

Some Wild Animals of North America



*by
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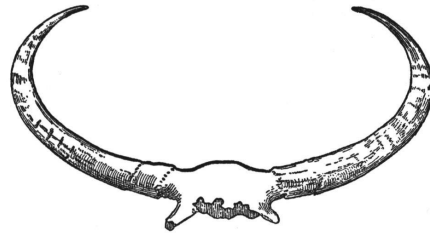
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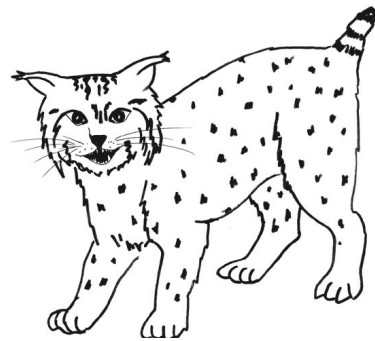
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INTRODUCTION TO UNIT

They pick their way through canyons, they climb the high rock walls of mountains, taking hazardous routes in order to evade predators. They use their keen eyesight, the sense of smell and hearing to keep themselves safe. For every wild animal, there is another trying to make a meal of it.

Some store fat and milk to keep themselves and their young ones fed during the harsh winter season. Others like rodents store nuts, seeds, grasses, so that they will be well fed when there is no vegetation around. Some hibernate during the winter months. Those in the south eastern section of the United States experience a tropical climate. It is stable, warm and wet throughout the year, so they can always find food.

Wild animals have various methods of greeting each other quite like human beings. Members of the wolf pack greet each other by licking. The black tailed prairie dogs greet each member of their pack with a hug.

Some wild animals like the wild cats are very seldom seen. A number of these wild animals are nocturnal meaning that they sleep during the day and are active during the night.

This unit presents facts about some wild animals of North America. Provision is made for the student to explore the lifestyle of those animals not referred to in this unit. Students will discover that God created many animals. They will also learn about the various behavior patterns of wild animals. This unit is by no means exhaustive.

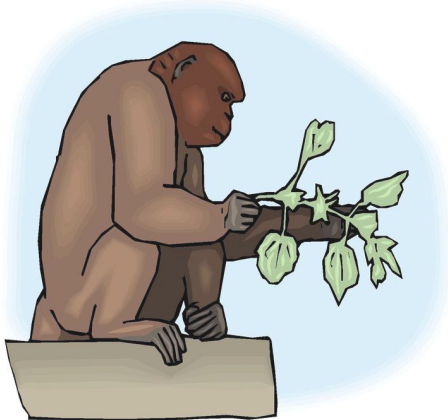
The activities will provide cross-curricular exposure and review of facts for students in Grades K-3.



Why are Some Animals Classified as Wild?

As you explore the topic of wild animals of North America, some students will question why some animals are classified as wild and others are not wild. Explain and show them why.

1. Note the behavior of some animals compared with others.
2. Ask the students to list ways in which some animals and some animals are different.
3. Create two lists on the chalkboard, WILD; NOT WILD. Have students name several animals. As they name the animals have them determine the category to which each animal belongs. Write the name of the animal in the correct category on the board. Have pictures for Kindergarten and first grade students. If they cannot identify the animals, tell them.
4. Ask the students to guess which of the animals are found in North America. Make a list. At the end of the unit make another list of the ones that are actually found in North America. Compare both lists.



The Cougar

The Cougar, Puma, Mountain Lion, Panther, or Catamount is a fierce cat that lives deep in deciduous forests, rain forests, grasslands, and deserts of North America and South America. These solitary cats can purr but cannot roar. They are very athletic, and are excellent jumpers, climbers and swimmers.

Cougars live for about 8 years. There are many subspecies of cougar. Cougars are an endangered species due to loss of habitat and overhunting by man.

The cougar has keen eyesight and good hearing. It has a small head, big ears, powerful jaws, long, pointed canine teeth, and sharp, retractable claws on each foot. The brown eyes have circular pupils. These powerful cats are up to 6 feet tall, plus a long tail that is 2-3 feet long. It weighs up to 200 pounds. The young have a spotted coat, but become solid tan to gray-brown at six months of age.

The cougar is a **carnivore** which means that he is a meat eater. It is a fast, solitary hunter that hunts both during the day and at night. It eats deer, wild hogs, sheep, moose elk, rabbits, hares, rodents like beavers, raccoons, some birds, and livestock. Cougars stalk their prey and then ambush it by leaping from the ground or from a tree. They kill large animals by pouncing on the back and breaking the neck. They bury large prey with leaves and twigs to hide the carcass from other animals until they are able to finish eating it.



FEET OF THE COUGAR

Directions: Cut out the pieces for the right front foot and the right hind foot of the cougar. Find one difference in the shape and talk to your neighbor about it.



FEET OF THE COUGAR



Make a Cougar Big Book

Directions:

1. Divide students into groups of three or four.
2. Give each group one descriptive word related to the cougar.
3. Ask each group to use the descriptive word to write two sentences about the cougar.
4. Give each group a picture of a cougar with space for the sentences to be written.
5. Ask the students to select a scribe.
6. The scribe should write the two sentences below the picture of the cougar.
7. Bind the pages together to make a book.
8. Create a cover for the book.
9. Add the title and authors to the front page.
10. Keep the big book for classroom reading.

DESCRIPTIVE WORDS

FIERCE

ATHLETIC

BROWN

SPOTTED

CARNIVORE

SOLITARY



Making a Stand-Up Cougar

Materials:

One 4 x 5 1/2" piece of construction paper for the body of the cougar

one 2 x 3" piece of construction paper for head of cougar;

pieces of construction paper in a variety of colors;

pieces of yarn and string of various colors;

scissors, crayons or markers, glue.

Procedure:

To make the body: Fold the 4 x 5 1/2" construction paper in half widthwise. Cut out a half oval from the center of the open edges.

To make the head: Fold the 2 x 3" paper in half either lengthwise or widthwise. Cut an oval.

Add tails with crayons, markers, paper, yarn, string to the head.

Glue the head to the body.



Virginia Opossum

The Virginia Opossum or *Didelphis virginiana* is the only living marsupial from North America. It is common in the eastern United States and has spread north and west. This large opossum lives in deciduous forest and prairies.

Virginia Opossums are **nocturnal**. This means that they are most active at night. They sleep during the day in a den in a hollow tree or in an abandoned rodent burrow.

When opossums are attacked, they will “play possum,” pretending that they are dead; they remain still, do not blink, and their tongue hangs out. This act often makes the attacker lose interest in the opossum. Some of their many predators include foxes and dogs.

The Virginia Opossum is about 2.5 feet long, including its foot-long, hairless, prehensile tail. This opossum is about the size of a cat. It has a clawless, opposable thumb on each hind foot.

The young opossums are about the size of a bee when they are born. Females have a fur-lined pouch on their abdomen into which these tiny, under-developed young crawl. The young live and drink milk from teats in the pouch for about two months.

The Virginia Opossum is an **omnivore**. This means that it eats both plants and animals. It eats insects, lizards, mice, snails, earthworms, fruit, nuts, seeds, grasses, and dead meat that it finds.



OPOSSUM DICTIONARY

Make your own opossum dictionary. Cut out the boxes. In each box write what the word means. Put the pages in ABC order. Staple the pages together with the cover on top.

My Opossum Dictionary By _____	predators
nocturnal	omnivore
marsupial	deciduous



Food For the Opossum

The narrative tells us some animals and plants eaten by the opossum. Put the food of the opossum in the correct section. If it is a plant, put in the section for plants and if it is an animal, put it in the section for animals.

Plants	Animals
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

lizards, fruits, nuts, grasses, mice, snails,
insects, seeds, dead meat



Food For the Opossum

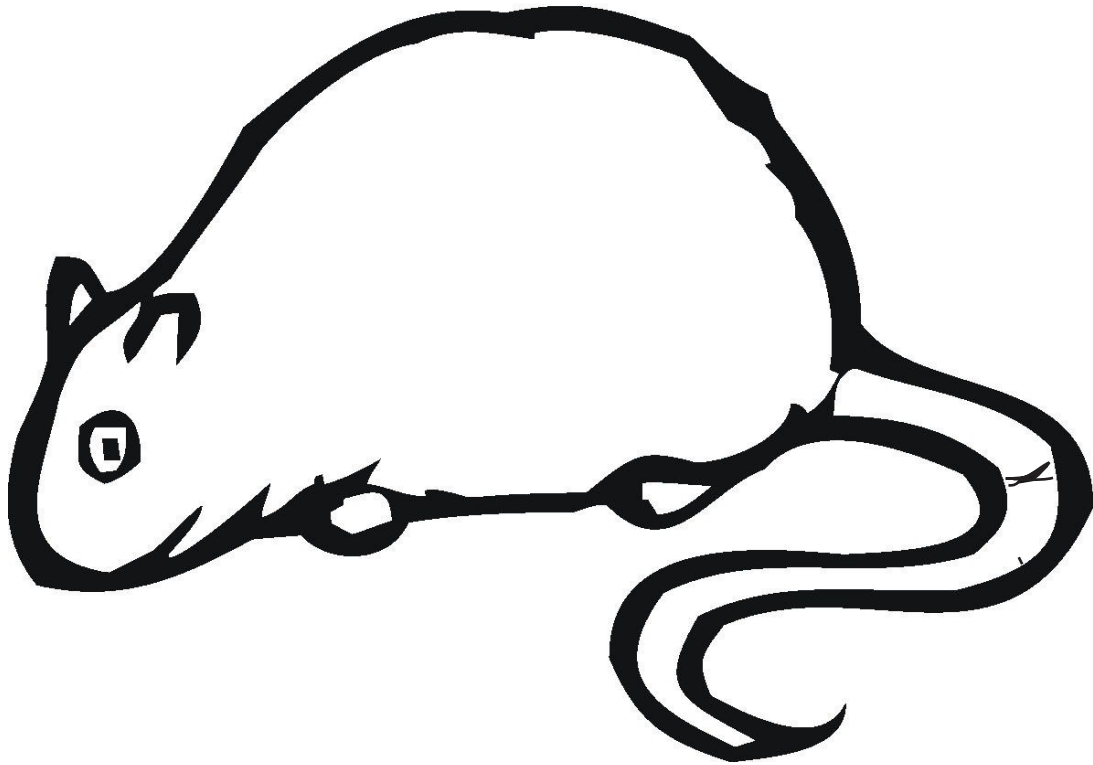
The narrative tells us some animals and plants eaten by the opossum. Put the food of the opossum in the correct section. If it is a plant, put in the section for plants and if it is an animal, put it in the section for animals.

