

Bobcat

The bobcat is a carnivore. They eat rabbits, birds, fish, insects and lizards. The bobcat will also eat young deer, fox, mink, skunks and pets like dogs and cats. Bobcats are not fussy about what they eat and will even eat carrion (leftovers from other animal kills). There are few predators of the bobcat like cougars and coyotes. The young are more at risk from owls, eagles and foxes. Sometimes, if food is scarce, bobcats will eat bobcat cubs.

Bobcats are solitary and mark their territory by scratching at trees and urinating. The female will have her kittens and raise them by herself. By 2 months old, the kittens have moved toward eating meat. The kittens learn to hunt from their mothers and once they have learned how to hunt, they go off on their own.

Bobcat Facts

1. Bobcats use the element of surprise to hunt their prey.
2. Bobcats are strong climbers and good swimmers.
3. Domestic cats have been known to care for and nurse orphaned bobcat kittens.

Citations

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/indiana/stories-in-indiana/indiana-bobcats/>

<https://onekindplanet.org/animal/bobcat/>

<http://justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-bobcats/>

White Tailed Deer

The white tailed deer is an herbivore. They eat grass, weeds, flowers, corn, nuts and fruit. In the fall, the deer eat a considerable amount to build up fat. That is because it can be difficult for the deer to find food in the winter and they can use their fat reserves to live. There are a number of predators including wolves, mountain lions, bears, coyotes and humans.

White tailed deer live throughout the continental United States. They are not picky about where they live. Ideally, they would be found in meadows and fields and be located near a thicker forest for protection in the winter. Fawns are born during the spring when the grass is its greenest to allow the mother to produce enough milk to nurse her baby. Young fawns are hidden because they are not yet strong enough to run from predators. Typically, a deer has 1 fawn but can have twins or triplets.

White Tailed Deer Facts

1. When a fawn is scared, it will drop to the ground to hide. It can make its heartbeat drop and its breathing very slow and shallow.
2. White tailed deer have a 4 chamber stomach like cow, sheep and camels.
3. White tailed deer have been seen swimming up to 15 miles per hour!

Citations

<https://www.treehugger.com/white-tailed-deer-facts-5179585>

<https://animalhype.com/mammals/can-deer-swim/>

<https://www.bonecollector.com/white-tailed-deer-fawns-spring-season-fawning-season/>

Coyote

Coyotes are carnivores. Most of their diet consists of mammals like cottontail rabbits, white-footed mice and ground squirrels. The coyote is credited with keeping these species under control because they reproduce so quickly. Common predators for the coyote are bears, cougars, wolves and mountain lions.

The coyotes are one of the more adaptable animals on the planet. They have followed their prey into more urban areas. Coyotes can be found in a wide variety of ecosystems including woodlands, prairies, and various forests.

Coyote Facts

1. Coyotes are strong swimmers. This has allowed them to move around to other islands.
2. A single coyote is capable of bringing down a full size deer!
3. Coyotes will dig a hole or take over a badger burrow for their young. The parents will sometimes move their den as the pups get bigger.

http://naturemappingfoundation.org/natmap/facts/coyote_k6.html

<https://www.treehugger.com/cool-facts-about-coyotes-4864517>

<https://www.joyofanimals.com/predators-eat-coyote/>

<https://www.realtree.com/deer-hunting/articles/how-coyotes-killed-deer-hunting>

Mink

Mink are carnivores, they eat meat. They eat fish, frogs, ducks, mice, muskrat, freshwater mussels and insects. The female mink is small enough that it can sneak into the hole of a vole to steal the young for food. Mink live in wetlands and in marshes near the coast. They prefer areas that have lots of vegetation so that they can stay hidden. Mink are very shy and like to stay hidden.

It is rare for mink to be preyed upon because they are so sneaky and sly. At times, birds of prey will scoop a mink up. Very young mink may become prey for snakes.

Mink Facts

1. Mink are solitary animals. They prefer to be alone and are very territorial!
2. When mink are happy, they will make a purring sound.
3. Mink are nocturnal and they do not hibernate.

