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Viewing wildlife is about exploration and discovery. But if you're curious to know the exact solutions to some of the activities, you can download a PDF with them here: www.env.gov.yk.ca/brochures

WHAT IS THIS?

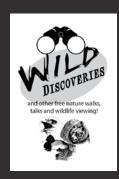


QR (Quick Response) codes contain information that will send you to a website. Using your smart phone and free decoding software, scan the codes in this booklet to go to a Yukon government webpage that will give you clues to help you solve the puzzles.

WILD DISCOVERIES:

You can learn more about Yukon's wildlife by attending the Wildlife Viewing Program's numerous free interpretive walks and talks. Families are welcome at all events but watch for activities designed specifically for kids.

Visit www.env.gov.yk.ca/events for this year's schedule, or watch for our events calendar in your mailbox in April and June.



ABOUT YUKON'S WILDLIFE

The Yukon territory covers more than 480,000 km² – that's fifteen times larger than Vancouver Island! Since it's so big, you can find a variety of ecosystems that are home to many different plants and animals. From boreal forest to arctic tundra, finding wildlife is a matter of knowing how to look for it.



IN YUKON YOU CAN LOOK FOR: O reptile species

4 amphibian species

38 fish species

68 mammal species

325 bird species

More than 1,600 plant species

More than **6,000** insect species

Use the activities in this book to discover Yukon's wildlife.

From colouring sheets to trivia questions, you can learn more about the wildlife you are looking for. Some activities may be challenging, so ask your parents for help, and use other booklets and Environment Yukon webpages to find the answers.

PLANTS

Yukon is home to 1,250 species of flowering plants. Some are small and some are tall. Plants can be found everywhere including underwater or high on the mountain sides. Use the Common Yukon Roadside Flowers booklet to learn the names of these common plants so that you can recognise them as you travel around.

Common Yukon
Roadside Flowers

These shrubs have tiny yellow flowers that turn into bright red berries in the summer. They are an important food for animals, especially bears.

> The leaves of this tree have flat stems so that they tremble in the slightest breeze.

Look for large green pads floating on the water and bright yellow flowers sticking up.

This purple flower arrives in early summer and is a common sight in Yukon's forest.

This flower is very popular as it signals the arrival of spring in Yukon. Look for it as early as April when there is still snow on the ground.



These small, white 'flowers' turn into bright-red berries in late summer.

This evergreen tree looks a lot like a Christmas tree and is very common in south-central Yukon.

> You will see, and smell, this tall, white flower growing on the side of the highway. It is one of Yukon's most problematic invasive plants.

This prickly plant has pink flowers in summer and ruby-red fruit in fall.

This tree is found at high altitudes and is Yukon's official territorial tree.













MATCH THE INSECT TO ITS PREY (WHAT IT EATS) AND TO ITS PREDATOR (WHAT EATS IT).
THERE MIGHT BE SEVERAL POSSIBLE ANSWERS,
BUT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO EAT WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED.

INSECTS

...................

Bugs can be annoying, but they play an important role in Yukon's ecosystems: they can help plants grow through pollination and they are food for many birds, frogs, mammals and other insects.

PREY: WHAT DO INSECTS EAT?













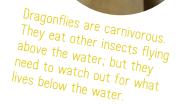


Mosquitoes don't have any teeth but still depend on blood from animals. They are hunted by a flying mammal that comes out at night.



Caterpillars feast on green leaves. They can easily be snatched up by quick, sticky











often be seen carrying... just about anything edible to their nests such as juicy berries. With so many ants in once place, it makes a great feast for a large animal.

Butterflies will sometimes suck nutrients from dung a tasty meal for the guick fingers of small animals.



burrow into the bark of trees to eat what's inside. Woodpeckers have special beaks that can hammer holes into trees to find

the beetles.

PREDATORS: WHICH INSECTS DO THESE

ANIMALS EAT?