Plants	Animals
nuts	lizards
fruits	mice
grasses	snails
seeds	insects
	dead meat

lizards, fruits, nuts, grasses, mice, snails,
insects, seeds, dead meat,



COLOR THE OPOSSUM



Color the Opossum according to the directions below.

1. Color the eyes black.
2. Color the face white.
3. Color the tail pink.
4. Color the base of the tail black.
5. Color the fur black or gray.
6. Color the ears black with white tips.

The North American Beaver

The North American beaver, *Castor canadensis*, is a large, web-footed rodent with brown fur and a wide, flat, dark tail. It can live both in water and on land. The tail acts as a rudder while swimming, as a prop for standing upright, as a lever when dragging tree logs, and as a noise maker for producing a warning signal when it is slapped on the water. The fingers have long claws, and the legs have webbed feet and claws. The beaver has a large, wide, head. It has sharp, renewable, self-sharpening, enameled teeth that can cut through wood and fell a tree.

The adult beaver weighs about 44 pounds, but can be as large as 77 pounds. It is about 12 inches tall, and its tail is about 10 inches long. The beaver is the largest rodent in North America. Its life span in the wild is about 20 years.

Beavers live by rivers, streams, ponds, and lakes. They are one of the few animals that alter their environment in a large-scale way in order to provide themselves living space and protection. Beavers build dams that change the course of streams and create ponds. They build dams and lodges using sticks, bark from deciduous trees, mud, and logs that they fell themselves. The presence of pointed tree stumps is a good indication that there are beavers living nearby.

To create a habitat or home, beavers build a dam in a stream. An area of the woods is flooded and a pond in which the beaver can build a lodge is made. This beaver lodge or den is located away from shore and has an underwater entrance. This makes it difficult for most predators to enter the lodge. In winter, the water around the lodge usually freezes, protecting the beaver almost completely. Some beavers live by rivers and do not need to build dams. Instead, they live in burrows that they build on the river bank.



Only one beaver family lives in each dam: two adults and usually 2-4 kits or very young beavers and the yearlings from the previous year's litter. When the food supply around the beaver's home is exhausted, they move to another site and start again.

The kits are born in early spring, from April through June. When young beavers reach their second summer, they take on adult duties, building and maintaining the lodge and the dams. They reach adulthood during their second winter and move away to find a mate and build a lodge of their own.

The beaver eats water plants including pond weeds, water-lilies, and cattails and the cambium which is the soft tissue in which new wood and bark grow. They also eat the bark of hardwood trees, including birch, aspen, willow, cottonwood, and alder.

Some of the animals that prey upon beavers include foxes, coyotes, wolves, lynx, otters, weasels, hawks, eagles and owls.

After many years of over-trapping for its valuable fur, the beaver almost went extinct in the 1930's. It is now making a comeback since trapping is limited.



Beaver Questions

Can the beaver swim? _____

Describe the North American Beaver. _____

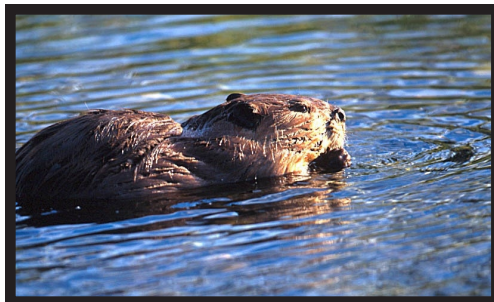
What is another name for the North American Beaver? _____

Where do beavers live? _____

What sign tells us that beavers live nearby? _____

In which months are beavers usually born? _____

Name some animals that prey upon beavers. _____



Color the Beaver and give it a Home



GATHERING TO MAKE A HOME

Name: _____ Date _____

Look at the picture below. Write three sentences that tell what the beaver is doing.



GROUNDHOG FACTS

Groundhogs live in the northern parts of North America.

Groundhogs are also called woodchucks.

Groundhogs are mammals and rodents.

Groundhogs can climb trees and swim.

Groundhogs hibernate in burrows during cold winter months.

Groundhogs eat plants, like dandelions and grass.

Groundhogs make a loud whistle to warn other groundhogs of danger.

Some predators of groundhogs are bobcats and bears.

Groundhogs use their strong claws to dig.

Groundhogs have a short tail, brown-gray fur, small ears, black hands, five-toed feet with claws and very sensory whiskers.

Groundhog Day is on February 2. In Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, people watch Phil the Groundhog come out of his burrow after his long winter hibernation. If he sees his shadow, some people think that bad weather is coming. If he does not see his shadow, some people think that mild weather is coming.



I CAN SEE MY SHADOW-I CANNOT SEE MY SHADOW!!!

Write the answers to the questions below the pictures.



Picture 1



Picture 2

Which picture shows that the groundhog has seen his shadow, picture 1 or picture 2?

What does it mean when the groundhog sees its shadow?

UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS BELOW

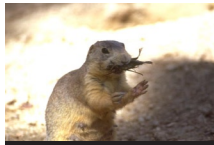
Name: _____

Date: _____

ETANREBIH

DETORN

LACW

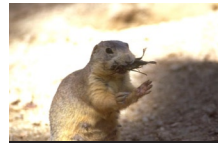


LAMMAMS

OOCWDKUHC

REYRFUBA

ENTWIR



UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS BELOW

Name: _____

Date: _____

ETANREBIH

HIBERNATE

DETORN

RODENT

LACW

CLAW



LAMMAMS

MAMMALS

OOCWDKUHC

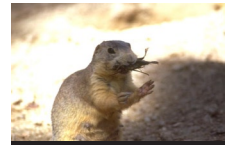
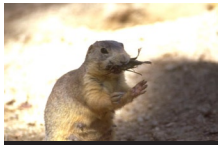
WOODCHUCK

REYRFUBA

FEBRUARY

ENTWIR

WINTER



GROUNDHOG QUESTIONS

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: On the lines below, write complete sentences to answer each question. Use "Facts About the Groundhog" to help you.

1. What is another name for groundhogs? _____

2. Where do groundhogs hibernate? _____

3. On what continent do groundhogs live? _____

4. What kind of noise do groundhogs make? _____

5. What do groundhogs use to dig holes? _____

6. Name two kinds of plants that groundhogs eat? _____

7. What is the color of the fur of groundhogs? _____



GROUNDHOG QUESTIONS

Name: Key _____

Date: _____

1. What is another name for groundhogs? Another name for groundhog is woodchuck.
2. Where do groundhogs hibernate? Groundhogs hibernate in burrows during cold winter months.
3. On what continent do groundhogs live? Groundhogs live on the continent of North America.
4. What kind of noise do groundhogs make? Groundhogs make a loud whistle to warn others of danger
5. What do groundhogs use to dig holes? Groundhog use their strong paws to dig holes.
6. Name two kinds of plants that groundhogs eat? Groundhogs eat dandelion and grass.
7. What is the color of the fur of groundhogs? Groundhogs have brown-grey fur.



MOOSE

The moose is the largest member of the deer family. It is a large animal with long legs and distinctive antlers. The front legs are longer than the rear.

Moose are taller than horses and can measure up to 7 feet 6 inches tall at the shoulder. Adult females are called cows. They grow to be up to 800 pounds. Adult males are called bulls. They weigh from 900 to 1,400 pounds. The largest moose are found in Alaska, where some weighing up to 1,400 pounds have been found.

Moose vary in color from almost black to very light brown. During the winter they turn a grayish color, helping to camouflage them in the snow covered landscape. The long legs of the moose are lighter in color than the body.

Moose antlers grow to be up to five feet long or more. Each year, the old antlers fall off and new antlers grow the following spring.

Emerging antlers are tan to brown velvet. As the moose matures, and the velvet peels off, the antler underneath is white. The moose rub the antlers against tree bark to speed up the peeling process and the antlers turn tan to brown.

Moose have very keen sense of hearing and smell but not very good eyesight.

The long legs allow the moose to run at a very fast gallop. This helps them to quickly get away from predators or to catch their prey. Moose are also very strong swimmers.

Moose are mostly solitary animals. The only strong bond is between a mother and her young.

Moose live in cool climate in forests, near lakes, ponds, rivers, or swampy land.



Moose eat grass, leaves, and aquatic weeds. In winter, they eat mostly twigs and leaves.

The grizzly bear and man are the main predators of the moose.

One to three calves are born at a time during the spring or summer. The calves are weaned at five months of age but remain with the mother for one to two years, when new calves are born. Moose reach maturity at two years.



THE DEER FAMILY

The moose is one member of the deer family. Research to find out who the other members are. List the other members below. Write a report about one of the other members. Use the incomplete sentences below to help you in your report.

What is the animal's name?

What does it look like?

How big is it?

Does it have horns?

Are its legs short or long?

Is it slow moving or fast?

What does it eat?

Is it a herbivore, carnivore, or omnivore?

Describe interesting features of the animal's behavior.

How does it defend itself?

What animals eat or kill your animal?

Is the animal in danger of extinction? If so, why?



A KEEN SENSE OF HEARING

Moose have a keen sense of hearing, and smell but not very good eyesight.

How can a keen sense of hearing help the moose? Write your response on the lines below.



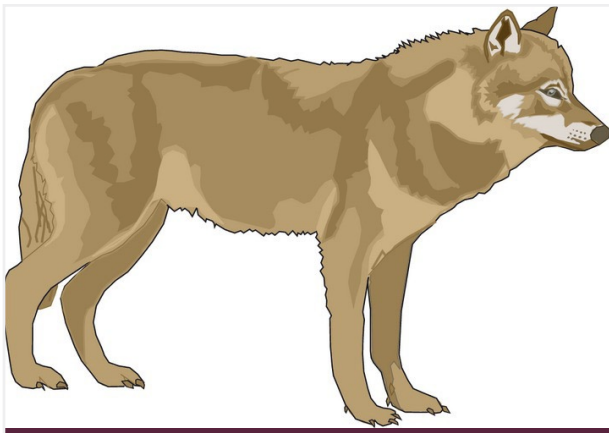
ENDANGERED SPECIES

The American Bison is one of those endangered animals. This means that it is in danger of becoming extinct. When all animals of a kind die and there are no longer any more left to make babies they are extinct. Write a sentence about each endangered animal below. Cut apart and make a book.

