

Endangered Animal Species Sketches and Information

By T & L 390
Block 2
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Western-Spotted Owl

Strix occidentalis

Animal Description:

The Western-Spotted Owl is a dark brown, medium sized owl with a barred tail and dark brown eyes. This nocturnal bird is known for the white spots that adorn its head and breast. Their body length ranges from 16-19 inches, they have a 3 ½ foot wingspan, and only weigh about 1-1 ½ pounds. Males and females are distinguished from one another by size, as females are 10-20% larger!

Habitat:

The Western-Spotted Owl can be found in old growth forests that have an uneven and multilayered canopy of evergreen and fir trees. They prefer shaded mountain ranges and canyons and can be found in Canada, the western half of the United States, and Mexico.



Diet:

The Western-Spotted Owl's diet typically consists of flying squirrel, wood rats, rabbits and other small mammals. They have also been known to eat bats, snakes, and insects. Hunting is done mainly at night, when they swoop down from their high perches to catch their prey.

Reproduction:

This nocturnal bird uses other birds' old nests for nesting intentions. The female lays an average of 2 eggs with a range of 1-4 eggs per clutch. Eggs are incubated for 30 days. At 5 weeks, the chicks begin to move out of the nest and at 6 weeks of age they learn to fly. Many chicks often die as the Western-Spotted Owl may not always defend their nest from predators.

Lifespan:

17 years

Did you know?

The primary cause of decline in spotted owl numbers is due to the loss of the old-growth forests where they live.

(<http://www.owlpages.com/owls.php?genus=Strix&species=occidentalis>)

Ashley Mickey

Cape Hunting Dog (African Wild Dog)

Lycaon pictus

Animal Description:

The Adults typically weigh 40–75 pounds. A tall, lean animal, it stands about 30 inches at the shoulder, with a head and body length averaging about 39 inches long with a tail of 12 to 18 inches. Adult males are generally 3-7% larger than females.

Habitat:

They are found only in Africa, especially in savannas and other lightly wooded areas. Their preferred habitat is forests that seasonally shed their leaves because of large prey herd size, lack of competition from other carnivores, and better sites for denning. In the Serengeti, the average range has been estimated at 580 square miles, although individual ranges overlap extensively.



Diet:

Their diet varies but always centers around medium-to-large sized animals with hooves or ungulates; such as the impala, Thomson's Gazelle, Springbok, kudu, reedbuck, and wildebeest calves. The most frequent single prey species depends upon season and local availability.

Reproduction:

They may reproduce at any time of year, but most mating occurs in the months of March and June during the second half of the rainy season. Litters can contain 2-19 pups, though ~10 is the most common. Pups are usually born in an abandoned den dug by other animals such as those of the Aardvark. After 3 months, the den is abandoned and the pups begin to run with the pack. At the age of about 12–14 months, they can fend for themselves and are ready to reproduce.

Lifespan:

African wild dogs can live up to 10 years.

Did you know?

Their latin name, *Lycaon Pictus*, means painted dog.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lycaon_pictus).

Orangutan

Pongo pymaeus

Animal Description:

Male orangutans weigh 130-220 pounds and are 4-5 ft tall. Females weigh 88-110 pounds and are about 3 1/2 ft tall. Males are much bigger than females and develop cheek pads on their faces, throat pouches, and pouches of skin on their chest.

Habitat:

Orangutans can be found on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra. Most live in tropical/swampy forests. They construct nests in trees and protect themselves with leaves and branches.

Diet:

The diet of the orangutan consists mainly of fruit as well as bark, young shoots, insects, and small mammals.

Reproduction:

Females begin to reproduce around age 15. She has 3-4 offspring in her lifetime. It's a live birth. Males are sexually mature when they develop throat and chest pouches around age 12.

Lifespan:

35-40 years.

Did you know?

Between 1985-1990, 1,000 baby orangutans were smuggled to Taiwan and sold as exotic pets because of a Taiwanese television program that featured an orangutan as the perfect pet.

<http://www.whozoo.org/students/chrngu/orangs.htm>

<http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/animal-bytes/animalia/eumetazoa/coelomates/deuterostomes/chordata/craniata/mammalia/primates/bornean-orangutan.htm>



Caribou

Rangifer tarandus

Animal Description:

The Caribou, also called a reindeer is a four legged, large horned animal. It has a fur covering in brown, gray and white tones. A caribou weighs somewhere between 240 and 700lbs. They are the only type of deer in which both females and males can have antlers. However, not all females do have them.

Habitat:

The habitat of a caribou is the northern regions of North America, Europe, Asia and Greenland. They live in colder climates and migrate 1000 of miles each year. During the winter the take shelter under more secluded climes.

Diet:

The diet of the caribou during the summer feed on grasses and plants in the tundra. During the summer days they eat 12lbs. of food per day. During the winter time they feed on lichens.

Reproduction:

Caribou calves are born alive. Each year the herds of calves migrate south several weeks before the males as the follow the yearly calves from the previous birthing season.

Lifespan:

8-10 years.

Did you know?

Caribou are extremely good swimmers because of the shape and hollowed out area of their hoofs.

(<http://library.fws.gov/Pubs/caribou.pdf>).



Aye-aye

Daubentonia madagascariensis

Animal Description:

The aye-aye can be described as a fairly small mammal ranging from 4-6 lbs with dark brown or black fur. Excluding the tail, the average length of an Aye-aye is 12 inches long for females and 13 inches long for males. Their long, bushy tails extend another 2 feet. Aye-ayes have distinct hands which are comprised of a long, thin middle finger. They also have big ears and bulging eyes.



Habitat:

Exclusive to east coast of Madagascar, the Aye-aye spends its time in canopied areas of the rainforest. Most Aye-ayes usually stay off the ground floor and can be spotted in the trees up to half a mile high. Since Aye-ayes are nocturnal animals, they sleep during the day in large nests built in the forks of trees.

Diet:

Using its long middle finger, the Aye-aye digs into trees in search of insects and larvae. As an omnivore, the Aye-aye also eats fruits, nuts, nectar, seeds, and fungi.

Reproduction:

Female Aye-ayes can only give birth every two to three years and gestation for Aye-ayes last 164 days. Through a live birth, only one offspring is birthed per pregnancy.

Lifespan:

The average lifespan of an Aye-aye is 24 years.

Did you know?

Aye-ayes possess a “toilet-claw” which is used in grooming. They are the only Old World primate to possess such a feature.

(<http://pin.primate.wisc.edu/factsheets/entry/aye-aye>).

Kayla Meinecke

Bald Eagle

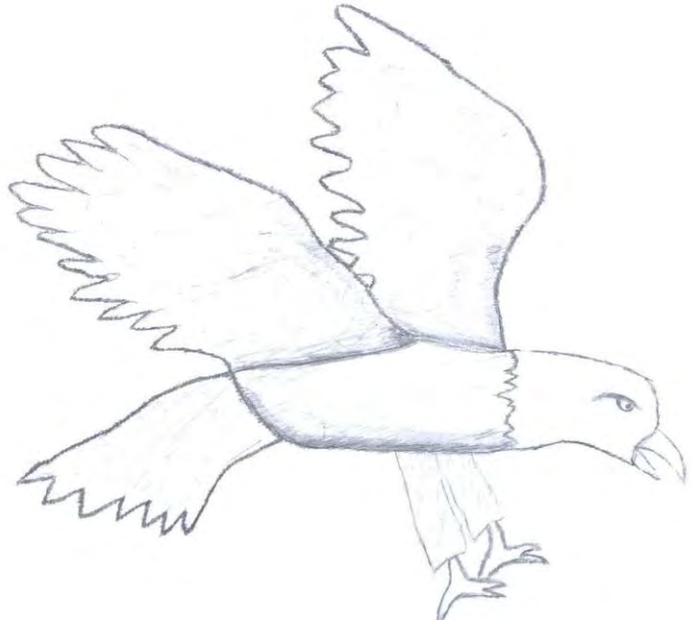
Haliaeetus leucocephalus

Animal Description:

The bald eagle is brown with a white head and tail and bright yellow feet, beak and irises. Adult females weigh about 13 lbs and adult males around 9 lbs. Its length ranges from 28-40 in and wing span from 66-96 in. Female bald eagles are about 25 percent larger.