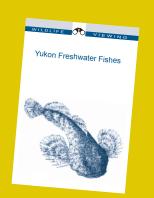


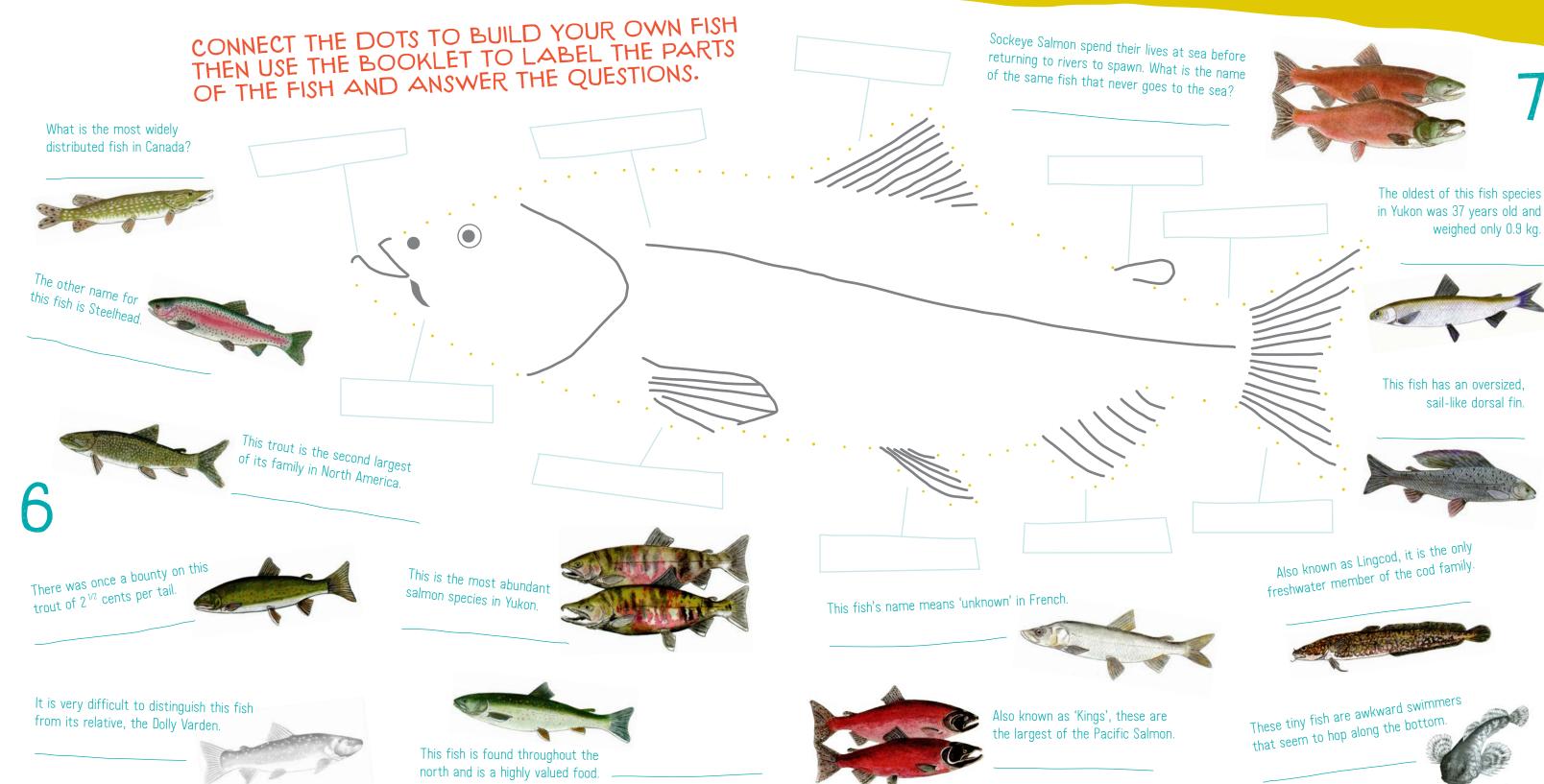




FRESHWATER FISH

There are 38 species of freshwater fish in Yukon. You can learn about each of them in the *Yukon Freshwater Fishes* booklet.