SOME ENDANGERED ANIAMLS OF
NORTH AMERICA



by _____



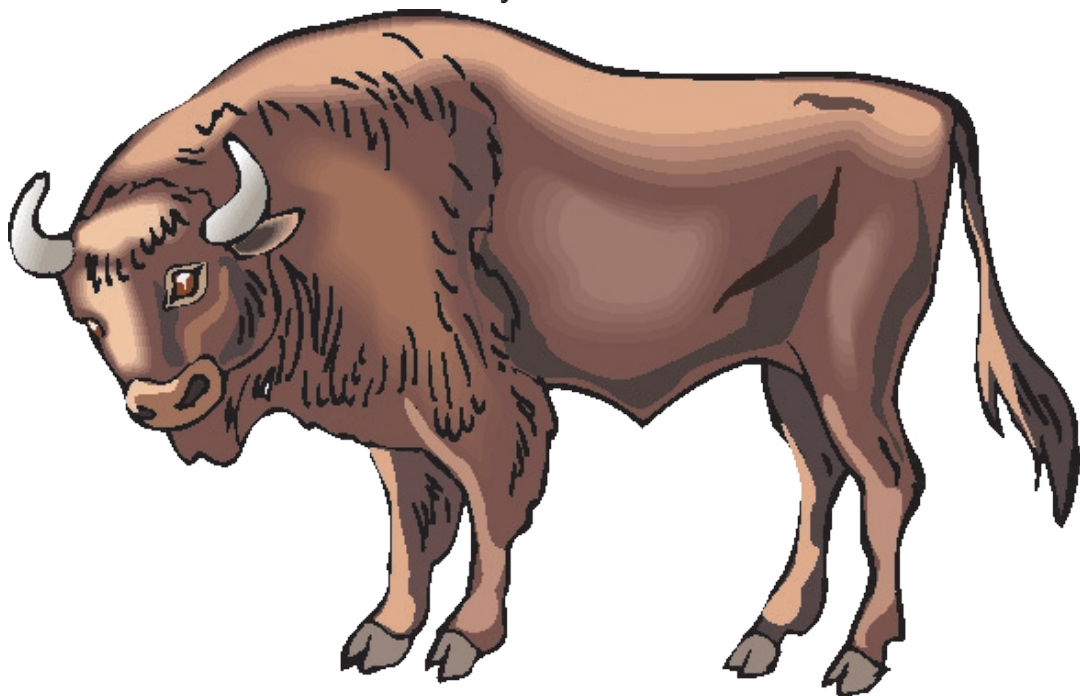
THE AMERICAN BISON

The American bison is also called the buffalo. It used to be found on prairies in western Canada and the United States. Today it is found in areas like parks and reserves throughout North America. These places are protected. The bison eats mainly grass, leaves, bark and twigs of trees and shrubs. In the wild it lives for about 20 years. In captivity it lives for about 40 years.

The American bison has a hump on its shoulders. It can grow to 5 to 6 feet tall with a length of 7 to 11 feet. The male bison can weigh up to 2,200 pounds. The female bison can weigh up to 1,320 pounds.

The bison has a thick brown coat which helps it to keep warm during the winter seasons. In the spring it sheds this coat and forms a lighter coat. The lighter coat keeps them cooler during the warmer weather.

During 1939 to 1945, the years of World War II, the bison population of America started to decline. That is because they were needed for food. The building of railroads prevented the bison from migrating as they would like to. The demand for bison meat, hide and bones almost made them extinct. The introduction of guns made it easier for the settlers to kill the bison for food. Today, there is a limited area for bison grazing. This has limited their lifespan and food supply. The grazing areas have been taken over by cities and farmland.



BISON MATH

Solve the following word problems.

1. If a bison is 5 feet tall and 9 feet long, what is the difference between the height and the length? _____

What operation did you use? _____

2. If a bison is 6 feet tall and 11 feet long, find the difference between the height and the length.

3. If the male bison weighs 2,200 pounds and the female bison weighs 1,320 pounds, how much less does the female bison weigh?

How much more does the male bison weigh? _____

4. World War II began in 1939 and ended in 1945. How many years did the war last?



BISON MATH

Solve the following word problems.

1. If a bison is 5 feet tall and 9 feet long, what is the difference between the height and the length? The difference is 4 feet.

What operation did you use? Subtraction

2. If a bison is 6 feet tall and 11 feet long, find the difference between the height and the length.

$$\underline{11 - 6 = 5}$$

3. If the male bison weighs 2,200 pounds and the female bison weighs 1,320 pounds, how much less does the female bison weigh?

$$\underline{2,200 - 1,320 = 980 \text{ pounds}}$$

How much more does the male bison weigh? 980 pounds

4. World War II began in 1939 and ended in 1945. How many years did the war last?

$$\begin{array}{r} \underline{1945} \\ - 1939 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

6 years



A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A BISON

Pretend you were a bison. Write about an interesting day in your life. Use the following questions to help with your essay.

What season is it?

How do you keep warm or cool?

Were you hunted, if so by whom or what? How easy or hard was it to find food? What did you eat?



Bobcats

Bobcats are very fierce **cats** that live in forests, swamps, mountains, prairie, and deserts in most of North America. Generally they are most active at night, but have some activity at dawn and dusk. They spend the day in their den which may be a cave, hollow log or rock crevice. They are excellent climbers and swimmers. They are easy prey for cougars, coyotes, wolves, owls, and people. Bobcats live for about 10-14 years. The bobcats and the lynx, are closely related.

The Bobcat has powerful jaws and long, pointed canine teeth. It has sharp, claws, big ears, and a spotted coat. Many bobcats have long tufts of hair at the tip of the ears that helps them hear better. The brown eyes have circular pupils. These cats are very graceful and are from 24 to 40 inches in length. This includes the tail. The stubby tail is only 4 to 7 inches long, and looks like it was cut off or bobbed. This is the reason it is named bobcat. Bobcats are carnivores or meat-eaters. They eat small mammals like rabbits, hares, rodents, foxes, weasels, and occasionally small deer, birds, fish, and eggs. Bobcats stalk their prey, and then pounce onto it. They can leap up to 10 feet and they can often kill their prey in one powerful bite.



INTERVIEW WITH A BOBCAT

Pretend you are a reporter. Pretend your bobcat can talk. You are going to interview your bobcat for "Staying in the Wild" a TV show about wild animals. Answer the following questions and use the information to make an oral presentation to the class.

An interview with a bobcat

By reporter _____
(your name)

I'm here in _____ with a wild animal.

Would you please describe yourself for our listeners? _____

Please describe your habitat. _____

What are your favorite foods? _____

Who are your enemies? _____

What else would you like to tell your listeners about yourself? _____



BOBCAT MATH

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Complete all the math problems below.

1. If the shortest bobcat is 24 inches tall and the tallest is 40 inches tall, what is the difference in length between the short bobcat and the tall bobcat?

2. If a bobcat lives for 10 years and had two babies each year, how many babies would that bobcat have during its lifetime?

What operation did you use? _____

3. If a bobcat went to sleep at 7 a.m. and woke up at 7 p.m., how many hours did the bobcat sleep?

4. If a bobcat wakes at 7 p.m. and starts prowling at 8 p.m., the bobcat goes back to sleep goes at 6 a.m., how many hours did the bobcat prowl?



BOBCAT MATH

Name: Key _____

Date: _____

Directions: Complete all the math problems below.

1. If the shortest bobcat is 24 inches tall and the tallest is 40 inches tall, what is the difference in length between the short bobcat and the tall bobcat?

Sixteen inches

2. If a bobcat lives for 10 years and had 2 babies each year, how many babies would that bobcat have during its lifetime?

Twenty babies

What operation did you use? Multiplication/ Addition

3. If a bobcat went to sleep at 7 a.m. and woke up at 7 p.m., how many hours did the bobcat sleep?

Twelve hours

4. If a bobcat wakes at 7 p.m. and starts prowling at 8 p.m., the bobcat goes back to sleep goes at 6 a.m., how many hours did the bobcat prowl?

Ten hours



BLACK BEARS

Black Bears are found all over North America. They live in Alaska, in most of Canada and in many parts of the United States and Mexico. The black bear's habitat in the East is forests and swamps. In the West, it lives in forests and wooded mountain areas.

The black bear changes his looks from place to place. In the East, the bear's fur is nearly black, but in the West, it ranges from black to cinnamon, with a white blaze on the chest. In Alaska, there is a "blue" phase and on Gribble Island, British Columbia, some Black Bears are nearly white! The bear has a snout that has a tan color.

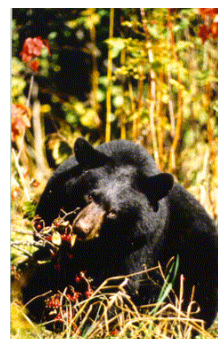
Male bears are much larger than females, and adults can weigh anywhere from 203-595 pounds. Although the black bear is a carnivore, it eats mostly vegetation.

Black bear adults live by themselves. The young are born in January or early February. The bear eats a lot during summer and fall and then hibernates in a protected area. It sleeps the winter away, but the sleep isn't deep and the bear's temperature falls only a few degrees below normal. Cubs are born while the female is hibernating. The female produces a litter every other year, starting when she is 3 years old. Most females have one cub the first winter, and two the next time. The cubs are very small, weighing $\frac{1}{2}$ pound at birth. The newborns have very little fur. They snuggle into mom's fur to keep warm.

In early spring, the bear family wakes up. The mother bear teaches her cubs how to find food and how to avoid dangers. Mother bears are very protective of their young and can be dangerous and aggressive. The little bears stay with their mother and hibernate with her the following winter. In spring, the cubs leave their mother, setting off on adventures of their own. Black bears have powerful, thickly furred bodies and small rounded ears. They have small eyes that are very close together, and their vision is poor. They have a keen sense of smell which they rely on to alert them to food or danger.

The bears shuffle along, walking on the entire sole of the foot with the heel touching the ground. They have five long claws on each foot. They use these claws to dig, rip, tear and fish.

The black bear is primarily active at night, but it can be seen anytime. The bear's home range is usually 8-10 miles, but it can be as large as 15 miles. Here, the bear spends its time searching for food. Black bears are classified as carnivores, but they enjoy a varied diet. They



eat twigs, buds, leaves, nuts, roots, fruits, corn, berries, plants, insects, small mammals, fish and honey. They take advantage of careless humans who leave garbage or the occasional picnic basket lying around.



The black bear is a powerful swimmer and a good tree climber. It will climb a tree for protection or food. As slow and ambling as the bear might seem, it can run very fast and can get up to speeds as high as 30 miles per hour.

At times, bears congregate to feed at garbage dumps, but they don't seek out one another's company. The female stays with her young through their first year, but at other times she, too, is solitary.

The young hibernate with their mother, but in spring they are forced out on their own either by their mother or by a courting adult male.

Young bears are called yearlings. They may separate and go their own ways, but sometimes they stay with their mother for another year.

