud back into the cow’s system. The food now flows into the omasum, the \_\_\_\_\_ section of the stomach. During this process the food breaks down into vitamins and \_\_\_\_\_ that the cow’s body absorbs to meet its nutritional needs. The fourth compartment of the stomach is the abomasum or may be called the \_\_\_\_\_ stomach. The final \_\_\_\_\_ process takes place here. In the abomasum the cow’s system gets all the remaining food value it needs before passing it to the \_\_\_\_\_. The intestines store the unused food portions and continue to absorb some nutrients from them until there is enough to be removed as cow \_\_\_\_\_.

mouth

ruminant

chews

digestive

plant

four

nutrients

true

intestines

cud

third

saliva

bacteria

rumen

manure

food

teeth

honeycombed

Below the words are scrambled if you wish a more difficult question. Students would unscramble the words and then fill in the blanks:

Unscramble the following words and fill in the blanks with the unscrambled words;

tmhou \_\_\_\_\_

mrtnuni \_\_\_\_\_

ecwhs \_\_\_\_\_

gdetisev \_\_\_\_\_

ltapn \_\_\_\_\_

orfu \_\_\_\_\_

sntuinetr \_\_\_\_\_

uter \_\_\_\_\_

stisetnnie \_\_\_\_\_

udc \_\_\_\_\_

ditrh \_\_\_\_\_

lvasai \_\_\_\_\_

tbacaier \_\_\_\_\_

mrune \_\_\_\_\_

nuamer \_\_\_\_\_

dofu \_\_\_\_\_

ethet \_\_\_\_\_

mychnoedebo \_\_\_\_\_