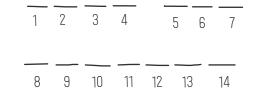


FOREST BIRDS

Yukon is home to hundreds of bird species that live in the forest. Often these birds travel south in the winter and return in the summer. This is called migration. Use your eyes and ears to find these birds hidden in Yukon's forests. Some are so small you'll rarely see them but can hear their calls to know they're close by.

Scan the codes to hear what they sound like, and unscramble the letters to learn their names. Then take the letters in the blanks and fill in the secret message below.

HOW DO BIRDS COMMUNICATE?







题 THIEW-GWINDE CILBORSSL





RADK-YEDE NCOUJ





COMMNO HINGHATWK

OYELLW-MURPED WBRALER







OMNUAITN EBLUBIRD

LBACK-CAPDEP AICHCKEDE

---- ---- -₂









ICFLF ALSWOLW





IEHWT-CODRENW ARPWROS

COMONM EDPROLL









MREACAIN OIRBN

9

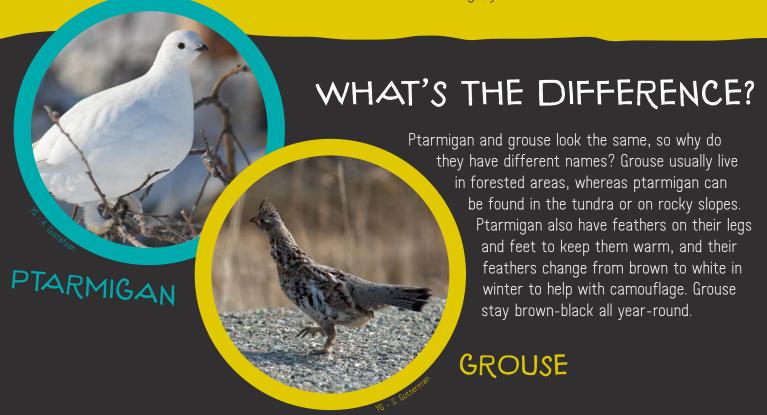






UPLAND GAME BIRDS

Upland game birds include both grouse and ptarmigan. They can fly but are more often seen walking on the ground, either through the forest or on the tundra. There are seven species of upland game bird in Yukon. They are experts in camouflage, just like the letters in this Wordsearch.



RAPTORS

Raptors are birds of prey, meaning they hunt and eat meat as food. They have sharp, hooked beaks and strong sharp claws they use for catching and eating their food. Some raptors are awake during the day (diurnal) and others only hunt at night (nocturnal).





CAN YOU FIND THE NAMES OF ALL THE UPLAND GAME BIRDS AND RAPTORS IN THE WORDSEARCH?

nbnoclafryggnrlbwefghrih oakyawdgieobouwaispnelou crgsnowyowlbrfolljltswrw lrwifdndsbdctftdlhwuuosp a e d q m e r l i n e p h e e e o s o r o d p y fdsharpshinnedhawkdkrezp eowxiaaenaeorgwgpweegnig nwajleytniainrwlthryerao ilinftxhpygrhoaeazavcoew renburdyedlbausorxeuuhwt q s s r z o a r o y e a r s n o m h q l r t a h euookhpxqzulrerlifntpazz roncqsharptailedgrouseuc erskoiyhrntveahmaflrvrjr ghppcofolbnrxtbnpaewgsa yatxlwoymgypnrehtrontwq skwahdeggelhguortgnfueau dskrgsglertseknaciremaqo qufmvuunortherngoshawkmd adbighnorthernhawkowlhee asbgreatgrayowlwolaerobe dkwahdeliatderjnumvxtqsi nnsnwqqoqrnpszzhviwcfybt uufotbhaqyetpurqcbseqdug