Habitat:

They are found near bodies of water such as rivers, lakes and the ocean. They range from Canada and Alaska, to the continental United States and down to northern Mexico. Their habitat ranges from the bayous of Louisiana to the Sonoran Desert and the eastern forests of Quebec and New England.



Diet:

Its diet consists of mainly fish and hunts by snatching the fish out of the water with its talons.

Reproduction:

They lay between one and three eggs per year, but rarely do are all chicks able to fly. Both males and females take turns incubating the eggs.

Lifespan:

In the wild is around 20-30 years. However, in captivity they can often live much longer One is recorded to have lived up to 50 years.

Did you know?

The bald eagle builds the largest nest of any North American bird, up to 13 ft deep, 8.2 ft wide and 1.1 tons in weight.

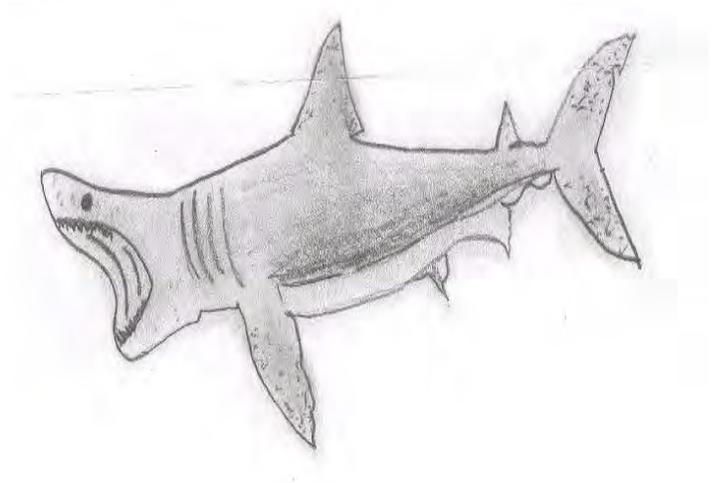
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bald_eagle).

Basking Shark

Cetorhinus maximus

Animal Description:

The basking shark is the second largest fish in the world. Basking sharks are gentle giants. In length, the average size is between 23-30 feet and it weighs up to 8580 pounds. Its face has a large snout. Its teeth are tiny, rounded and abundant. Their color is grayish brown. There isn't any huge difference between male and female basking sharks.



Habitat:

The basking shark is a coastal-pelagic shark found worldwide in boreal to warm-temperate waters around the continental shelves. They prefer 46-58 degree temperatures. They are often close to land.

Diet:

The basking shark is a passive filter feeder, filtering zooplankton, small fish, and invertebrates from up to 2,000 short tons of water per hour.

Reproduction:

Basking sharks are ovoviviparous, the developing embryos first rely on a yolk sac, and there are no placental connections. In females, only the right ovary appears to function. Gestation is thought to span over a year.

Lifespan:

Uncertain but estimated from 20-100 years.

Did you know?

The basking shark can provide 400 L of oil, provide a ton of meat, and its liver is a quarter of its body weight.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Basking_shark

Bengal Tiger

Panthera tigris

Animal Description:

The Bengal Tiger is the largest existing member of the cat family. Males can weigh as much as 500 lbs while females weigh around 300 lbs. They have reddish orange fur with narrow black, grey, and/or brown vertical stripes.



Habitat:

The habitat of the Bengal Tiger is in the tropical jungle, brush, marsh lands, and tall grasslands. They tend to range in fragmented areas of Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and Burma.

Diet:

The diet of this tiger is prey that are medium to large in size. Examples include pigs, deer, antelopes, and buffalo.

Reproduction:

Male Bengal Tigers take about 4-5 years to sexually mature, where as females mature within 3-4 years. Gestation typically lasts between 98-110 days and 2-4 cubs are born at a time.

Lifespan:

15 years in the wild; 16-18 years in controlled environments.

Did you know?

A tiger can consume as much as 88 lbs of meat in one feeding.

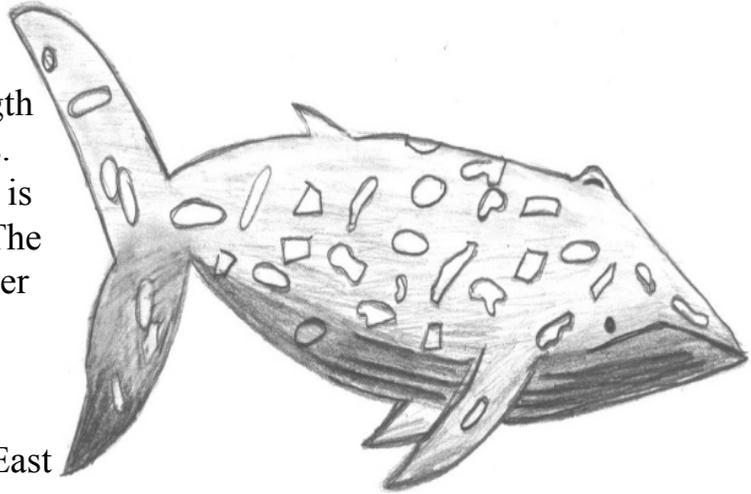
(Information found at the website: <http://www.seaworld.org/animal-info/animal-bytes/animalia/eumetazoa/coelomates/deuterostomes/chordata/craniata/mammalia/carnivora/bengal-tiger.htm>).

Blue Whale

Balaenoptera musculus

Animal Description:

The Blue Whale is about 89 feet in length and weighs around 150-170 metric tons. It is very long and slender. Some say it is the largest species to have ever lived. The male is typically about 10-30 feet smaller than the female whale.



Habitat:

The Blue whale lives in the North and East Pacific ocean, as well as, the Antarctic, Indian, and North Atlantic Oceans. Their population has diminished drastically since the 20th century due to whale hunters. They prefer cold, deeper ocean waters.

Diet:

The Blue Whale feeds mainly on Krill and copepods.

Reproduction:

Blue Whales mate in winter and in warm water. The female is pregnant for about one year and then gives birth to a calf, tail first. The baby is fed from the mothers milk and is with the mother for about a year. Little is known about the actual breeding process.

Lifespan:

Most Blue Whales live for at least 80 years.

Did you know?

Blue Whales can reach speeds up to 31mph over short bursts.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blue_whale

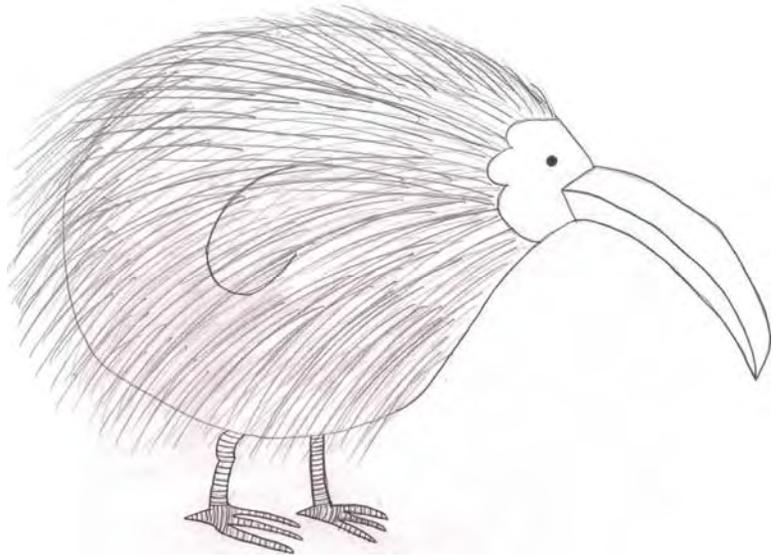
[http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What is the differences between a male and female Blue Whale](http://wiki.answers.com/Q/What_is_the_differences_between_a_male_and_female_Blue_Whale)

Brown Kiwi

Apteryx mantelli

Animal Description:

The brown kiwi is covered in shaggy hair-like feathers. Although they have wings they are completely hidden beneath the feathers. The brown kiwi has a long beak with nostrils at the tip. It is, on average, 50cm tall. The main difference between male and female brown kiwis is that the female is 30% heavier than the male.



