

Buffalo

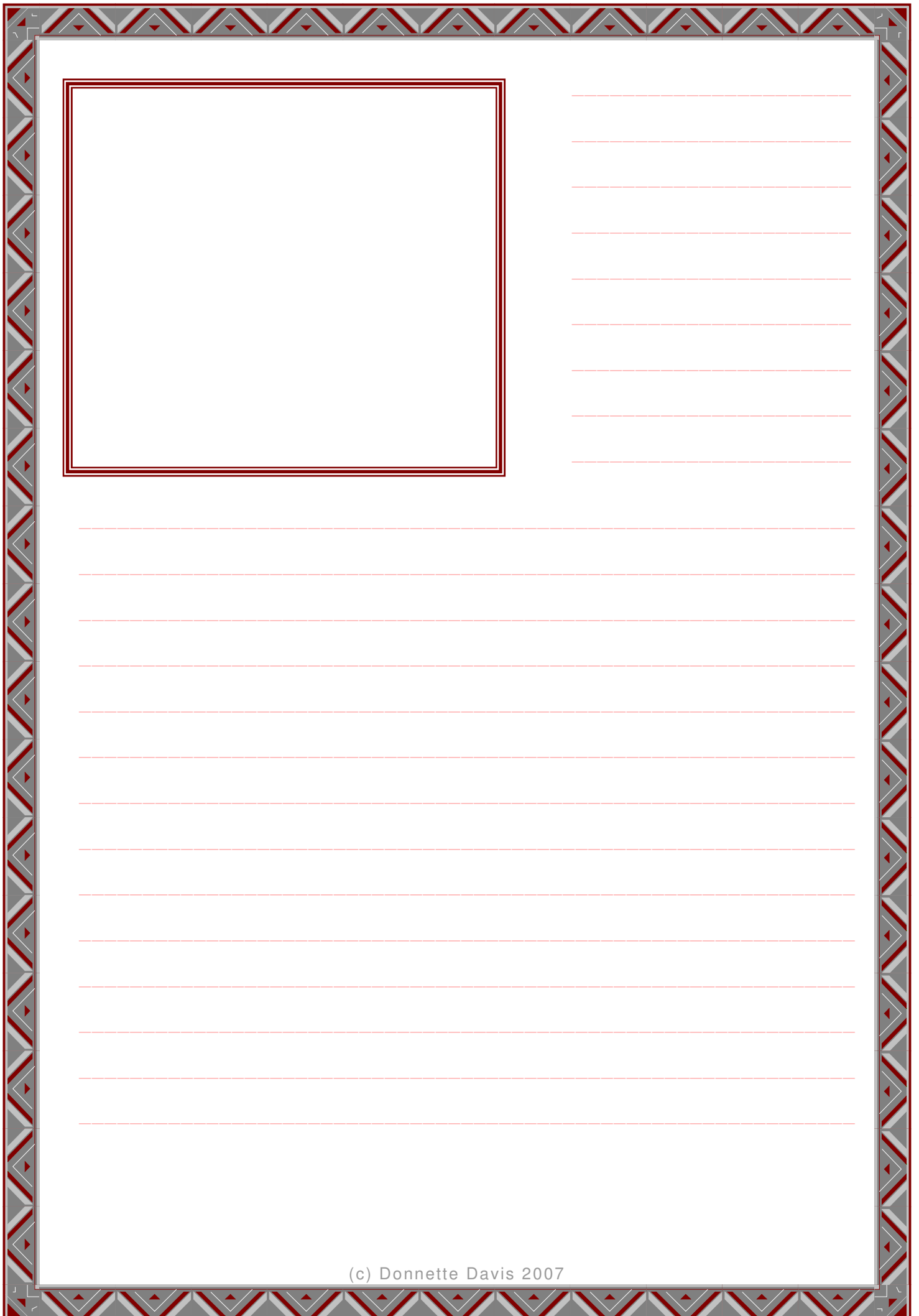


The water buffalo, or Asian buffalo, as it is often called, is the largest member of the Bovini tribe, which includes yak, bison, African buffalo, various species of wild cattle, and others.

Standing 5 to 6.2 feet (1.5 to 1.9 meters) tall at the shoulder, wild water buffalo are formidable mammals with sparse gray-black coats. Males carry enormous backward-curving, crescent-shaped horns stretching close to 5 feet (1.5 meters) long with deep ridges on their surface. Females are smaller in size and weight, but they also have horns, although they are proportionately smaller.

Water buffalo spend much of their day submerged in the muddy waters of Asia's tropical and subtropical forests. Their wide-splayed hooved feet prevent them from sinking too deeply in the mud and allow them to move about in wetlands and swamps. These marshes provide good cover and rich aquatic plants to forage on, although water buffalo actually prefer to feed in grasslands on grass and herbs.





Handwriting practice lines consisting of eight horizontal red lines, each with a dashed midline.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of twelve horizontal red lines, each with a dashed midline.

Handwriting practice lines consisting of 18 horizontal red dashed lines on a white background.



Fun Facts

Females normally produce calves every other year, after a gestation of 9 to 11 months. Young bulls typically remain with maternal herds, which consist of around 30 buffalo, for three years after birth.

Type: Mammal

Diet: Herbivore

Average lifespan in captivity: Up to 25 years

Size: Head and body, 8 to 9 feet (2.5 to 3 m); Tail 2 to 3.3 feet (60 to 100 cm)

Weight: 1,500 to 2,650 lbs (700 to 1,200 kg)

Group Name: Herd

Did you know? The domesticated water buffalo is often referred to as the "living tractor of the East," as it is relied upon for plowing and transportation in many parts of Asia.

Protection Status: Endangered

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