



Field Guide



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American Black Bear (*Ursus americanus*)



Description

The bear has thick, black fur; a brown snout; and large claws.

Behavior

It builds a den to hibernate and to raise cubs. Dens can be in hollow trees or under fallen trees. It can climb trees.

Food

It eats plants and animals. This includes roots, berries, and fish.

Predators

Humans

Bobcat

(Lynx rufus)



Description

The bobcat has light- or dark-brown fur. It can have spots or stripes. The tip of its tail and backs of its ears are black.

Behavior

It hunts at night. It needs space to roam. It builds a den in caves but will also use fallen trees or empty logs.

Food

It eats animals ranging from mice to deer. It loves rabbit!

Predators

Mountain lions and coyotes

Coyote

(Canis latrans)



Description

A coyote has grayish-brown to yellowish-gray fur, a black stripe along the spine, and a white belly and throat. It has large, pointed ears and a long tail with a black tip.

Behavior

It likes to hide from humans. It makes a den from empty tree stumps or an existing burrow from another animal, or it starts from scratch by digging in the dirt.

Food

It eats plants and small animals, such as rabbits.

Predators

Wolves, mountain lions, and bears

Eastern Chipmunk (*Tamias striatus*)



Description

A chipmunk has grayish to reddish-brown fur with five dark stripes on its sides and back. It has large cheeks on both sides of its mouth.

Behavior

It likes rocks, stumps, and fallen logs for places to hide. It builds complex burrows to live in by digging.

Food

It eats nuts, seeds berries, and insects.

Predators

Hawks, foxes, raccoons, weasels, bobcats, lynx, and house cats

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

(Sylvilagus floridanus)



Description

The cottontail rabbit has brown-gray fur, big eyes, and a puffy tail that is white underneath.

Behavior

It likes open spaces and can live in most habitats. It likes having places to hide, too.

Food

It eats grass and flowers. It loves flower beds!

Predators

Raccoons, foxes, hawks, owls, crows, snakes, opossums, cats, and dogs

Eastern Gray Squirrel (*Sciurus carolinensis*)



Description

The gray squirrel has grizzled and speckled dark gray to pale gray fur with a white or grayish belly.

Behavior

It likes to make a home inside trees but will make large nests of leaves if there are not trees available.

Food

It will eat almost anything. It prefers to eat nuts, seeds, flowers, and buds.

Predators

Red foxes, bobcats, gray wolves, coyotes, and hawks

Fox Squirrel

(Sciurus niger)



Description

The fox squirrel has any color fur, from overall pale gray to black with white feet. It can have a yellow or red belly. It has a long tail.

Behavior

It prefers an open habitat. It spends a lot of time running and searching for food on the ground. It can climb trees easily because of its sharp claws and strong body.

Food

It prefers nuts, such as acorns, pecans, and walnuts.

Predators

Bobcats, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, hawks, owls, and snakes

Gray Fox

(Urocyon cinereoargenteus)



Description

The gray fox has a grizzled gray or red-and-gray back. The belly and inside of the legs are red-and-white striped.

Behavior

It can climb trees. It can use a hollow log, tangle of brush, or cracked boulder for shelter.

Food

It likes small mammals, fruits, and invertebrates.

Predators

Bobcats and coyotes

Nine-Banded Armadillo

(*Dasypus novemcinctus*)



Description

The armadillo is brown and has plates of skin instead of fur. Plates are made of thick skin and some hairs. It has claws.

Behavior

It digs burrows. It prefers warm temperatures.

Food

It eats insects and small animals.

Predators

Mountain lions, black bears, and alligators

Northern Raccoon

(Procyon lotor)



Description

The raccoon has black fur around the eyes with white facial fur. The body has gray fur. It has small paws and a ringed or striped tail.

Behavior

It is very flexible when choosing den sites.

Food

It eats everything it can find, including garbage out of trash cans.

Predators

Mountain lions, bobcats, and coyotes

Red Fox

(Vulpes vulpes)



Description

The red fox has reddish-brown to flame-red fur. It has a large, bushy tail with a white tip.

Behavior

It adjusts well to humans in or near its habitat. It rarely uses a den.

Food

It eats almost anything. It loves to steal food put out for cats or dogs!

Predators

Humans, eagles, coyotes, gray wolves, and bears

Striped Skunk

(Mephitis mephitis)



Description

Skunks are black and white. They can have a stripe pattern.

Behavior

They use burrows made by other animals. They can even live in hollow logs. They are not fast at crossing roads.

Food

They eat fruit, plants, insects, worms, eggs, reptiles, small mammals, and fish.

Predators

Owls, foxes, coyotes, and bobcats

Virginia Opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*)



Description

The opossum has thick gray-and-white to blackish-gray fur. It has a pinkish snout and hairless tail.

Behavior

It makes a den in a hollow tree or log, under a rock pile, or in an abandoned den. It might hiss or play dead if scared.

Food

It eats anything. It likes different plants and animals and sometimes garbage.

Predators

Dogs, owls, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, bobcats, hawks, and snakes

White-Tailed Deer

(Odocoileus virginianus)



Description

All deer have a big body and brown fur. Males have antlers.

Behavior

They like to live on the edges of forests to hide easily. They are very flexible and good at adjusting to new conditions.

Food

They eat leaves, twigs, shoots, acorns, berries, and seeds.

Predators

Humans, wolves, mountain lions, bears, jaguars, and coyotes

Wild Boar

(*Sus scrofa*)



Description

Boars have a thick, coarse double coat of fur—a hard top layer and a soft undercoat. Their fur is brown, black, dark gray, or red.

Behavior

They are good swimmers. They sleep during the day and hunt at night. They dig for food with their tusks.

Food

They eat plants, berries, grasses, fruits, bulbs, and roots.

Predators

Humans, mountain lions, and lynx

Wild Turkey

(Meleagris gallopavo)



Description

Turkeys have ruffled feathers, a bare head, strong feet, and a fan-like tail.

Behavior

They search on the ground for food. They scratch into the soil and use only available plant materials to make a nest.

Food

They eat seeds and nuts.

Predators

Humans, bobcats, hawks, eagles, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, skunks, and snakes



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HOW CAN WE PROTECT ANIMALS WHEN THEIR HABITAT CHANGES?

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