<https://www.maine.gov/ifw/docs/mink-speciesassessment.pdf>

<https://www.animalspot.net/american-mink.html>

<https://www11.maine.gov/ifw/fish-wildlife/wildlife/species-information/mammals/american-mink.html>

Red Fox

The red fox is an omnivore. They eat small rodents like mice and gerbil. They also feed on fish, fruits, berries, and carrion. (Carrion is decaying meat.) The red fox helps to control the small animal populations. They have a number of predators to be wary of. Bears, wolverines and bobcats are just a few of the animals that will eat a red fox. Owls and hawks will sometimes take older pups and sometimes adults!

The red fox prefers an environment that has mixed landscape. They make a small burrow underground for their den. The female can have up to 12 pups in a litter. The male will stay with the female and help her to raise the young.

Red Fox Facts

1. The red fox has incredible hearing. They can hear rodents digging underground!
2. Red fox prefer to live on their own, making it easy for them to hide from people.
3. The red fox can be confused with the gray fox. The red fox has a white tipped tail.

<https://www.britannica.com/animal/red-fox-mammal>

<https://cpw.state.co.us/fox>

<https://allthingsfoxes.com/what-eats-a-fox/>

Raccoon

Raccoons are omnivores. Their diet differs, depending on where they live. A natural diet may consist of foods such as plants, fruit, nuts, rodents, eggs, crayfish, and frogs. Some raccoons live in a more urban areas. Their diet may consist of foods that they find in our trash cans. Raccoons are like the clean-up crew of their environment!

Raccoons prefer to live in areas where there are well forested and a water source. They have learned to adapt to many different environments. They do have to be wary of predators like coyotes, bobcats and lynx.

Raccoon Facts

1. The raccoon has 3 distinctive features: a black face mask, ringed tail and it's hand-like paws.
2. Raccoons will clean their food with water if they can. If water isn't nearby, it will rub the food to remove dirt and such from it.
3. A group of raccoons is called a nursery.

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Raccoon>

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/raccoon>

<https://sciencing.com/enemies-do-raccoons-have-6759578.html>

River Otter

River otters are semi aquatic animals, they live in water and on land. Otters spend about two-thirds of their life on land. Even in the winter, the river otter loves to be in the water. They have a second layer of fur and a waterproof outer layer to help them stay warm. An otter may even dig up a hibernating frog from the bottom of a pond! River otters eat frogs, fish, and shellfish found along the edges of waterways.

The river otter have many predators that include coyotes, bobcats, bears, and humans. Humans hunt otter for their pelts. In Bangladesh, fishermen have been raising otters. They have taught the otters to chase fish into the fisherman's nets.

River Otter Facts:

1. The river otter can hold their breath for up to 8 minutes.
2. River otters can dive down about 60 feet!
3. River otters love to play games of chase and slide on the ice.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_American_river_otter

<https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Mammals/north-american-river-otter>

<https://www.massaudubon.org/news-events/publications/explore/past-issues/winter-2020/you-otter-know>

<https://www.treehugger.com/river-otters-hardest-working-clowns-in-the-water-4869005>

<https://time.com/40632/bangladesh-otters-fishermen/>

Black Bear

American black bears are omnivores, meaning they eat plants and meat. Their diet includes grass, roots, berries, fish, insects, larva and carrion. The diverse diet allows the black bear to live in a variety of habitats. They live in coniferous and deciduous forests. Black bears don't tend to live in wide open areas.

The black bears have very few predators, which include mountain lions, wolves, brown bears and humans. As humans take over more forested areas, it has taken space away from the black bears. Sometimes, this can result in wildlife authorities euthanizing bears.

Black Bear Facts:

1. Black bears can swim. They teach their cubs how to swim early on because the water is a good place to find food.
2. They have long claws that cannot be retracted. The long claws allow black bears to climb trees.
3. Black bears are FAST! They can run up to 25-30 km/hour.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_black_bear

<https://www.treehugger.com/surprising-facts-about-black-bears-4864512>

<https://www.nps.gov/shen/learn/nature/black-bear.htm>