Black bears are dangerous when they have cubs. They will go to great lengths to keep their young safe. They can also be dangerous when they are surprised by sudden approach, when they are guarding kill, and when they are injured. They are also a force to be reckoned with when they are fishing, feeding or hungry. We must always be cautious around bears, because they are always either fishing, feeding or hungry.

A few days before hibernating, the bear will stop eating. Then, it eats roughage in the form of leaves, pine needles or even bits of its own hair. The home ranges of males are usually about three times bigger than the home ranges of females. Bears are nomadic, and wander through their home range. Home ranges of several bears may overlap. They use paths made by themselves or humans. A home range must contain water. Bears need to drink often and like to wallow in muddy water, possibly to keep insects off. The winter den is also found in the home range.

Bears enter their hibernating dens anytime between October and January, depending on where they are in North America. Bears that live farther north will enter the den earlier. Usually, the female is the first to den, followed by the yearlings and then the males. When the bear becomes dormant, its temperature drops by about 8 degrees Centigrade. Its heart rates slows from 50 to 15 beats per minute. Its metabolism is reduced by half. It sheds its footpads, and loses about 20 percent of its body weight.



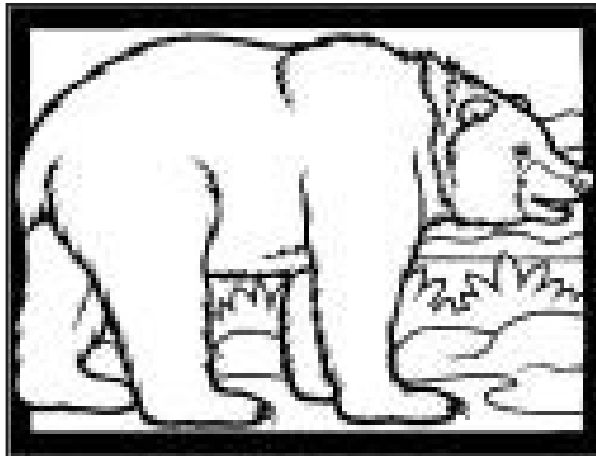
Bears do not hibernate so deeply that they can't be roused. Mothers must care for cubs, and other bears may get up and leave the den for an hour or two. After it wakes up, the bear is sluggish. It only eats a bit of bark and some grasses at first. The bear has to rely on its fat stores until fruits, insects and plants appear, and then they can enjoy their favorite activity which is eating.

Black bears are protected under law. They have been heavily hunted for their paws, claws and gallbladders. These parts were illegally sold and made their way to the Oriental market, where they were used for traditional medicines. Black bear populations in North America are considered to be stable.

Bears Word Bank

These are some words you may know or want to know. Add new words to the list if you need to. Look up the meaning of each word in the dictionary. Write the meaning on the page provided.

hibernate, sluggish, roughage, shuffle, carnivores, den, ambling, congregate



Facts About Bears

You have probably been visited by a bear if you see any of the following:

- Feeding signs: logs or stones that have been overturned while the bear was looking for insects.
- Rotten stumps or logs that have been torn apart while the bear was looking for food.
- Ground dug or pawed up while the bear was looking for roots.
- Anthills or burrows of rodents that were dug open.
- Torn-up berry patches.
- Broken branches of fruit trees.
- Remnants of prey animals.
- “Bear trees”: bears leave tooth marks on tree trunks, often as high as the bear can reach while standing on its hind legs. Long claw slashes on the bark are also ‘bear signs’. The bears like to rub away loose hair and scratch themselves on trees, and the trees show rub marks and hair that has been snagged.
- Trails: well-worn, meandering paths marked with depressions. Sometimes, bears use trails for generations.
- Tracks: bears leave broad footprints that are four inches long, and five inches wide. Five toes show on the front and hind feet. The hind prints are seven to nine inches long and about five inches wide. The prints look as if they’ve been made by someone wearing moccasins, but the large toe is outermost, and the small toe is innermost. The stride is about one foot long.



POETRY

To help the class develop an appreciation for poetry, read the poem below. Use it as a springboard for class discussion.

A Bear

A bear can't use a car, a house,
a boat or lots of money.
He's content to pay no rent
as long as he's got honey.
He's quite glad if he's just had
some veggies or some roots,
Or berries, bugs and juicy slugs
and bark and tender shoots.
When he's grown fat, he says 'that's that'
and heads off to his den
And then he'll doze through winter's snows,
until there's food again.



BEAR MATHEMATICS

Complete the following math problems.

1. Bears have broad footprints that are four inches long and five inches wide. What is the area of one bear footprint?

2. What is the area of two bear footprints?

3. The hind prints of a bear are seven inches long and five inches wide. What is the area of one hind foot?

4. If a stride is one foot long how many inches would three strides be?

5. If a bear runs as fast as 30 miles per hour, how many miles would it run in three hours?



BEAR MATHEMATICS

Complete the following math problems.

1. Bears have broad footprints that are four inches long and five inches wide. What is the area of one bear footprint?

20 square inches

2. What is the area of two bear footprints?

40 square inches

3. The hind prints of a bear are seven inches long and five inches wide. What is the area of one hind foot?

35 square inches

4. If a stride is one foot long how many inches would three strides be?

36 inches

5. If a bear runs as fast as 30 miles per hour, how many miles would it run in three hours?

90 miles



Name: _____ Date : _____



Bear Quiz

<p>1. Black Bears live:</p> <p>a) Only in parks</p> <p>b) All over North America</p> <p>c) In igloos</p>	<p>2. Bears are:</p> <p>a) mammals</p> <p>b) marsupials</p> <p>c) primates</p>
<p>3. Bears are:</p> <p>a) solitary</p> <p>b) sociable</p> <p>c) inseparable</p>	<p>4. Male and female bears</p> <p>a) mate for life</p> <p>b) stay together only long enough to mate</p> <p>c) stay together until their young can fly</p>
<p>5. Bears eat:</p> <p>a) almost anything</p> <p>b) garbage</p> <p>c) all of the above</p>	<p>6. In winter, bears</p> <p>a) migrate to warmer climates</p> <p>b) enjoy cross country skiing</p> <p>c) hibernate</p>
<p>7. Baby bears are called:</p> <p>a) nestlings</p> <p>b) cubs</p> <p>d) Junior</p>	<p>8. Within their home ranges, bears move about:</p> <p>a) on paths and trails made by humans or bears</p> <p>b) on tippy-toes</p> <p>c) in recreational vehicles</p>
<p>9. Bears leave broad footprints that are about:</p> <p>a) four inches long and five inches wide</p> <p>b) five inches long and four inches wide</p> <p>c) two inches long and three inches wide</p>	<p>10. Black bears are hunted for their:</p> <p>a) paws</p> <p>b) fur</p> <p>c) both a and b</p>



Bear Quiz

Name: Key

Date: _____

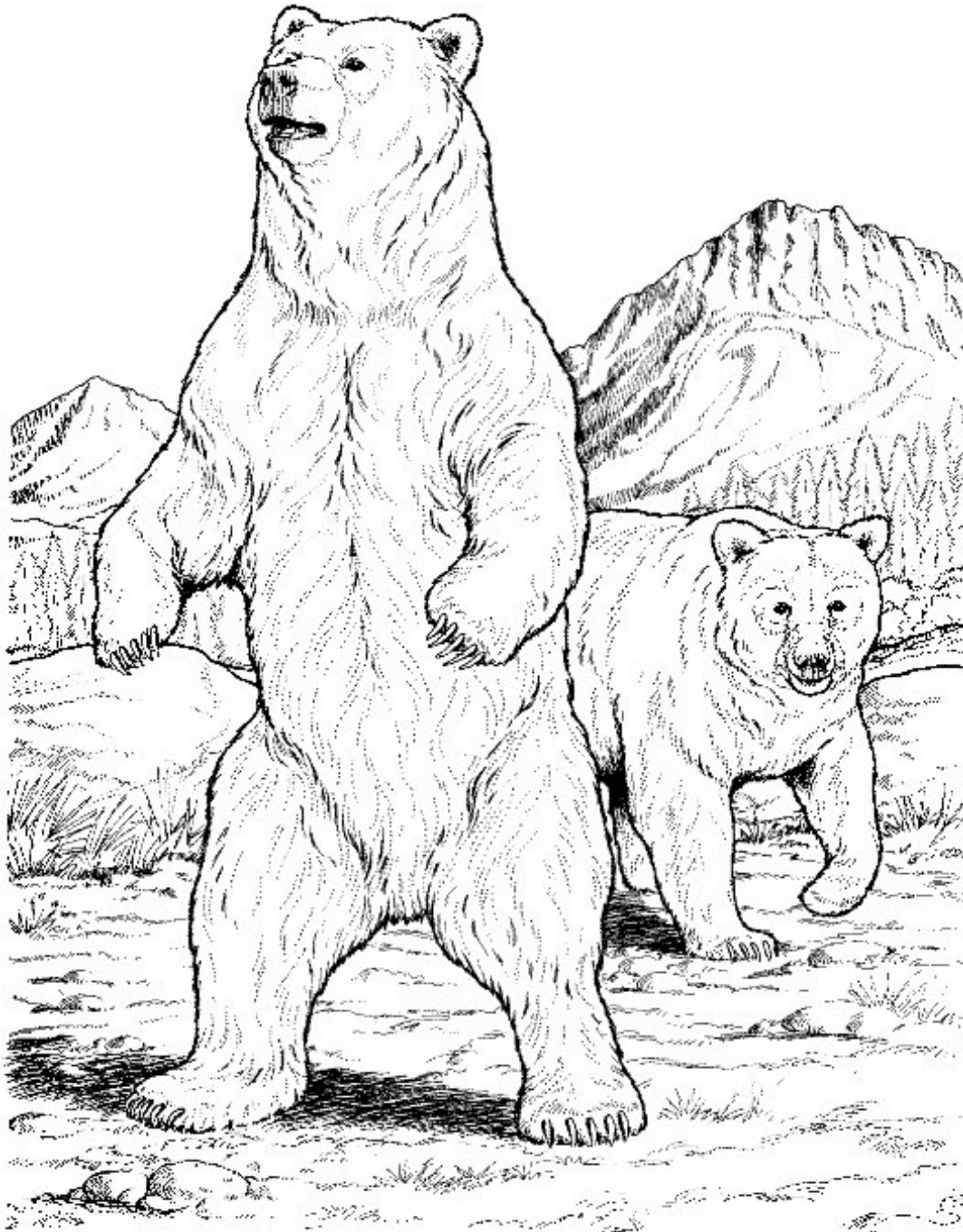
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BEAR COLORING

Name: _____ Date: _____

Color the bears using the colors indicated in the narrative.