UPLAND GAME BIRDS

ruffed grouse spruce grouse willow ptarmigan rock ptarmigan white-tailed ptarmigan sharp-tailed grouse dusky grouse

VULTURES

turkey vulture

FALCONS

american kestrel merlin gyrfalcon peregrine falcon

HAWKS

osprey
bald eagle
northern harrier
sharp-shinned hawk
northern goshawk
swainson's hawk
red-tailed hawk
rough-legged hawk
golden eagle

OWLS

great horned owl snowy owl northern hawk owl northern pygmy-owl barred owl great gray owl long-eared owl short-eared owl boreal owl northern saw-whet owl

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WATERBIRDS

LEARN HOW TO
IDENTIFY SOME DUCKS
BY COLOURING THEM IN,
FOLLOWING THE SUGGESTED GUIDES.

Yukon is home to hundreds of thousands of swans, geese, and ducks. Every year Yukoners visit Swan Haven in April to watch the return of waterbirds, including thousands of swans, to mark the end of winter and to welcome spring.

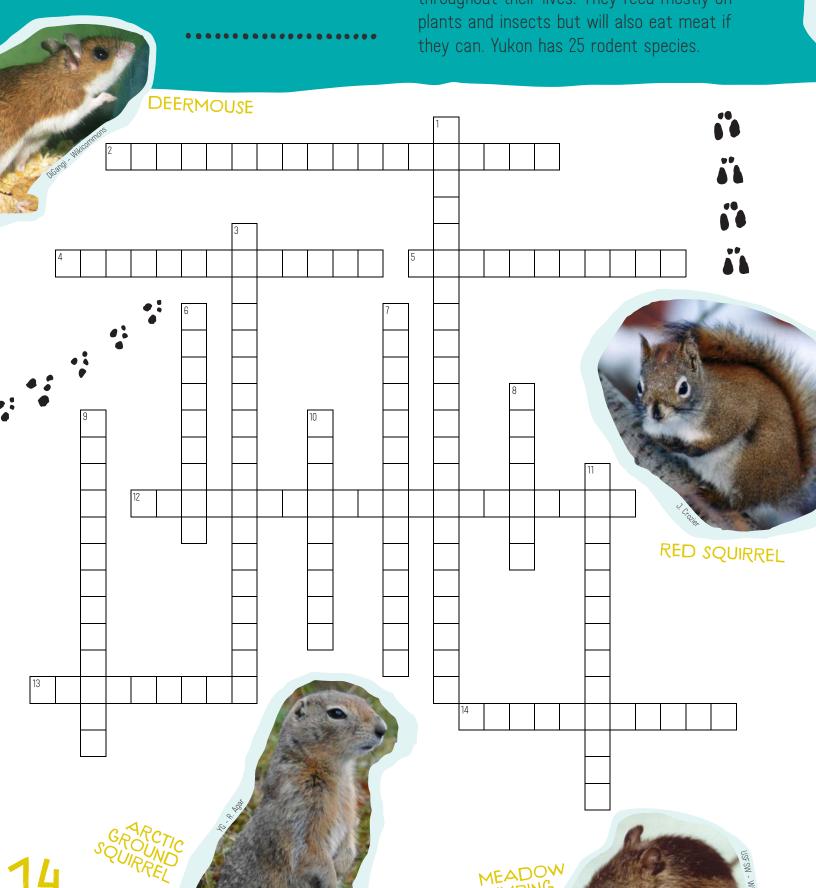




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RODENTS

All animals in the rodent family have large front teeth that continue to grow throughout their lives. They feed mostly on they can. Yukon has 25 rodent species.