Habitat:

The habitat of the brown kiwi is widespread over New Zealand. The original habitat was moist coniferous forests but, due to logging, many kiwis now live in partially wooded agricultural areas. The brown kiwi lives in burrows with an entrance tunnel and a room that fits the mated pair.

Diet:

The diet of the brown kiwi is very mixed. Their diet includes earthworms, beetles, snails, crayfish, insects, fruits, and berries.

Reproduction:

The female brown kiwi lays 1 to 2 eggs a year and then leaves the male brown kiwi to incubate the egg for 70 to 80 days by himself.

Lifespan:

The lifespan of a brown kiwi is not certain but it is believed that they can live up to 60 years.

Did you know? *(one random fact)*

Both the male and female brown kiwi lose 75% of their body weight during breeding

(<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/Birds/Facts/FactSheets/fact-brownkiwi.cfm>).

Chinchilla

Chinchilla lanigera



Animal Description:

Chinchillas are small furry rodents with a grey, brown or white coat. They have large ears and eyes and can make wonderful pets. Their body is about 10-14 inches long with another 5-6 inches for their tail, chinchillas can weigh anywhere from 18-35 ounces. Females are slightly larger than males and aggressive toward each other.

Habitat:

In their natural environment chinchillas are only found in South Africa, they dig burrows in the ground or under rocks. Now there are thousands of chinchilla farms which raise the rodents for domestic use, mostly located in California.

Diet:

Chinchillas are herbivores and eat available vegetation, as well as different types of roots and tubers.

Reproduction:

Chinchillas breed in the winter time; females usually have two separate litters of 1-6 babies. The baby chinchillas nurse from their mother for 6-8 weeks before they are ready to start eating vegetation.

Lifespan:

Chinchillas typically live 8-15 years; however in captivity living 18-22 years is not uncommon.

Did You Know?

Chinchillas are nocturnal, so they are most active at night. Also when handled by humans from a young age they will bond closely with their owners making fun, playful and cuddly pets.

(<http://exoticpets.about.com/cs/chinchillas/p/Chinchillas.htm>)

(<http://animal-world.com/encyclo/critters/chinchilla/chinchilla.php>)

Cockatoo

Cacatua leadbeateri

Animal Description:

The Major Mitchell Cockatoo is a medium sized pink cockatoo. The feathers and the crest are yellow and salmon colored stripes. The crest feathers lay flat and the tips curl up. This cockatoo's wings and back are white and the under wings and under tail are pink. They are 14-14 inches in length and weigh between 300-450 grams. Males are usually larger than females.

Habitat:

These cockatoos are found in central Australia. They are usually found in arid areas in forests along rivers.

Diet:

The Major Mitchell's feed in trees and on the ground. They eat grass seeds, herbs, wheat and corn. They can also be found eating native figs, pinecones and eucalyptus seeds, wild bitter melons, insect larvae, nuts and flowers.

Reproduction:

In North America these cockatoos breed predominantly in the winter and spring. There is usually 2 to 3 eggs in the clutch.

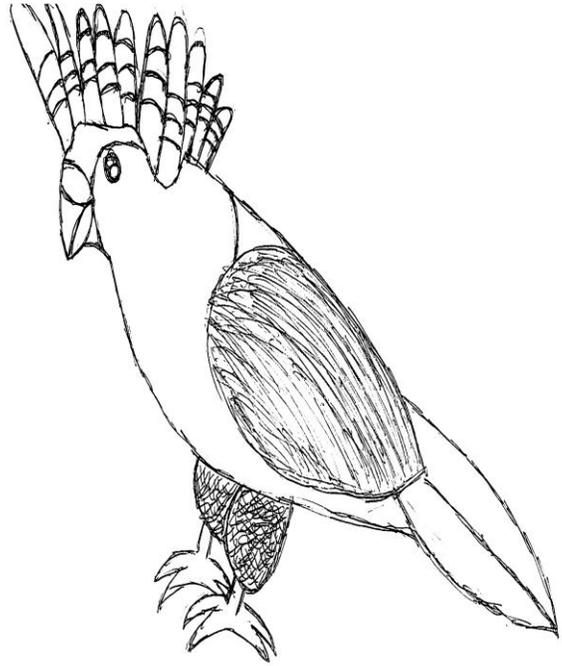
Lifespan:

40-100 years.

Did you know?

Major Mitchell's can be sexed by eye color when they are mature? Mature females have red eyes while mature males eyes are dark brown or black. When they are juveniles both sexes have brown eyes.

<http://www.susanclubb.com/pdfs/mmcock.pdf>.



Cougar

Puma concolor

Animal Description:

The cougar is a member of the cat family. They are the fourth largest of all the cats as adults range from 2 to 2 1/2 feet tall at the shoulders and can weigh up to 220 pounds. Males are generally much larger than females.

Habitat:

Native to North America, the cougar has the largest range of any wild land animal in the Americas. Able to adapt to most any habitat the cougar has become widely distributed throughout the western world. Studies show that the Cougar prefers regions with dense underbrush, but can live with little vegetation in open areas.



Diet:

Like all cats, it is an obligate carnivore, meaning that it feeds only on meat. The cougar will eat anything from insects to much larger predators such as deer and other large mammals.

Reproduction:

Females reach sexual maturity between one-and-a-half to three years of age. They typically average one litter, every two to three years throughout their reproductive life, though the period can be as short as one year. Only females are involved in parenting.

Lifespan:

Life expectancy in the wild is reported at between 8 to 13 years, and probably averages 8 to 10; a female of at least 18 years was reported killed by hunters on Vancouver Island

Did you know?

A pumapard is a hybrid animal resulting from a union between a cougar and a leopard. Three sets of these hybrids were bred in the late 1890s and early 1900s by Carl Hagenbeck at his animal park in Hamburg Germany.

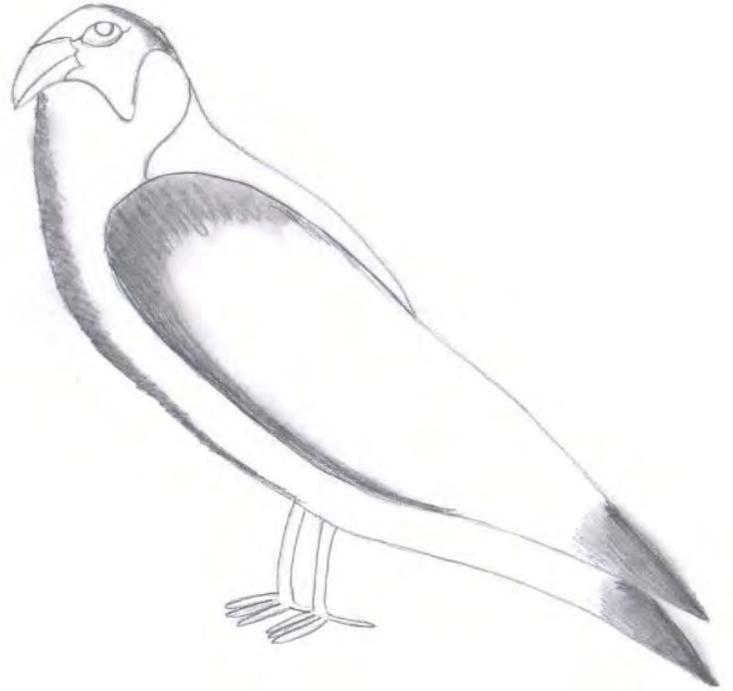
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cougar>

Peregrine Falcon

Falco peregrinus

Animal Description:

Adults have bluish-gray wings and a dark brown back. Their undersides are a light tan color with brown spots and their faces are white with a black stripe on their cheeks in the shape of a tear. They have beaks that are hooked, long, pointed feathers, and very sharp talons. Adults have an average wingspan of 3.5 feet. Falcons weigh about 2 pounds with the females typically weighing more than the males.