If I Were A _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Pretend you are a wild animal. Which one are you? Where do you live? What do you eat? Which other wild animal would you like to meet and why? Write your thoughts on the lines below.

A large, stylized outline of a house or tent shape, divided into horizontal lines for writing. The shape has a pointed top and a pointed bottom, with a wide middle section. It is designed to be used as a writing area for the student's response.



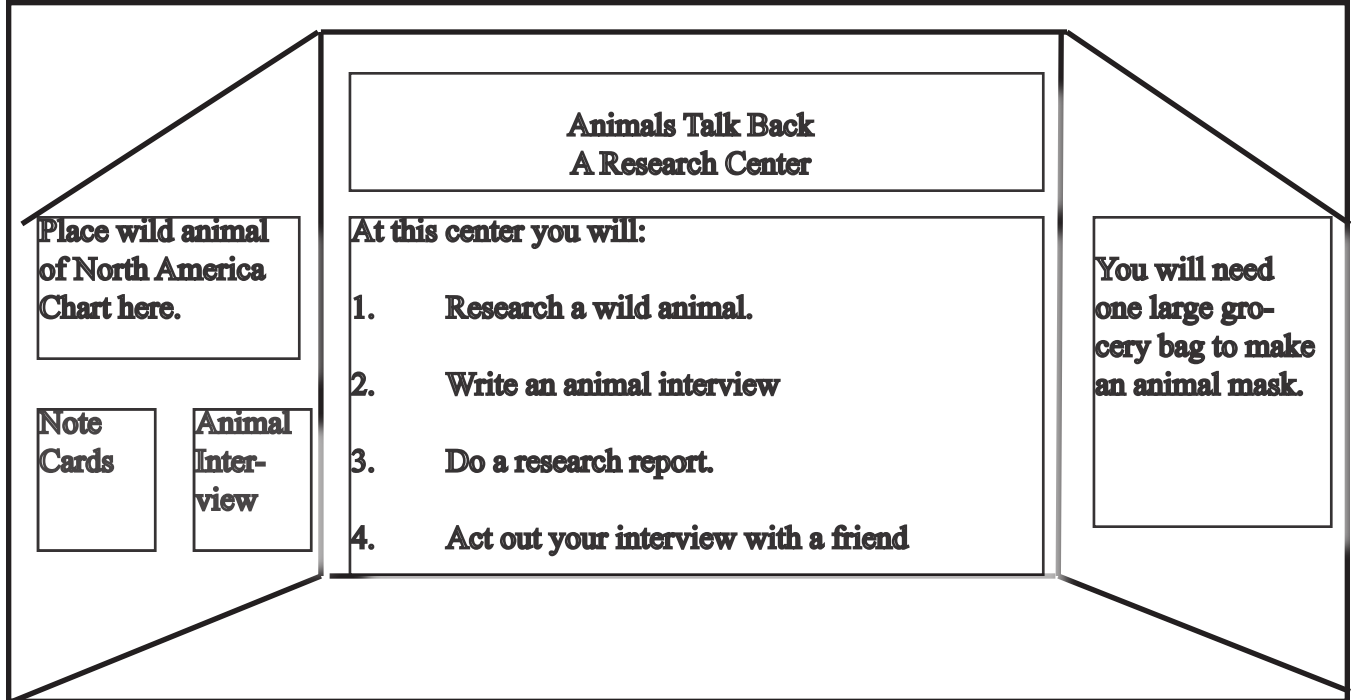
NOCTURNAL CREATURES

Some wild animals are nocturnal which means that they sleep during the daytime and are awake at night. Write about one of these nocturnal animals that interests you most. Search the Internet or encyclopedia for information.





WILD ANIMALS OF NORTH AMERICA RESEARCH CENTER



To make this center you will need:

1 display board

3 mailing envelopes size 9x12

1 large grocery bag per student

lots of paper scraps

markers

books and magazines or wild animals

1 wild animal chart

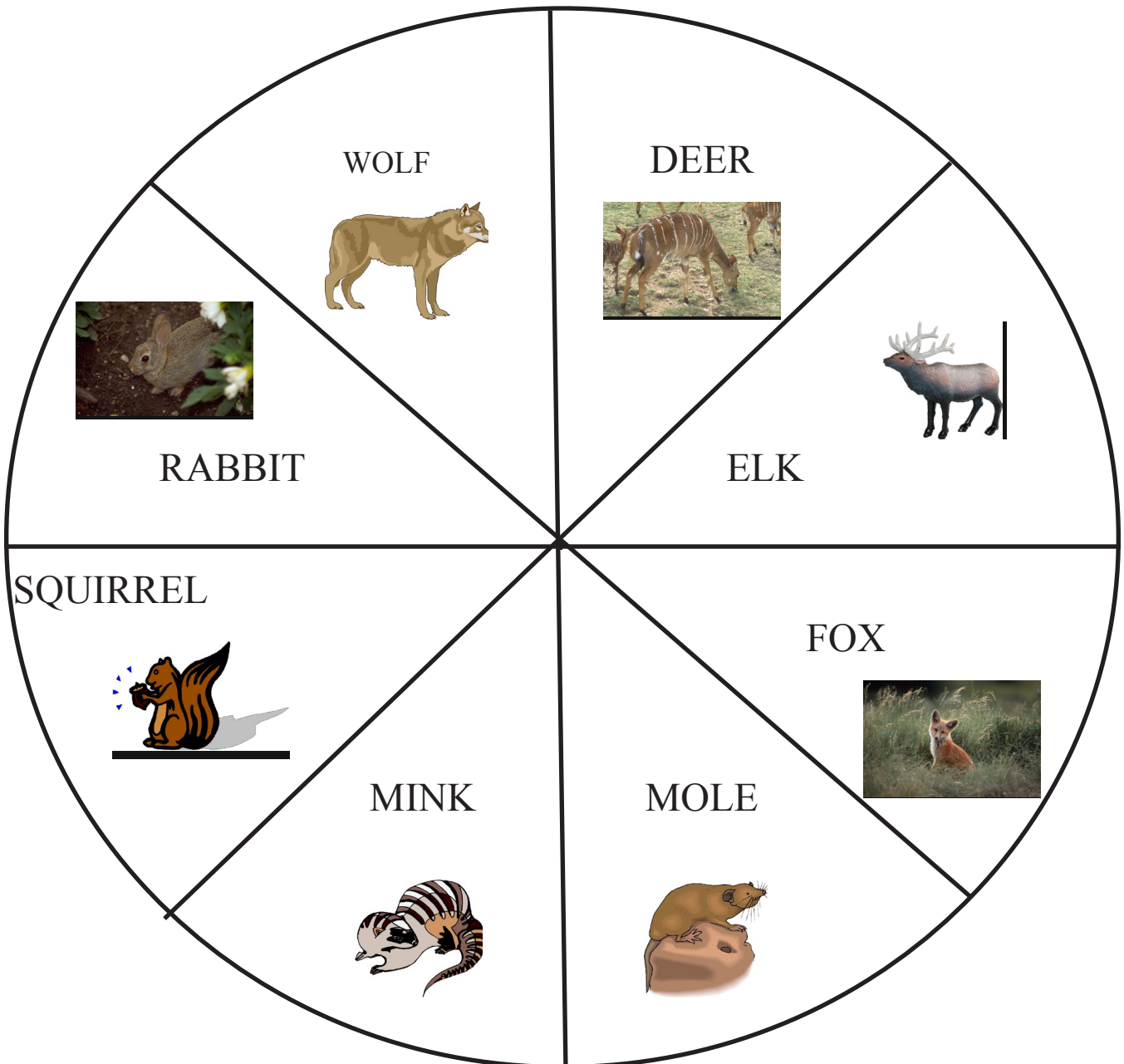
Note cards

Map of North America, 1 per student



WILD ANIMALS OF NORTH AMERICA CHART

1. Cut out
2. Mount on heavy paper.
3. Attach to the left side of learning center.



WRITING A RESEARCH REPORT: NOTE CARDS

You need to decide what you want to learn about. Select a wild animal of North America from the wheel.

1. I have decided to learn about _____
2. Read about your animal and take not copy word for word from the book.
3. Cut out the topics listed below.
4. Glue each one to a 3 X 5 note card.
5. When you read a fact on that topic write it on the note card.
6. Keep all cards together in the envelope so you will not lose them.

Name and description	Where it lives
What it eats	How it protects itself
How it raises its young	Who are its enemies
Other interesting facts	Other interesting facts



BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR A RESEARCH REPORT

You need to keep a record of the books and magazines you have read and the websites you have visited.

When you write something on your note card, write the information about the book magazine or website it came from.

This is called a bibliography. Use the format below for the bibliography.

BOOK	
Author's last name _____	Author's first name _____
Name of Book _____	
Publisher _____	
Pages read _____	Copyright date _____
MAGAZINE	
Author's last name _____	Author's first name _____
Name of article _____	
Pages _____	Month and Year _____
TITLE OF WEBSITE	
URL of site _____	Date of publication _____
Author _____	



INTERVIEW WITH AN ANIMAL

Now your notes are finished. You have learned a lot about your animal. Pretend you are a reporter. Pretend your animal can talk. You are going to interview your animal for the TV Show "Animals Express."

Use the following pages to help with your report and oral presentation.

ANIMALS EXPRESS

An interview with a _____

by reporter _____

I'm here in the state of _____ with a wild animal. Would you please describe yourself for your listeners.

Tell us about your habitat.

What are your favorite foods? _____

Who are your enemies? _____

How do you protect yourself? _____

What else would you like the audience to know about you? _____



PUTTING YOUR RESEARCH REPORT TOGETHER

Although most of your work is done, you need to put your report together neatly.

Get a folder for your report. On the front page put the title, your name, and the date.

Moose

by

Marsha Cox

May 10, 200_



Make a title page. This will be the same as the cover of the folder but it will be on the first page.

Put in your animal interview.

Add a map to show where your wild animal lives.