Use the clues for this crossword puzzle to learn the names of some of Yukon's rodents. Visit the mammal webpages on Environment Yukon's website to learn more about rodents.

WWW.ENV.GOV.YK.CA/MAMMALS

ACROSS:

- 2. The original 'pack rat' they like shiny things.
- 4. Very good tunnellers in both the ground and the snow.
- 5. Eats mostly spruce cones and builds large middens.
- 12. Locally known as 'Gophers'.
- 13. It cannot shoot its quills.
- 14. Enjoys sunbathing on warm rocks in the alpine.

DOWN:

- 1. Doesn't actually fly, but glides long distances between trees.
- 3. Can leap several feet in one jump, like a kangaroo.
- 6. An uncommon rodent in Yukon, known for digging holes in the ground to escape.
- 7. Slaps its tail on the water when startled.
- 8. An important food source for many tundra carnivores.
- 9. Makes 'push ups' in the winter: air pockets to come up for breath under the ice.
- 10. Unlike the House Mouse, this mouse can survive outdoors in extremely cold winters.
- 11. Smaller than a squirrel, but with five black stripes down its back.

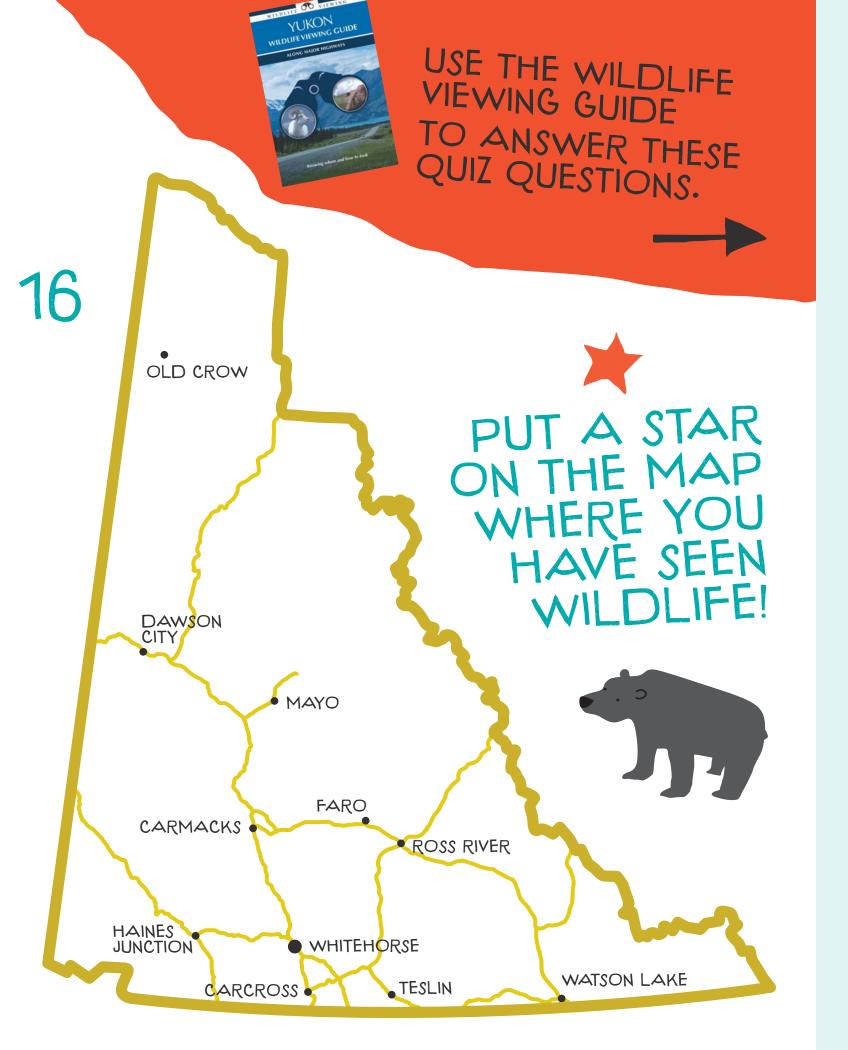












What bird might you see at Rancheria Falls?
What kind of sheep live at Deadman Creek?
What has melted to cause a "drunken forest"?
What type of grouse can be seen around Gravel Lake?
What animals can you learn more about at Finlayson Lake?
What highway might you travel to look for the Takhini Elk herd?
What large mammal might you see on your way to Aishihik Lake?
What area is renowned for hosting many alpine butterflies?
What kind of orchid is found at Orchid Acres?
In what desert might you find the Baikal Sedge?
Where can you find the Forest Science trails?
Where can you go to see swans in April?
Where can you find the Wye Lake Trail?
Where can you go to see Mountain Goats in Yukon?
What kind of sheep will you see in Faro?
How long is the Spruce Beetle Trail?
Name the large geological fault that provides a migration corridor for birds?
What is the name of the 500 metre trail in Dawson where you can see Prairie Crocuses and Northern Bluebells?
On a summer evening, what flying mammal might you spot at Chadburn Lake?