Habitat:

Peregrine falcons are commonly found on tall structures including skyscrapers, cliffs, and water towers. They are found flying all over North America but are more common on the coasts. These falcons are seen on every continent except Antarctica.

Diet:

Peregrine falcons eat medium sized birds including ducks, bats, pigeons, and songbirds. They catch their prey in the air while flying.

Reproduction:

Mating season occurs from late March through May. The gestation period ranges from 29-32 days and they typically lay 3-4 eggs at a time. Both the male and the female incubate the eggs for a month. Peregrine falcons mate for life and breed in the same territory every year.

Lifespan:

Most live between 7-15 years but some can live up to 20 years.

Did you know?

Peregrine falcons are the fastest flying birds in the world, capable of diving at 200 miles per hour.

http://www.defenders.org/wildlife_and_habitat/wildlife/peregrine_falcon.php
http://www.peregrinefund.org/explore_raptors/falcons/peregrin.html

Bobcat

Lynx rufus

Animal Description:

Named for their short, bobbed tail, bobcats are anywhere from 17-23in in height and 25-41in in length. Males usually weigh 16-28lbs while females generally weigh 10-18lbs. Females are very territorial, never sharing their space with others, whereas male's territories tend to overlap.

Habitat:

Bobcats are found throughout most of North America, from northern Mexico to southern Canada. Their Habitats vary greatly, from forests and mountainous areas to semi-deserts and brush land. Male's territories are about 25-30sq mi and female's are about 5sq mi. Bobcats have several dens in their territory; one main den-usually a cave or rock, and several shelter dens-normally brush piles, rock ledges or stumps.

Diet:

Bobcats normally hunt rabbits and hares. Occasionally they eat rodents, birds, bats, and sometimes adult deer in the winter.

Reproduction:

The mating season for bobcats is typically in the late winter. The reproduction process takes between 50 to 70 days and 1-6 kittens are born in early spring.

Lifespan:

12-13 years.

Did you know?

Though bobcats are only about twice the size of a full grown domestic housecat, they can bring down prey as large as an adult deer nearly ten times its own weight!



(http://www.defenders.org/wildlife_and_habitat/wildlife/bobcat.php)

Gorilla

Gorilla gorilla

Animal Description:

The gorilla is a very large ape, is covered with brown and black fur on the majority of its body, long arms, and a bulky, wide chest. The distinctions between the genders are extreme because the male weighs twice as much as the female. Females weigh around 200 lbs and the males weigh around 400 lbs. Females are a little shorter than males at 4.6 ft. and the males are around 5.6 ft.

Habitat:

The habitat of the gorilla is in primarily terrestrial areas. They have been located in tropical rain forests, wet lowland forests, swamps, and abandoned fields. Gorillas tend to be found more frequently in different parts of western Africa.

Diet:

Gorillas are mainly herbivores, which eat mostly plant material. Such as leaves, fruit, plant bulbs, or flowers. Sometimes they might be found eating termites and ants as well.

Reproduction:

Female gorillas give live birth and are pregnant for about 8 to 9 months. They nurture their young until they are around 3-4 years old and usually have about 3 babies in their lifetime.

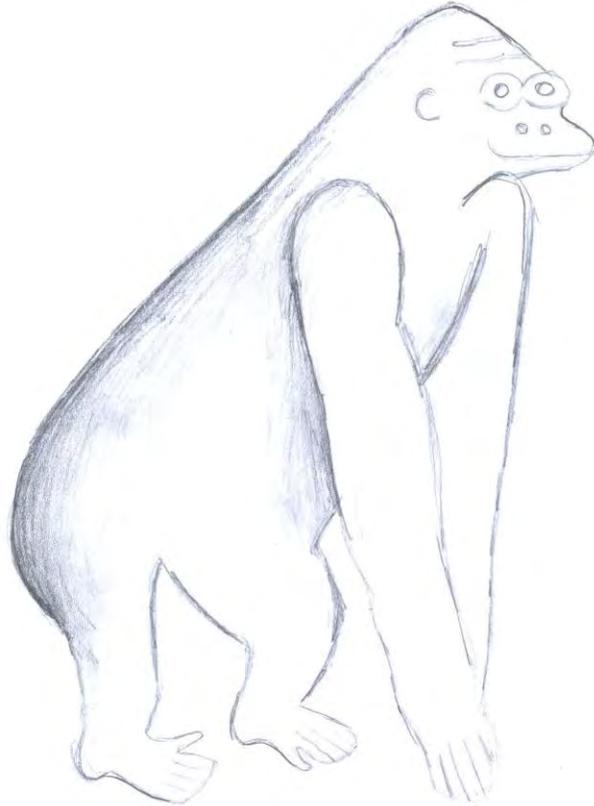
Lifespan:

35-50 years.

Did you know?

Even though gorillas are portrayed as dangerous and aggressive animals, they are peaceful, gentle, and shy vegetarians.

(<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/apes/gorilla/>)



Black-Footed Ferret

Mustela nigripes

Animal Description:

The black-footed ferret is a member of the weasel family. It has a tan body with black legs and feet, a black tip on the tail and a black mask. It has short legs with large front paws and claws developed for digging. It is about 6 inches tall and weighs around 1.5-2.5 pounds. Males are slightly larger than females.



Habitat:

Black-footed ferrets were once found on the black-tailed prairie dog colonies across the Great Plains and on white-tailed and Gunnison's prairie dog colonies across the intermountain west. By 1968 they were completely gone from the wild, but have since been introduced within their former range. They live in prairie dog burrows.

Diet:

Prairie dogs make up 90% of a black-footed ferret's diet. They are also known to eat ground squirrels, small rodents, rabbits and birds.

Reproduction:

The mating season for black-footed ferrets is March-April. Kits are born in May-June. The litter size is 3-4 kits on average. Kits are born blind and helpless and stay below ground until they are about 2 months old. At this age, the female begins to take her young on hunting forays and separates the kits into different burrows. By October, the young are completely independent and will disperse to their own territories.

Lifespan:

3-4 years in the wild; 8-9 years in captivity

Did you know?

A black-footed ferret may eat as many as 100 prairie dogs in one year.

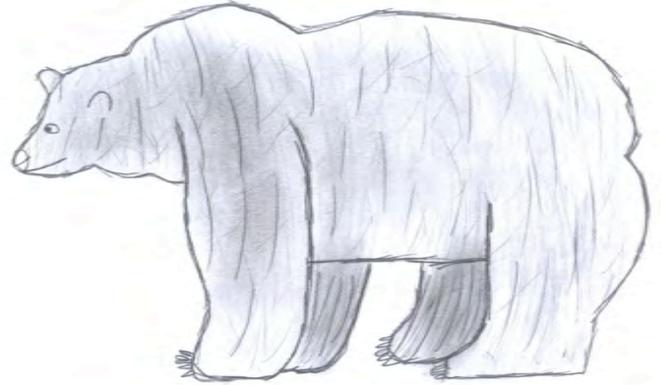
http://www.defenders.org/wildlife_and_habitat/wildlife/black-footed_ferret.php

Grizzly Bear

Ursus arctos horribilis

Animal Description:

Grizzly bears are known primarily for the major hump on their front shoulders. The hump provides a better muscle structure for running and jumping. Although there are a wide variety of colors in the fur, the most common is brown fur with white tips. The hump is a great way to identify a grizzly bear, as others don't have the hump. An adult male grizzly bear can weigh 500-1000lbs, and female grizzly bears range from 330-770 lbs.



Habitat:

The grizzly bear has been found in Asia, Europe, and North America making the grizzly bear have one of the widest ranges of the bear species. The North American grizzly bear is found in Alaska, Canada, and some northwestern states including Idaho, Montana, Washington, and Wyoming.

Diet:

The grizzly bear is an omnivore. The prey on large mammals, fish, as well as plants.

