



Cattle 'cow'acteristics

Name: _____

In Australia, there are around 50 different breeds of beef cattle. Four of the most well-known breeds are Angus, Hereford, Brahman and Droughtmaster.

On this page, and page 2, there are a list of characteristics that match the four breeds. Your job is to write (or cut out and paste) the characteristics with the correct breed of cow. Use your own knowledge or do some research.

There is also an outline of each cow which you will need to colour to look like that breed (some breeds do have varying colours).

Originated in the northern regions of Britain, and now farmed in the cooler, higher rainfall areas within southern Australia.

They are red in colour, have medium to large ears, an extended dewlap (the bit of skin hanging from the neck) and a moderate hump.

This breed is often docile (obedient) and easy to manage.

Their coat is short and sleek which makes it hard for ticks to attach, and their sweat contains a natural tick repellent (tick fever is common in northern Australia).

Usually solid black in colour, however occasionally have a small amount of white on their stomach.

Originated in America from breeds brought in from India. They are now farmed in the tropical humid and subtropical dry areas within northern Australia.

Usually found in northern Australia, but it is a resilient breed that can be found in other areas.



They calve easily and raise fast growing calves.

Originated in England, they thrive in a wide variety of environmental conditions, but are usually found in southern Australia.

They have lower nutritional needs which means they can survive longer (and keep breeding) in difficult conditions.

Characterised by a hump above the shoulders and a pronounced dewlap (the bit of skin hanging from the neck). Their skin is loose to keep them cool and has a dark pigment so they don't get burnt in the hot sun.

Are often recognised by their dark red colour with white markings and distinctive white face.

Evolved in north Queensland originally by crossing Brahman and Shorthorn cattle in an attempt to combine the desirable qualities of the two breeds to produce a breed suitable for the tropics.

They have long legs to help them walk greater distances to find food and water.

Known for their breeding longevity, many females live and produce calves beyond the age of 15 years.

They are parasite resistant and they have good heat tolerance.

Has a very efficient digestive system that works well with the low-quality feed that is found in the area it is farmed.

They are moderate in size, have muscular bodies and no horns (known as polled cattle).