Name some south-facing slope specialty plants found at Five Finger Rapid Recreation Site?
At what kilometer on the Dempster Highway will you find a Gyrfalcon nest?



WOLVERINE

"I like to hunt alone and can catch prey much larger than myself."

NORTHERN RIVER OTTER

"I enjoy playing in the water with my family."

FISHER

"I have dark brown fur and am very rare in Yukon; only found in the south."

AMERICAN MARTEN

"I have a pale face and move quickly and quietly through the forest."

AMERICAN MINK

"I like to come out at night to hunt for small animals by the water's edge."

ERMINE

"My coat turns pure white in winter but I always have a black tip on my tail."

LEAST WEASEL

"I look exactly like an Ermine but I don't have a black tip on my tail."

WEASELS

Weasels are stealthy and you'll often only catch a glimpse of them as they go by.

CAN YOU GUESS
WHICH SILHOUETTES
BELONG TO WHICH WEASEL?



BOVIDS

Bovids a type of ungulate (animals with hooves) Both males and females have horns that get bigger throughout their lives, and never fall off, just like our fingernails. Horns usually don't have branches like antlers.



You can tell how old this sheep is HOW OLD DO YOU based on the number of sections in his horn. Just like rings in a tree trunk, you can count one ring for

THINK THIS SHEEP IS? COUNT THE NUMBER OF SECTIONS DIVIDED BY THE every year he's been alive.

Horns and antlers, horns and antlers On your head, on your head. Antlers they will fall off, Every year they fall off. Horns stay on, 'Til you're gone.









THINHORN SHEEP

Yukon is home to both Stone's Sheep and Dall's Sheep. There are some brown coloured Dall's Sheep we call Fannin's sheep.





WOOD BISON

Wood Bison are the largest land animal in North America. They have dark brown shaggy hair and live around the Aishihik Road in southwest Yukon.

MUSKOX

These short, cow-like animals are only found in Yukon's far north. They have long thick coats that protect them from the cold winds of the arctic.



MOUNTAIN GOAT

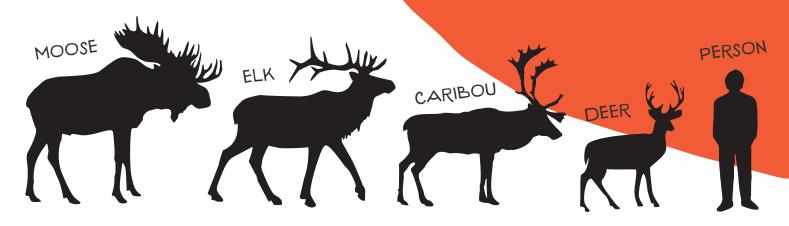
They live on the steepest cliffs high the alpine to escape from predators such as wolves, bears, and Golden Eagles.