Reproduction:

Grizzly bears have one of the lowest reproduction rates of terrestrial mammals in North America. Grizzly bears do not reach sexual maturity until they are five. Once the female is mated they delay embryo implantation until hibernation, where a miscarriage can happen if the female doesn't have the proper nutrients. They usually have two cubs per litter.

Lifespan:

20-30 years

Did you know?

Did you know that grizzly bears arms are so strong they can hug a person to death?

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grizzly_bear)

(http://library.thinkquest.org/3715/Animal%20Reports/grizzly_bear_.htm)

Giant Panda

Ailuropoda melanoleuca

Animal Description:

The Giant Panda is a black and white bear with a thick wooly coat. It has black fur on the eyes, ears, muzzle, legs, and shoulders. The rest of the body is white. They stand at 2-3 ft tall at the shoulder and 4-6 ft long. Males are larger than the females, weighing up to 250 lbs. Females rarely reach 220 lbs.

Habitat:

Giant Pandas can be found in the mountain ranges of central China in Sichuan, Shaanxi, and Gansu Provinces. The Giant Panda lives in broad leaf, coniferous forests. The forests have a dense understory of bamboo at elevations of 5,000-10,000 ft. Throughout the year rain is present with dark cloud cover.



Diet:

Majority of the panda's diet is made up of bamboo, eating 84 lbs a day. They also eat grass and occasionally small rodents.

Reproduction:

Pandas are able to reproduce between the ages of 4-8. Females give birth from the span of 95-160 days and may give birth to two cubs, however only one usually survives. Cubs may stay with the mother for up to 3 years. Babies are about 4 ounces at birth and are the smallest mammal newborn in relation to its mother's size.

Lifespan:

In the zoo they have lived to be 35. It is estimated that they may live to be between 14-20 years in the wild.

Did you know?

The Giant panda is an endangered species with only 1600 left in the wild. Around 300 live in zoos.

(<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/GiantPandas/PandaFacts/default.cfm>).

Great Egret

Ardea alba

Animal Description:

The Great Egret weighs about 35.3 oz (1000g). It's length ranges from 37in to 40.9 in (94cm to 104cm). The Great Egret is large, and all white. It has black legs and feet and a yellow bill. The difference between male and female Great Egrets is that males are larger than females.

Habitat:

The Great Egret is found across much of the world, from southern Canada southwards to Argentina and in Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe. The habitat of the Great Egret is in shrubs and trees over water and on islands. They nest in colonies with other species and they feed in a variety of wetlands, such as marshes, swamps, Streams, Rivers, etc.

Diet:

The diet of the Great Egret includes Fish, amphibians, invertebrates, reptiles, birds and small mammals.

Reproduction:

Great Egrets are seasonally monogamous animals.

The male egrets select a territory and perform a series of rituals in order to attract a female.

Copulation occurs within the male's territory. Their nests are built with other heron's nests in a colony. Both the males and females incubate the eggs.

Lifespan:

15 years in the wild (22 in captivity).

Did you know?

The Great Egret is the symbol of the National Audubon Society, which is one of the oldest environmental organizations in North America. It was founded to protect birds from being killed for their feathers.

http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Ardea_alba.html,

http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Great_Egret/id).

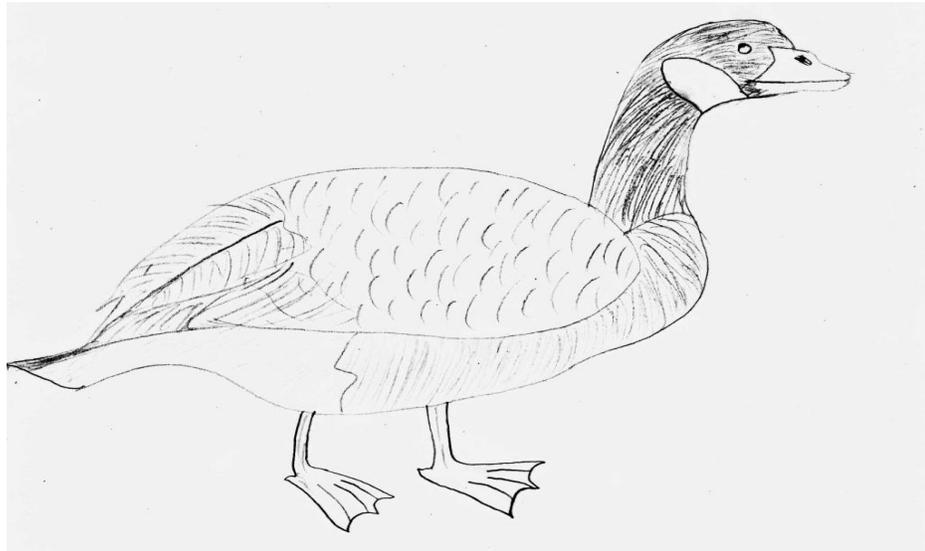


Canada Goose

Branta canadensis

Animal Description:

The Canada Goose has a black head and neck with a white chinstrap. The back is brown, and the chest is light tan to cream (off-white). The geese have large webbed feet and a wide, flat bill. They are between 30-43 inches long, with a 50-67 inch wingspan and can weigh between 6.5-20lbs. There are no major differences in appearance between males and females.



Habitat:

Habitats include arctic and temperate regions of North America. The geese are usually found living in grasslands near open water such as lakes, streams, and ponds. Lawns are attractive for the Canada Goose because they allow them to watch for predators, and many are near human food sources. The Canada Goose flies south for the winter, with the distance depending on their main habitat.

Diet:

The diet of the Canada Goose consists of plant materials such as grasses, skunk cabbage leaves, and eelgrass in the spring and summer. In the fall and winter they feed more on berries and seeds, including corn kernels and other agricultural grains.

Reproduction:

The Canada Goose usually doesn't breed until at least its second year, and they tend to pair with a mate from their own flock for life. The male geese fight in order to win a mate, and once mating occurs the female selects a nest site, builds the nest, and incubates the eggs (3-8 per mating).

Lifespan:

The average Canada Goose lives to be between 10 and 24 years old, with the oldest known goose living until the age of 30 years and 4 months.

Did you know?

The Canada Goose was nearly driven to extinction in the early 1900's, but due to conservation efforts the populations have been reestablished with some overpopulation in urban areas.

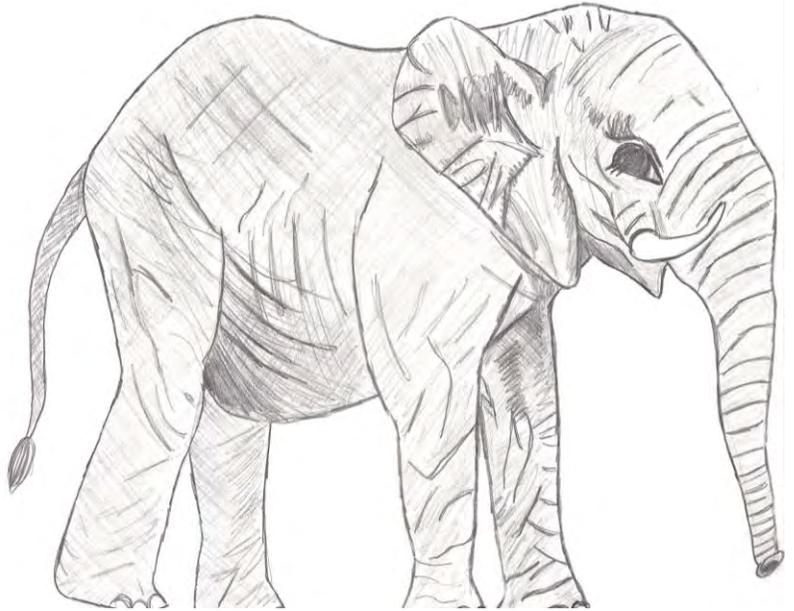
(http://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Canada_Goose/lifehistory)

African Elephant

Loxodonta africana

Animal Description:

The African elephant is the largest land animal on earth weighing between 5,000 and 14,000 lbs. They are anywhere from 8.2 ft to 13ft tall at the shoulder. Different from the Asian elephant, the African elephant's ears are larger and resemble the shape of the continent of Africa. Both males and females have ivory tusks.