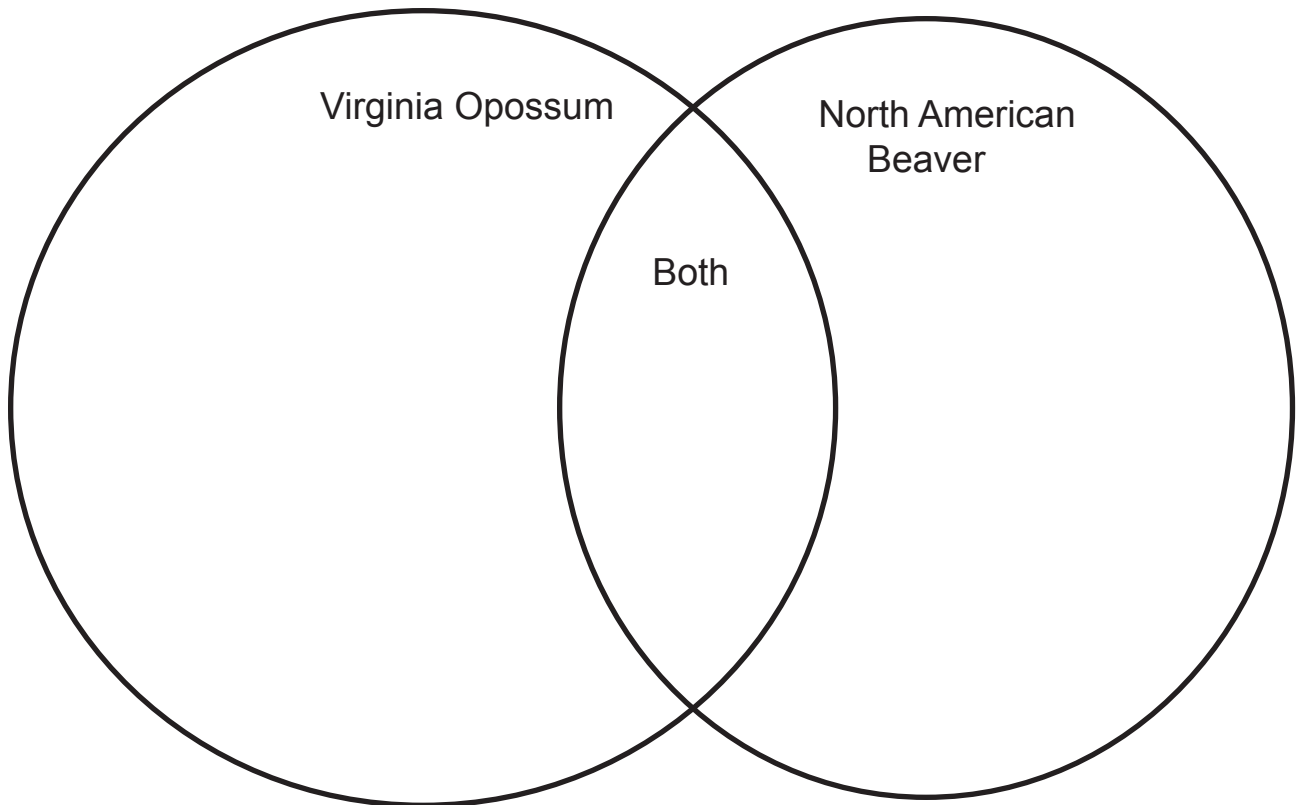
Draw or print several pictures of your wild animal and label them. Put them after the map.

The last page is the works cited. This is a list of books, magazines and websites you used.

VIRGINIA OPOSSUM AND NORTH AMERICAN BEAVER

Name _____ Date _____

Compare the Virginia Opossum and the North American Beaver. Write the words in the correct spaces.



WORD BANK

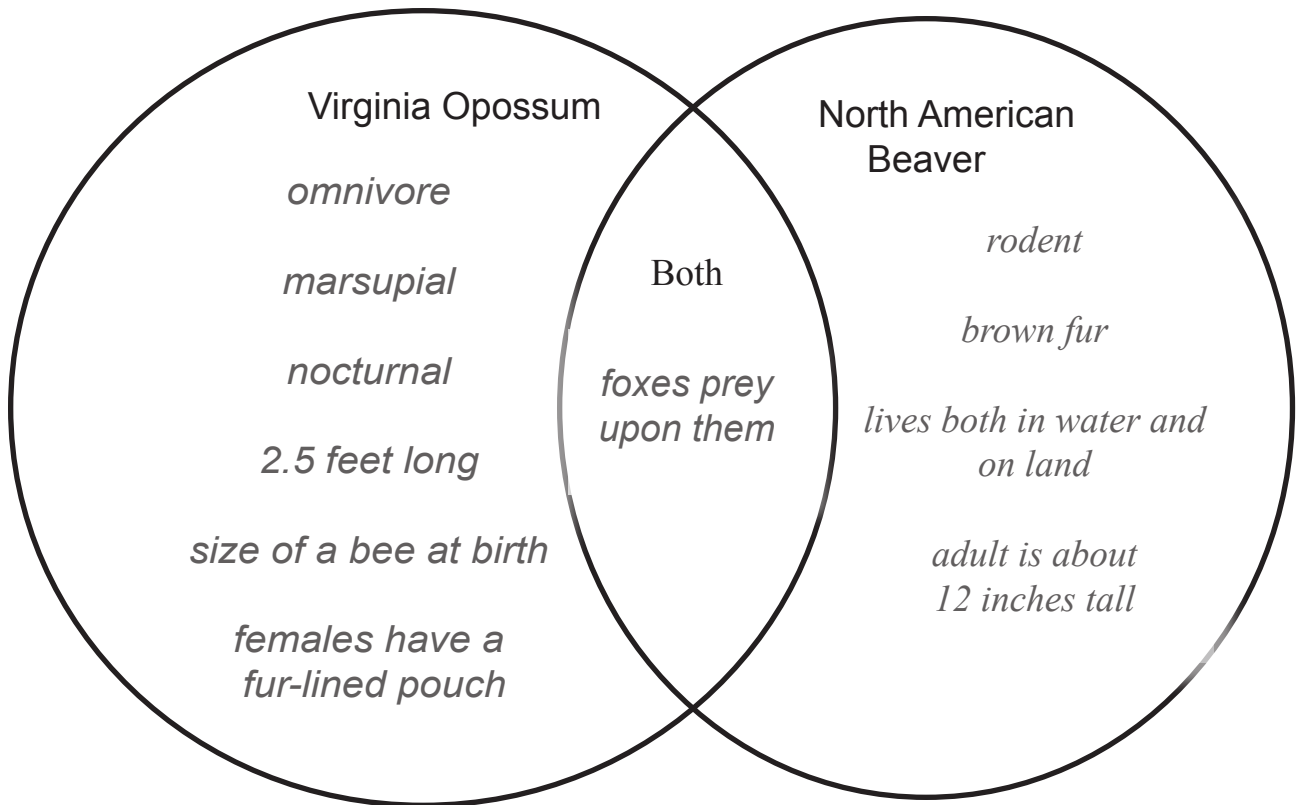
omnivore - marsupial - nocturnal - rodent - brown fir - lives both in water and on land - foxes prey upon them - 2.5 feet long - eats water plants - size of a bee at birth - adult is about 12 inches tall - female has a a fur lined pouch - the young drink milk



VIRGINIA OPOSSUM AND NORTH AMERICAN BEAVER

Name KEY Date _____

Compare the Virginia Opossum and the North American Beaver. Write the words in the correct spaces.



WORD BANK

omnivore - marsupial - nocturnal rodent - brown fir - lives both in water and on land - foxes prey upon them - 2.5 feet long - eats water plants - size of a bee at birth - adult is about 12 inches tall - female has a a fur lined pouch - the young drink milk



WORK AT THE ZOO

If you are interested in working at the zoo and educating people about conservation of the natural world below are listed opportunities for work.

Select five of the work opportunities and on a separate sheet of paper, write what you would be expected to do in each job.

Administration
Admissions
Animal Keeper
Animal Nutrition
Accounting
Education
Facilities
Food Services
Group Services
Graphic Arts
Horticulture
Investor Relations
Janitorial Services
Management Information Systems
Marketing
Membership
Park Rangers
Publications
Retail Operations
Warehouse



HELP PROTECT ENDANGERED ANIMALS

Contact your local U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office for a list and description of the threatened and endangered animals that inhabit your area.

Encourage your parents never to purchase products made from threatened or endangered species that are illegally sold or marketed, such as sea turtles, big cats or alligator skins.

Work on a project on threatened and endangered animals of North America.

When you visit a wild life refuge or preserve, read and obey the signs.

Raise money for threatened and endangered animals.

Reuse and recycle. All resources on earth are finite, use them wisely.

Harassing wildlife is cruel and illegal. Do not participate in any activity that is harmful to animals.

Educate your friends and family. Studying about threatened and endangered animals can be a fun hobby, and educating others may help save the species.

Write one paragraph telling what you can do to help protect endangered animals.



Wolf Hunter

by Natalie Wittenbrook

“Hi, Dad.” Rhea smiled for about a second at her dad and slammed the front door. He glanced up, and then continued reading the paper. Just like always, he didn’t care if she was home or not. “Rhea, will you please stop wearing that stupid shirt?” Rhea scowled at him. He knew as well as she did that he could have said something when they bought it. She frowned at him and stormed to her room.



“I don’t want to hear about it.” She slammed and locked her door and stared into her mirror at her black shirt with a howling wolf. Her dad was angry because he made his money by selling chicken eggs and fresh vegetables to produce stores, and also shooting and skinning wolves and selling the pelts to fur companies. Rhea thought it was surely illegal but he insisted it wasn’t. “Well, it should be,” Rhea had muttered. Rhea was the complete opposite of her dad. Most people thought they weren’t related because Rhea had short brown hair and hazel eyes, and her dad had black hair and dark brown eyes, but Rhea knew the main difference was in their personalities. Rhea was a vegetarian. Her dad liked steak. When wolves were skinned, she snuck out of the house to the Animal Society and played with the animals until she felt that everything was over. Her dad’s hunting was actually the reason her dad and mom had divorced. Her mom had walked out the door a year ago, after her dad had shot a young wolf for, Rhea thought, no reason at all. And now, more than ever, Rhea wished that her mom had taken her. Rhea was torn from her thoughts by an ear-shattering gunshot coming from outside. “Not again!” she groaned in disgust. She decided to peek outside to see what her dad had killed this time, and fell backwards onto her bed when she saw the faint outline of a dead wolf lying on bloodstained grass in the forest behind their house. Her heart was pounding like a sledge hammer, and the only thing she could do was lie on her back in complete shock. So that’s exactly what she did for a long time. Finally, her dad called her downstairs for dinner. She sighed, and slipped off her bed, her bare, sweaty feet sticking to the wood floor of her room. As she went down the old staircase, it creaked on every step. Her dad was eating chicken, and he muttered, “Your dinner is by the sink.” Rhea pulled her ravioli from the counter and sat down as far away from her dad as possible. They sat that way very silently for a long time and finally Rhea asked her dad, “Can I volunteer at the Animal Society?” She already knew what the answer would be.