CIRCLE THE ANIMALS YOU THINK ARE BOVIDS?

HORSES

CARIBOU GAZELLES BUFFALO MOOSE COWS ANTELOPES DEER ELK



DEER

Deer are also ungulates (hooved animals) but they have antlers instead of horns. They grow new antlers every summer and shed them off in the fall or winter. Usually only male deer have antlers.

CAN YOU MATCH EACH DESCRIPTION WITH THE CORRECT PHOTO BELOW



"LISTEN TO AN ELK BUGLE"



Moose are the largest of Yukon's deer. You'll most likely see them around swamps and lakes, where they eat plants in the water.



ELK

There are about 260 Elk in Yukon found between Haines Junction, Carmacks, and Whitehorse. In the fall, you can hear them 'bugling': a high-pitched squeal they use to communicate.



GIRL POWER!

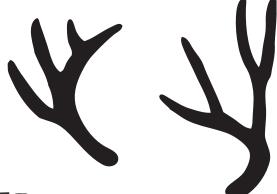
Did you know that female caribou have antlers as well? They are much smaller than male antlers, but they still fall off and grow back every year. Caribou are the only members of the deer family where both males and females have antlers.



CARIBOU

Yukon has two types of caribou. Woodland Caribou have different lifestyles than the Barren-ground Caribou which live in large herds on the tundra.





DEER

Mule Deer are seen in fields and open aspen forests. There are only a few White-tailed Deer in Yukon.











CATS

There are two types of wild cat in Yukon, but you are much more likely to spot a lynx than a Cougar. Can you tell the difference between them? Circle the different features on each photo.



CANADA LYNX

Long legs Small bob tail Very large furry feet Black ear tufts Long hairs under chin Long, grey hairs that make it look silver Short body

COUGAR

Round head and ears Long tail, black tip Long body Large, powerful hind legs Golden colour



DOGS

There are four species of wild dog in Yukon. Wolves are the largest, weighing as much as 45 kg. Arctic Foxes are the smallest weighing only 3 kg - about the size of a house cat.

GREY WOLF

Wolves look like dogs but are much bigger. They live in packs and work together to hunt and raise pups. Listen for wolves howling at night.



COYOTE

Coyotes have skinny legs and a small body. They are usually solitary and hunt small animals like voles and squirrels. Coyotes have a high pitched bark and howl.



RED FOX

Traditional Red Foxes are orange-red in colour. Some foxes are black with white tipped hairs, called Silver Foxes. Others have a dark 'x' on their backs, called Cross Foxes.



Arctic Foxes are only found in northern Yukon on the tundra. They are the only Yukon foxes to change colour for camouflage. They are brown in the summer but turn white in winter.







THIS IS THE

ACTUAL SIZE OF A

GREY WOLF PRINT.

Place your hand on top and trace

its shape. How does your hand

compare to the wolf print?

BEARS

Yukon is home to three bear species. You might see a bear just about anywhere in Yukon including in towns and along roads.



AMERICAN BLACK BEAR

Not all American Black Bears are black. They can also be brown, blonde, reddish, or grey-bluish. To identify an American Black Bear look for flat shoulders and straight face. Its hips are usually higher than its shoulders too.



GRIZZLY BEAR

Grizzly Bear fur colour can also vary greatly, but it usually has silver-tips that give the bear a grizzled appearance. Look for a big hump on their shoulders and a dip in their face.

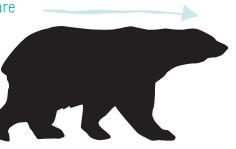
They also have long claws they use for digging.





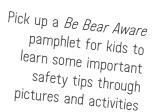
POLAR BEAR

Polar Bears are only found on the North Slope of Yukon and on Herschel Island. They are all white, all year round. They have a long streamlined body and head.



Bears can be many different colours. Use the features described on the left to determine which bears are American Black Bears and which are Grizzly Bears.