Habitat:

African elephants migrate throughout sub-Saharan Africa and the rain forests of central and West Africa. The females live in family herds with their young and the males roam on their own. Elephants use their trunks to shower with water in order to stay cool.

Diet:

African elephants are herbivores and their diet mainly consists of roots, grasses, fruit, and bark. An adult elephant can consume up to 300lbs of food a day.

Reproduction:

African elephants have a longer pregnancy than any other mammal. They are pregnant for 22 months. Females give birth every two to four years. A newborn elephant is about 200lbs.

Lifespan:

Up to 70 years.

Did you know?

African elephants have ivory tusks that are valuable to some humans. Many elephants have been killed for their tusks.

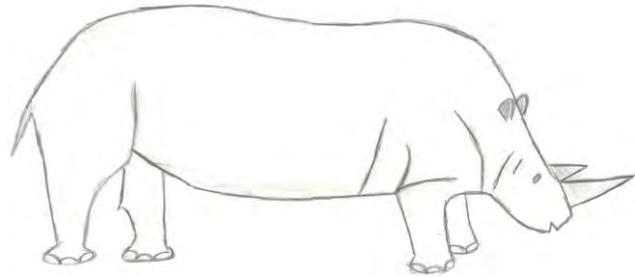
(<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/african-elephant>)

White Rhinoceros

(*Ceratotherium simum*)

Animal Description:

The white rhino has a tough outer skin and they have two horns, the foremost more prominent than the other. Females use their horns to protect their young, while males use them to battle attackers.



The rhino usually weighs between 3,168 to 7,920 lbs and its size measures to be five to six feet in height and 12.5-15 ft in length.

Habitat:

The white rhino lives on Africa's grassy plains where the hot African sun makes rhinos take shade in the trees available. The rhinos will also roll around in the cool mud from a watering hole to serve as a bug repellent and sun block.

Diet:

White rhinos graze on grasses, walking with their enormous heads and squared lips lowered to the ground.

Reproduction:

Since the white rhino is a mammal, the females of the population have a live birth. Females reproduce only every two and a half to five years. Their single calf does not live on its own until it is about three years old.

Lifespan:

45-50 years

Did You Know?:

The White Rhino is actually not white in color; the name is thought to be a result of mistaking the Afrikaans word "weit" (meaning "wide") for "white."
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/white-rhinoceros/>

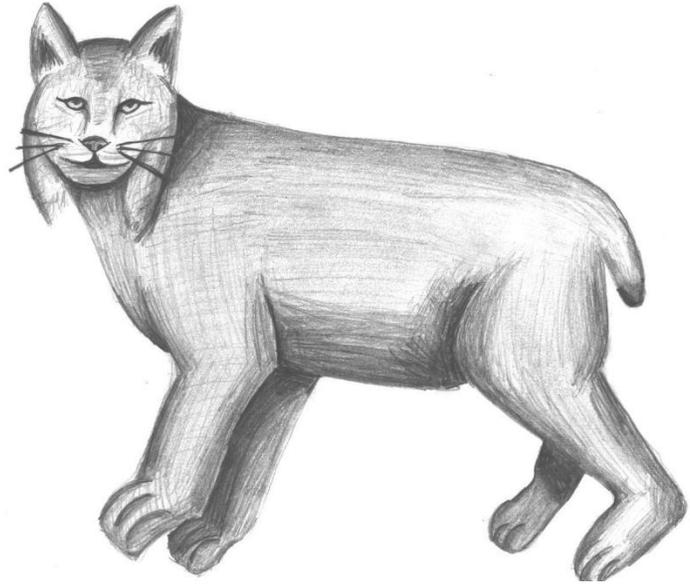
Kaylie Stanley

Lynx

Lynx canadensis

Animal Description:

These big cats with tufts of fur on their ears and chin are known as the lynx. A lynx can weigh 11 to 45 pounds and are about the size of a small to medium sized dog with a short stubby tail and enormous feet. There is little difference between males and females. Females tend to be a little bit smaller.



Habitat:

The habitat of the lynx is primarily in the snowy and cold parts of the far north. They like cold wilderness areas far away from people. They can be found in North America, South America, Canada, and regions in Europe and Asia.

Diet:

These big cats live almost exclusively on snowshoe hares, although if they get the chance they will kill and eat almost anything, up to and including deer.

Reproduction:

Females raise one litter per year. Mating mostly occurs in February and March and the gestation period is from eight to ten weeks long. Litters typically have two or three kittens, though the number may range from one to five. The female will nurse the kits for five months. The male does not participate in parental care. Young remain with the mother until the following winter's mating season and siblings may remain together for a while after separation from the mother.

Lifespan:

12-13 years.

Did you know?

A 30 pound lynx has bigger feet than a 200 pound mountain lion. Their big feet act like snowshoes, allowing them to hunt effectively even in deep snow.

(<http://www.visitthefarm.com/animalfacts/lynx.php>).

Chinchilla

Chinchilla lanigera



Animal Description:

Chinchillas are small furry rodents with a grey, brown or white coat. They have large ears and eyes and can make wonderful pets. Their body is about 10-14 inches long with another 5-6 inches for their tail, chinchillas can weigh anywhere from 18-35 ounces. Females are slightly larger than males and aggressive toward each other.

Habitat:

In their natural environment chinchillas are only found in South Africa, they dig burrows in the ground or under rocks. Now there are thousands of chinchilla farms which raise the rodents for domestic use, mostly located in California.

Diet:

Chinchillas are herbivores and eat available vegetation, as well as different types of roots and tubers.

Reproduction:

Chinchillas breed in the winter time; females usually have two separate litters of 1-6 babies. The baby chinchillas nurse from their mother for 6-8 weeks before they are ready to start eating vegetation.

Lifespan:

Chinchillas typically live 8-15 years; however in captivity living 18-22 years is not uncommon.

Did You Know?

Chinchillas are nocturnal, so they are most active at night. Also when handled by humans from a young age they will bond closely with their owners making fun, playful and cuddly pets.

(<http://exoticpets.about.com/cs/chinchillas/p/Chinchillas.htm>)

(<http://animal-world.com/encyclo/critters/chinchilla/chinchilla.php>)

Okapi

Okapia johnstoni

Animal Description:

Okapis have reddish brown fur with black and white stripes on their legs. The stripes help to camouflage the okapi in their home in the rainforest. They are about five feet tall, with males weighing 440 to 660 pounds and females weighing 495 to 770 pounds. Okapis have large, round ears that help them to hear predators in the distance. Males also have short horns. Okapis have long tongues that they use strip food from trees as well as clean their eyes and ears. The fur of the okapi is oily to help keep them dry on rainy days in the rainforest. Okapis may look like zebras, but they are most closely related to giraffes.



Habitat:

Okapis are found in the Ituri Rainforest in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Okapis are limited in range because of the montane forests, swamp forests, savannahs, and open woodlands that surround their habitat. Okapis prefer to be in altitudes of 500 to 1,000 meters, but may venture outside of this range.

Diet:

Okapis are herbivores. They eat tree leaves, buds, grass, fruit, fungi, ferns, and even the charcoal from trees burnt by lightning. Okapis also eat the reddish clay that is found in nearby rivers and streams to fulfill their salt and mineral requirement. Many of the plants that okapis eat and live off of are poisonous to humans.

Reproduction:

Okapis are solitary animals, and only come together to mate. When the female is ready to mate, she will vocalize to let males know she is ready. Females usually carry one calf, and the baby is carried for 14 to 16 months. When calves are born, they are usually 2.5 feet tall and weigh 25 pounds. The calves are not full grown until they are about three years old. Calves stay with their mothers until they are fully grown.

Lifespan:

Okapis can live between 20 and 30 years.

Did you know?

The okapi was chosen as the emblem of the International Society of Cryptozoology.