“Rhea, we’ve gone over this before. You’re too young to go anywhere without adult supervision . . .” Rhea was suddenly tired of his excuses. “Dad, I’m twelve years old and it’s only three blocks away!” She dropped her fork and ran into the backyard. For a long time she sat on the ground, staring at the newly turned soil. A tiny beetle was crawling across a pebble, trying to get to a leaf, but every time it tried, it just fell back again. The third time it tried, it was flipped onto its back. Rhea picked the flailing beetle up and set it on the leaf.

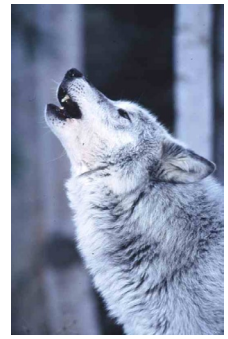
“I wish I were a beetle,” Rhea thought out loud. “Then my only goal would be to get to a leaf, instead of making my dad stop shooting.” Rhea smiled sadly. It seemed hopeless. The next morning, her dad told her he was going to kill the wolves attacking the hen houses.

“Don’t get any ideas,” he said suspiciously. “I know you don’t like me shooting, but if wolves are killing our hens then you know I have to shoot them.” She smiled angelically, but deep down inside she didn’t agree one bit. “I won’t.” As soon as their old Toyota pickup was out of sight, she grabbed her bike and pedaled in the direction of the woods. “He didn’t really think I would stay!” she reassured herself. She figured that if she went straight through the woods instead of around them, she could beat him to the chicken coops. By the time she arrived, her dad was already there. He was pointing his gun at a female wolf guarding her baby.

Her dad took aim, and she ran toward him, trying to stop him, trying to do anything, but even before she started running, she knew she was too late. The shot rang out, and Rhea prayed for the wolves to run away in time, but the poor, faithful mother wolf protected her baby until death. She howled in pain and her beautiful gray fur was soaked in blood. Tears poured down Rhea’s cheeks as she saw the orphaned baby whimpering and nudging his mother’s lifeless body, wondering why she wasn’t moving. Rhea fell to her knees and sat there until her dad came over. “Rhea, stand up this instant and come home with me.” Her dad sounded mad and she didn’t understand how he could just ignore the fact that the pup no longer had a mother. She dried her tears and was overcome with anger. “I hate you!” she screamed. Rhea stood up and grabbed the pup in her jacket, bundling him up like she was wrapping a present, and ran as fast as she could to the Animal Society. When Rhea got to the front desk of the Society, she quickly told them what had happened. “I see.” The person at the front desk spoke soothingly. “Don’t worry, Rhea, we’ll take good care of your wolf.” Rhea nodded, gave the squirming bundle to the front desk, and started to walk out. “Rhea, wait!” Rhea turned around. It was Joe, one of the volunteers. “You can visit this wolf anytime you want.” She smiled. “Thanks, Joe.” Rhea walked home thinking about the wolf the whole way. As soon as she stepped in the door, her dad said angrily, “You know you shouldn’t



run off like that. Do you know how dangerous it is to pick up a wild animal?" No way was she going to answer that. "Dad, I have to visit the wolf tomorrow at the Animal Society." Her dad frowned. "You're not going anywhere. You are grounded for a week. You know better than to do that. You could have been killed!" "But Dad," pleaded Rhea, "You don't understand . . ." He raised his eyebrows. "I don't need to. Go to your room and stay there." Rhea ran up the stairs and halfheartedly flipped the channels on her tiny TV. That week, Rhea could barely stand not leaving the house. So the next week, and the next, and the next, Rhea visited the wolf. And finally, after almost a year had passed, Joe informed Rhea that the wolf was ready to be released into the wild. The next day, Rhea dragged her dad to watch, hoping it would change something in him. Before the wolf was released, Rhea talked Joe into making her dad pet some of the animals in the injured animals section and actually learn something about animals. A bit later, she told the wolf that he would be free soon, and noticed her dad and Joe talking about something in the rodent section. She wondered what they were talking about. Her dad looked solemn and Joe was obviously trying to convince him about something. By the way they occasionally glanced in her direction, she figured they were talking about her. A few minutes later, Rhea and her dad walked to where the wolf was being set free. The cage creaked open and the nervous wolf stepped out and sniffed the fresh summer air. He kept looking back, as if he was expecting the cage to close any minute. In about ten seconds he realized that the cage wasn't going to close, and bounded out to the freedom of the forest in the distance.



Rhea smiled through her tears and watched the joyful wolf until he faded out of sight. As she and her dad were walking home, she asked what he and Joe were talking about. Her dad grinned. "I won't tell you," he said suspensefully. "Come on!" Rhea pleaded.

"Well, OK," he said. "Joe convinced me to let you volunteer there. He gave about a thousand examples of how responsible you were with animals, and how much you liked wolves. He also mentioned that you went over there and cried when I shot them." Rhea's cheeks burned. "So are you going to stop shooting?" she asked hopefully. He sighed. "Rhea, I can't promise you anything, except that I'll stop shooting wolves to sell the pelts. If a wolf puts us in danger, I'll have to do something about it. Do you understand?"

Rhea nodded and hugged her dad happily. She felt like a huge weight had just been lifted off her. And that night, as she was drifting off to sleep, she thought she



ANIMAL STICKERS

Directions: Brighten someone's day with some colorful stickers. Brush the back of your sheet with adhesive. Let it stand for several hours to dry. Store between sheets of waxed paper. Share them with a friend. Tell your friend to lick and stick when they are ready to use them.



WINTER WORDS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Select words related to the winter season. Begin with the letter A and create an acrostic. The first three have been done for you.

Arctic
Blizzard
Cold
D



E

F

G



H

I

J

K



L

M



N

O



P

Q



R

S

T

U

V

W

X

Y

Z



KWANZAA

Kwanzaa is an African American celebration which focuses on the African values of family, community, responsibility, commerce, and self improvement. Kwanzaa means “first fruits of the harvest” in the African language Kiswahili.

Kwanzaa is based on the Nguzo Saba which is the seven guiding principles, one for each day of observance and is celebrated from December 26th to January 1st.

Umoja means Unity and it stresses the importance of togetherness for the family and the community. This is reflected in the African saying, “I am because We are.”



Kujichagulia means Self-determination and is stressed in their desire to define their common interests and make decisions that are best for the family and community at large.

Ujima suggests Collective Work and responsibility. It reminds African Americans of their responsibility to the past, present, and future.

Ujamaa relates to Cooperate Economics and emphasizes their collective economic strength and encourages African Americans to meet common needs through each one supporting the other.

Nia focuses on Purpose, and African Americans are encouraged to set personal goals that are beneficial to the community.

Kuumba focuses on Creativity which helps them to build and maintain a strong and vibrant community.

Imani focuses on Faith. This helps them draw on the best in themselves.

The Kinera holds seven candles which reflect the seven principles which are the foundation of Kwanzaa.



The colors of Kwanzaa are black, red and green.

Gift giving is greatly encouraged and should be educational or artistic in nature. Gifts are usually exchanged between parents and children and traditionally given on January 1st.

The following items are important in the celebration of Kwanzaa: A Kinara or candle holder, Mkeka or placemat made of straw; Mazao or crops such as fruits and vegetables; Vibunzi or ears of corn which represents the number of children in the household; Kikombe cha umoja which is a communal unity cup; Mishumaa saba or seven candles, one black, three red and three green; and Zawadi or gifts that are enriching.



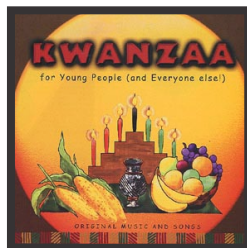
KWANZAA

Kwanza is celebrated by African Americans in January each year. Use the information given to complete each sentence. Cut out the pages and staple them together to make a book.

KWANZAA

I CAN

BY

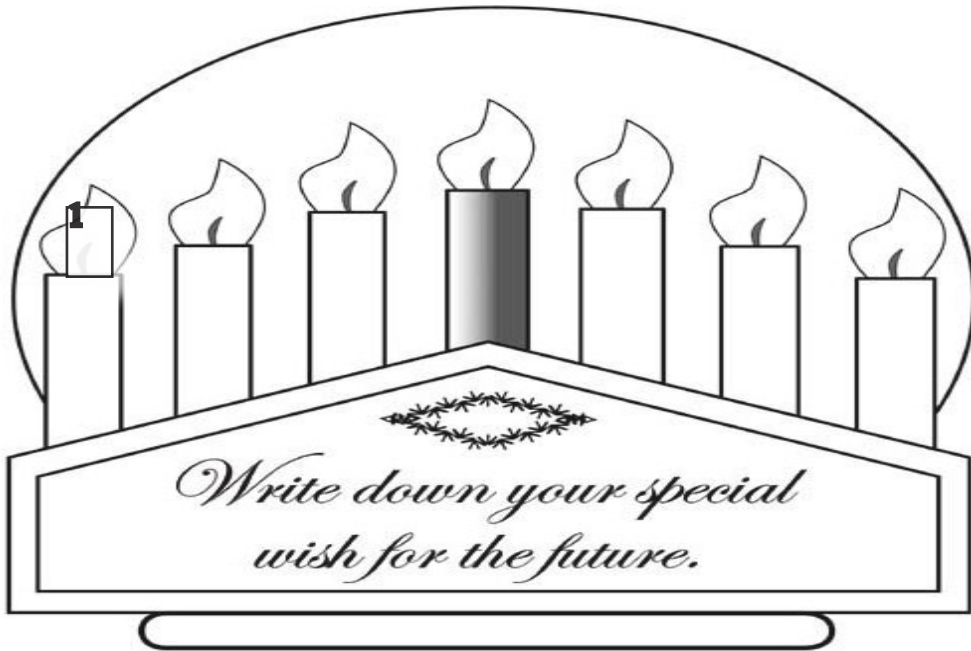


The Unity Cup

This is a communal unity cup. Color the cup and the the lady.