(<http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-okapi.html>)

Stephanie Woods

African Penguin

Spheniscus demersus

Animal Description:

Adult male penguins are around 45cm tall and weight about 3 kg or 7 pounds. Males tend to be larger than females. Similar to other penguin species, they have black plumage and white feathers with black and white markers all over. They have short tails and wings like flippers that help them swim and dive in the water. It takes around 3 years for penguins to change from juvenile to adult.

Habitat:

African penguins live in large colonies (packs of penguins) on the Southern coast of Africa. They often spend most of the day feeding and playing in the water and nights cuddled together on the rocky shoreline.

Diet:

The diet of the African penguin consists mainly of small fish like anchovies and sardines. At times they may also eat squid and crustaceans.



Reproduction:

The penguin's nest in burrows they create out of their own feces called guano or in other small areas by the shore. These nest project eggs and chicks from the sun and predators. Eggs are laid in pairs and both parents help to incubate them. Likewise, both parents take turns feeding the newborns.

Lifespan:

African penguins live on average for 10-15 years. Many of them however do not make it through their full life span due to lack of nesting space and other natural causes. Due to their lack of nesting grounds, African penguins are now at risk and may become extinct in the near future.

Did-You-Know – African penguins can swim up to 20 kph and can travel up to 30-70kph!

<http://www.animalfactguide.com/animalfacts/african-penguin/>

http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Spheniscus_demersus.html

Queen Conch *Strombus gigas*

Animal Description:

The queen conch is a large, marine, gastropod mollusk. They have an external glossy pink spiral-shaped shell with orange interior. At full size they grow to about 12 inches long and weight about 5 pounds. The male conch shell is usually slightly larger than the females.

Habitat:

The habitat of the queen conch is in warm, shallow water, usually no deeper than 70 feet. It lives in sand, seagrass bed, and coral reef habitats. The queen conch is found throughout the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico, ranging from Bermuda to Brazil.

Diet:

In the larvae stage the queen conch feeds on plankton. After morphing into their adult form they graze on algae and detritus.

Reproduction:

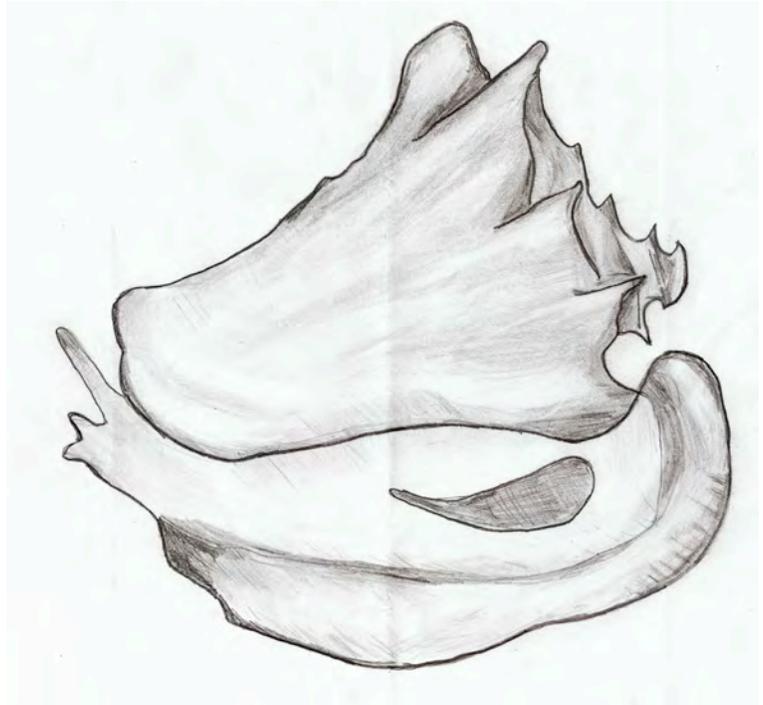
The queen conch reproduces through internal fertilization. After mating, the females lay hundreds of thousands of eggs in a line in the sand— five days later the eggs hatch.

Lifespan:

20-40 years.

Did you know?

The queen conch is an endangered species in the state of Florida.



(<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/species/invertebrates/queenconch.htm>).
(<http://www.neptunes.com/conchfacts.html>)

Red Wolf

Canis rufus

Animal Description:

This endangered species of wolf has a cinnamon colored coat, and is of medium size and build. The red wolf is larger than a coyote, yet smaller than the gray wolf, reaching lengths between 4.5 and 5.5 feet long and weighing between 50 to 80 pounds. Males are typically larger than females, with males weighing an average of 61 pounds, and females weighing an average of 52lbs. The red wolf has a long, broad head, with almond shaped eyes, long, pointed ears, and sharp teeth. Furthermore, the red wolf has a long body, with long legs, relatively short fur, and a long, bushy tail.



Habitat:

Currently, the red wolf resides over an expanse of 1.7 million acres in northeastern North Carolina. Historically, these wolves prefer forests, swamps, and coastal prairie type habitats. The climates they reside in range from hot and humid to snowy and cold (depending on the time of year).

Diet:

The red wolf's diet consists of small mammals, such as raccoons, rabbits, rodents, white tail deer, and other similar animals.

Reproduction:

Red wolves reproduce via live birth, and can reproduce when they reach 22 months of age. Mating season occurs in winter and the gestation periods lasts roughly 60 days. Each litter yields anywhere from two to eight pups.

Lifespan:

6-7 years in the wild; 15 years in captivity.

Did you know?

Red wolves typically mate for life.

<http://teacher.scholastic.com/wolves/rabout2.htm>.

http://www.defenders.org/wildlife_and_habitat/wildlife/red_wolf.php).

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Red_Wolf).

Ring-tailed Lemur

Lemur catta

Animal Description:

Ring-tailed lemur backs are gray to rosy brown, limbs are gray, and their heads and necks are dark gray. They have white bellies, white with dark triangular eye patches and a black nose. Their tails have 13 alternating ringed, black and white bands that can measure up to two feet in length. The adult's body mass is six to seven pounds and females are usually smaller.

Habitat:

The habitat of the ring-tailed lemur range from 15 to 57 acres. They live in arid, open areas and forests. They are found in the southwest portion of Madagascar.

Diet:

The diet of the ring-tailed lemur consists of leaves, flowers and insects. They also eat fruit, herbs and small vertebrates.

Reproduction:

Female lemurs produce their first offspring at age three and annually thereafter by live birth. Twins can be frequent as well. Females nurse their young until five or six months of age. Infants cling to their mother's belly, but after about two weeks, they ride on their mother's back.

Lifespan:

They live 20 to 25 years.

Did you know?

Ring-tailed lemurs will gather in open areas of the forest and sit in a yoga position facing the sun. They sit with their bellies toward the sun with their arms and legs stretched out to the sides.

(<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Animals/Primates/Facts/FactSheets/Lemurs/RingtailedLemur/default.cfm>).



Koala

Phascolarctos cinereus

Animal Description:

The Koala has large, sharp claws to assist with climbing tree trunks. The Koala's fur is thick and soft; they have ears that have long white hairs on the tips. Their weight varies from about 31 pounds for a larger male and around 11 pounds for a small koala female. The size of the Koala bear is approximately 27-36 inches. The male Koala is larger and heavier than the female. The male also has a broader face than the female Koala. Both sexes have a vestigial tail.



Habitat:

The habitat of the Koala is located on the Australian continent where they are native to. They mostly inhabit the region from northern to southwestern Australia. The Koala spends most of its life in the trees and can be found in Eucalyptus forests.

Diet:

The diet of the Koala bear consists of mostly eating entirely on eucalypt leaves. These leaves are low in protein and a high indigestible substance, which makes the koala's have a low metabolic rate. Due to this low metabolism Koala's rests for about 16 to 18 hours a day without moving.

Reproduction:

The male and female Koalas become sexually mature around the age of two years old, however, males refrain from mating because they grow older and bigger because they must be able to successfully compete with other males. Female Koalas produce offspring once a year. Koalas give birth during the summer time in Australia, which is December and January on their continent. Twins are very rare with Koala reproduction.

Lifespan:

Koalas are able to live as long as 17 years, but males have a shorter life expectancy is less than 10 years because of injuries that occur during their lifespan.

Did you know?

The Koala is one of the few mammals that have fingerprints. Their fingerprints are similar to human fingerprints even with a microscope the two are hard to distinguish between.

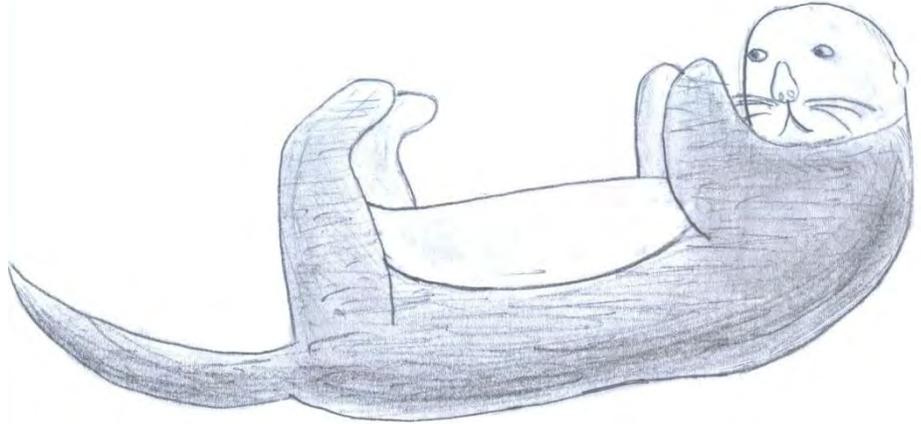
(<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Koala>).

Sea Otter

Enhydra lutris

Animal Description:

Among the smallest marine animals, the sea otter has no blubber relies on its exceptionally thick fur to keep warm and ranges in color from dark brown with silver speckles, to yellowish or grayish brown to black. They typically weigh anywhere from 49 to 99 pounds. The sea otter also has hind feet which are long, flat, and fully webbed, as well as closeable ears and nostrils.



Habitat:

The sea otter is native to the northern and eastern Pacific Ocean. Although they can walk on land, they live primarily in the ocean. Sea otters typically stay close to the shore and live in areas that are protected from severe ocean winds, such as rocky coastlines and barrier reefs.

Diet:

The diet of the sea otter consists of over 100 species, including sea urchins, clams, mussels, and snails.

Reproduction:

Female sea otters give birth year round to live pups, with peaks between May and June in the north and January and March in the south. Birth takes place in the water and pups have their eyes open, ten teeth visible, and a thick coat of baby fur.

Lifespan:

Males: 10-15 years; females: 15-20 years

Did you know?

Otters hunt by sight and touch. Their whiskers are very sensitive and pick up vibrations of nearby fish and other creatures. Since sea otter cannot see very well underwater, their sensitive whiskers are very important to their hunting skills.

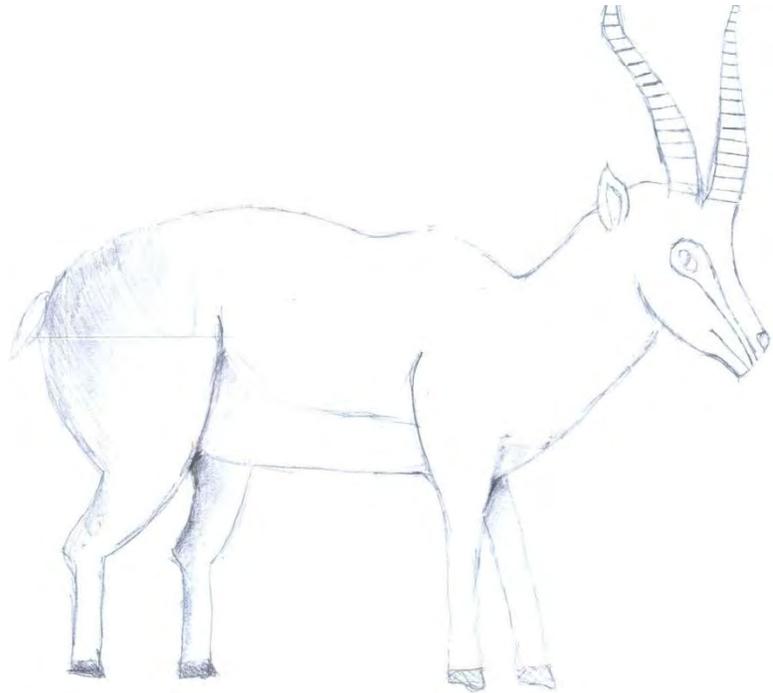
(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_otter).

Grant's Gazelle

Gazella granti

Animal Description:

Grant's Gazelle gets to be as large as 100-145 pounds. It gets to be 30 to 36 inches at the shoulder. The gazelle's horns grow to be 18-36 inches long. The females tend to be about 30 pounds lighter and horns about six inches shorter. The gazelle has a light brown coat with a white underbelly. Some gazelle's have a black strip on each side of there body. The horns are ringed to the tip.



Habitat:

Live in grassy plains and bushy savannas. Avoid tall grass areas. Found in East Africa.

Diet:

Gazelles diet varies throughout the seasons. They eat herbs, foliage, shrubs, grass, and shoots.

Reproduction:

Gestation period lasts about seven months. The mother sneaks away from her heard when it is time for birth. She gives birth by herself and when the child can walk they both join a new heard.

Lifespan:

About 12 years

Did you know?

The only relatively long-lasting relationship in gazelle society is that of a mother and her most recent offspring.

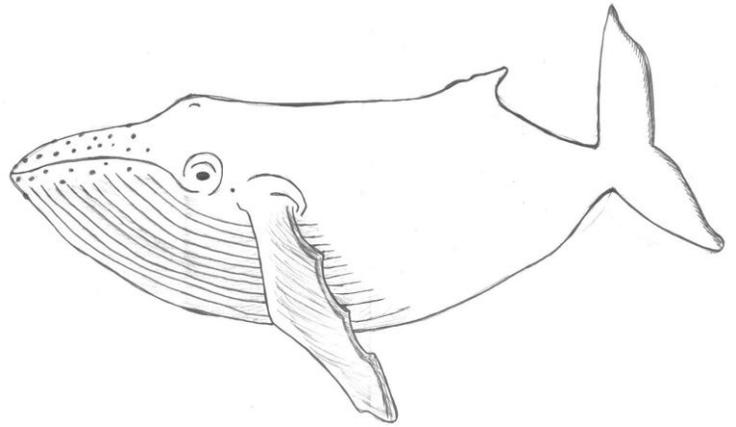
<http://www.outtoafrika.nl/animals/enggrantsgazelle.html>

Humpback Whale

Megaptera novaeangliae

Animal Description:

Humpback whales are identified by their stocky bodies, black dorsal fin and the humps spread around their mouths. As adults, Humpback whales are known to range from 48 – 62.5 feet, and can weigh up to 40 tons! This is roughly the size of a typical school bus. Female whales tend to be slightly larger than males, and though they do vocalize they do not sing the traditional humpback songs; only males do.



Habitat:

These whales live in all the major oceans. During the summer they live by the poles and in winter they migrate to warmer breeding grounds by the equator.

Diet:

Humpback whales are omnivores and their diet consists mainly of krill, plankton and small fish. In winter, after migrating, whales do not eat until they return to the poles after the season.

Reproduction: (*eggs, live birth, etc.*)

The actual mating ritual whales has never been witnessed. Once the female has chosen the most competent male they descend to the deep reaches of the ocean to consummate as mates. The female will then give a live birth after approximately 11.5 months. The calf will stick to its mother's side for the first year then venture out on their own. Humpback females generally breed every couple of years.

Lifespan:

In the wild, Humpback whales are expected to live between 30 and 50 years, though, new research suggests many whales can and have lived for more than 100 years.

Did you know?

Whale skeletons have been noted to include pelvic bones which indicate at some point in the past they had legs and walked on land. Currently, the pelvic bones hold no use for the whales, but still remain in their bodies.

(<http://marinebio.org/species.asp?id=39>)