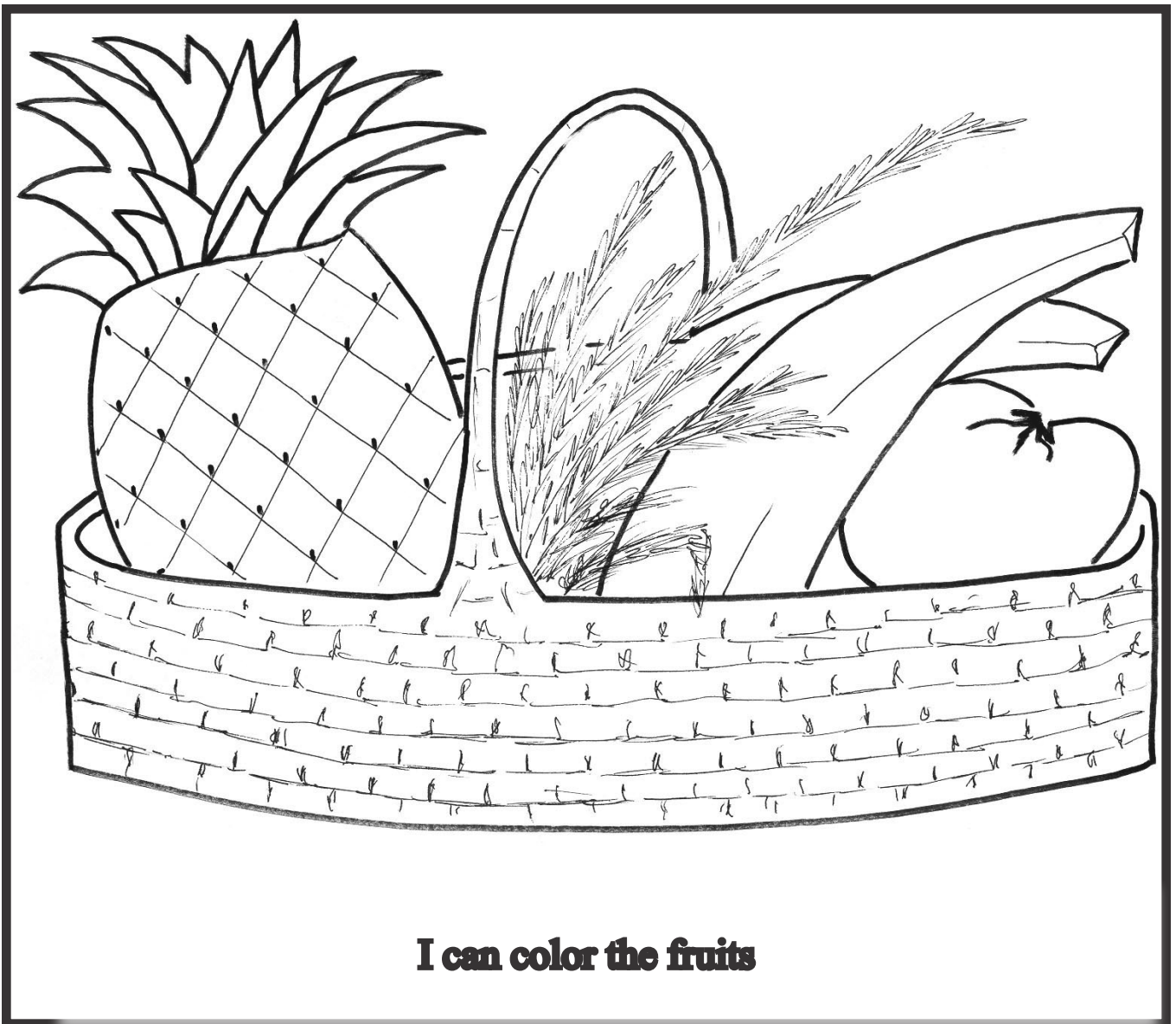
7 CANDLES FOR KWANZAA



I Can Color the Candles



KWANZAA



I can color the fruits

Corn for Kwanzaa

Write one sentence about the corn for Kwanzaa.

I can write about the corn.



DEBRA AND THE DEER

Debra writes about a beautiful experience she had one morning while driving through the park. She is convinced that God had a hand in this experience because of the circumstances. In the life of a christian, God always has a hand in our experiences.

She happened to have her camera with her that morning on her way to work. This was unusual. Her friend's cat had just given birth to some kittens and she was taking the camera to her friend so he could take pictures of the kittens each day for a few weeks.

She was driving through the park which was also unusual because she always takes the freeway. As she was driving through the park, she saw a car stopped so she slowed. There to her utter amazement was a doe and her fawn right off the grass about 20 to 30 feet away. She stopped to capture the moment on her camera. She was able to get about five pictures with one lens and another five with her zoom lens.

She was able to get close to the animals and was surprised that the mother allowed her to get as close as she did. The baby was feeding and the mother was watching it. She concludes that it was one of the most beautiful things she had ever seen.

This is a reminder of what heaven will be like. The Bible tells us that the bear and the lamb will play together and the lamb will not be harmed. A child will be able to play with the animals and will be safe. It is wonderful to know that in the new earth we will all be safe from harm.



Animals of the Bible Word Search

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: This Bible word search game has 26 answers. Find the name of each animal listed in the word bank below. Draw a line through it.

W	O	R	M	O	S	T	R	I	C	H	G	T	O	P
X	Z	W	Q	W	O	N	O	I	P	R	O	C	S	E
M	O	P	E	L	X	M	E	S	P	I	D	E	R	L
P	O	R	C	U	P	I	N	E	S	T	U	D	Y	I
E	G	N	O	P	S	B	I	B	L	E	X	O	C	C
L	X	G	S	O	P	A	R	T	R	I	D	G	E	A
Q	U	A	I	L	S	W	A	N	K	P	Z	Z	N	N
V	W	M	S	P	A	R	R	O	W	A	I	R	I	S
U	O	E	X	O	D	P	Y	G	A	R	G	A	W	A
L	L	S	N	M	Y	W	Q	U	H	O	T	V	S	W
T	F	C	M	E	E	I	L	I	T	K	U	E	D	P
U	V	O	R	A	C	J	I	C	H	R	R	N	E	E
R	C	P	S	W	V	L	A	K	G	O	T	X	M	E
E	S	E	A	X	B	W	N	Z	I	T	L	Z	N	H
O	L	B	E	K	A	N	S	U	N	S	E	W	A	S

WORD BANK

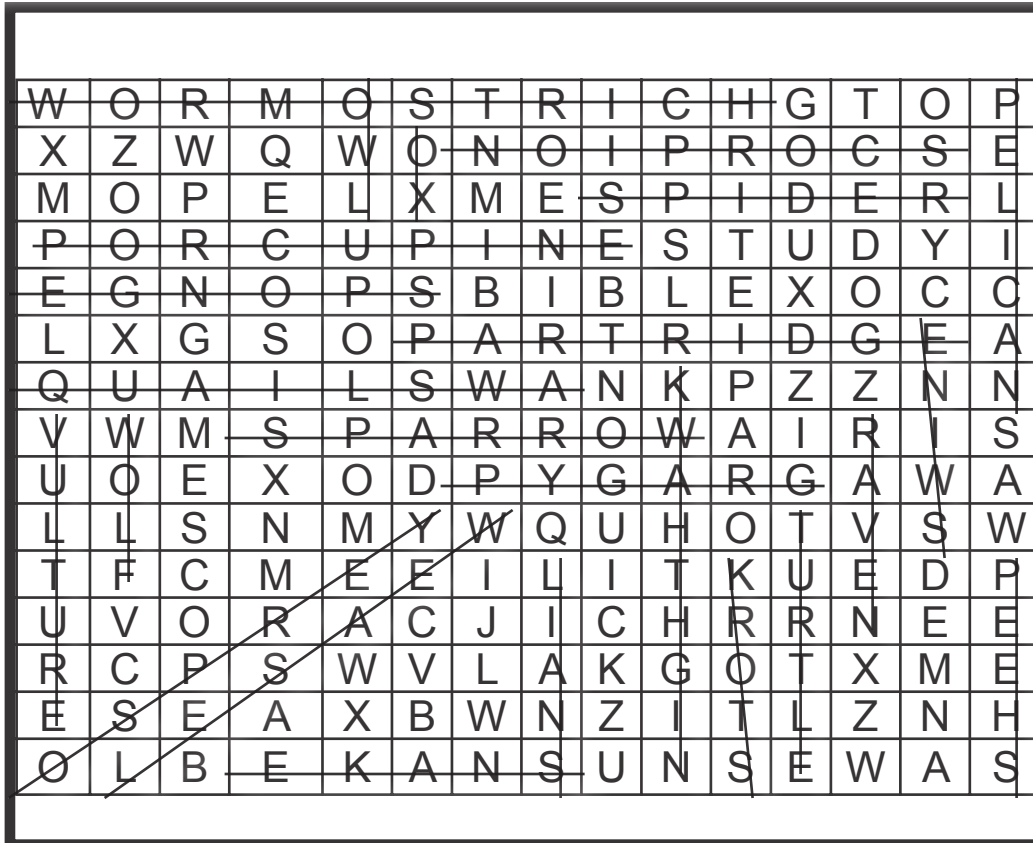
nighthawk - osprey - ostrich - owl - ox - partridge - pelican
 porcupine pygarg - quail - raven - scorpion - sheep - snail - snake
 sparrow - spider sponge - stork - swan - swine - turtle - vulture
 weasel - wolf - worm



Animals of the Bible Word Search

Name: Key Date: _____

Directions: This Bible word search game has 26 answers. Find the name of each animal listed in the word bank below. Draw a line through it.



WORD BANK

nighthawk - osprey - ostrich - owl - ox - partridge - pelican
 porcupine - pygarg - quail - raven - scorpion - sheep - snail - snake
 sparrow - spider - sponge - stork - swan - swine - turtle - vulture
 weasel - wolf - worm



AMAZING BIBLE ANIMALS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Read each verse listed and write the name of the animal mentioned.

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Deuteronomy 14:18

Proverbs 17:12

Psalms 80:13

Deuteronomy 14:5

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Solomon 2:15

Leviticus 11:6

II Timothy 4:17

Leviticus 11:2

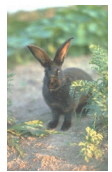
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John 10: 12

Exodus 11: 7

Leviticus 4: 24

Deuteronomy 14: 4



AMAZING BIBLE ANIMALS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Directions: Read each verse listed and write the name of the animal mentioned.

BAT	BEAR	BOAR	DEER
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Deuteronomy 14:18

Proverbs 17:12

Psalms 80:13

Deuteronomy 14:5

FOX	HARE/RABBIT	LION	MOUSE
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Solomon 2:15

Leviticus 11:6

II Timothy 4:17

Leviticus 11:2

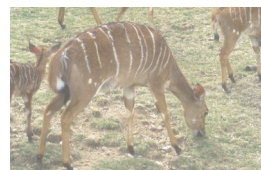
WOLF	DOG	GOAT	OX
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John 10:12

Exodus 11:7

Leviticus 4:24

Deuteronomy 14:4



GOD MADE THEM ALL

Genesis 1:20 - 25, King James Version

20. And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven.

21. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

22. And God blessed them saying be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the sea, and let fowl multiply in the earth.

23. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

24. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

25. And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the earth.



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