MARINE MAMMALS

Only a small part of Yukon touches the Arctic Ocean. Looking out from shore you can spot some of these seals and whales in the icy waters.



BOWHEAD WHALES

They are 20 metres long but only the sixth longest whales in the world. They have teeth made out of baleen (the same material as your fingernails). These special teeth are used like a screen to filter out small critters from the water to eat.



These whales are 4 metres long and have white skin. They are highly social and are usually found in small groups of up to 25 whales. They eat shrimp, fish, and squid, among other things.



RINGED SEALS

The Ringed Seal is the smallest and most common seal of the arctic. They have dark grey or black coats with pale grey rings on their backs and sides.



Similar in size to Ringed Seals, Spotted Seals have smaller dark spots, rather than rings. They are sometimes confused with Harbour Seals.



HOODED SEALS

The largest of Yukon's seals, Hooded Seals can measure 2.5 metres long and weigh nearly 900 lbs. They have a silvery body with black spots and a dark head. Males have a fleshy sac on their noses they can inflate like a balloon during mating.



Adult Bearded Seals are a bright brown colour and have long whiskers that make it look like it has a beard. They are about 2.5 metres long and pups learn to swim hours after they are born.



LAGOMORPHS

Lagomorphs include pikas, rabbits, and hares. Though they look like rodents, they have different teeth and are strictly vegetarian.

BATS

The Little Brown Myotis (bat) can be found as far north as Dawson City. They only come out when it's dark to feed on flying insects. In the North, that might only be for one or two hours in the summer! Scientists have also found some Northern Myotis (bats) and made audio recordings of Big Brown Bats in Yukon, but they are very rare.



COLLARED PIKA

Pikas have small chubby bodies and round ears. They live in rock piles high in the mountains. All summer they collect plants to store for the winter. They have a long 'meeeep' sound to call alarm.



"LISTEN TO A PIKA CALL"





Unlike rabbits, baby hares are born with their eyes open and all their fur. They are quickly able to move around the forest. In the winter, their coat turns white to help them hide in the snow.



SHREWS



Though they look like mice and voles, shrews have a set of sharp teeth used for eating insects rather than plants. Yukon has seven species that are found all over the territory. They have a long, narrow nose and longer tails than rodents.

CAN YOU NAME THEM ALL?

Visit the 'Shrews' webpage at www.env.gov.yk.ca/mammals to learn more.



CAN YOU LABEL THE PARTS OF THIS BAT?

Check out the Yukon Bats brochure to see how.



MUSHROOMS

Mushrooms are neither plant nor animal – they are fungi. The part of the mushroom you can see is like an apple on a tree: it's just the fruit and the rest of the fungus is underground.

MUSHROOMS COME IN MANY DIFFERENT SHAPES AND SIZES. DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE TYPE OF MUSHROOM HERE:



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Mushrooms are really important because they can help plants grow, help create soil by acting as decomposers, and are an important food for some animals. Learn more about mushrooms from our Common Yukon Mushrooms booklet.



WHAT YUKON WILDLIFE HAVE YOU SEEN?

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO KEEP TRACK OF THE YUKON WILDLFE YOU HAVE SEEN, HEARD, OR FOUND EVIDENCE OF HAVING PASSED BY.



NOMMON

- Alaska Paper Birch
- Alaska Wild-rhuharh
- Artic Lupine
-) Balsam Poplar
- Bear-root
- Black Spruce
- Bluebell
- Bog Star
- Bunchberry
- Calypso
- Common Yarrow
- Cow Parsnip
- Cut-leaf Anemone
- Dwarf Raspberry
- Fireweed
- Foxtail Barley
- Gormon's Beardtongue
- Horned Dandelion
- Jakusk Snow-parsley
- Kinnikinnick
- Labrador Lousewort

- Labrador Tea
- Lodgepole Pine
- Low-bush cranberry
- Mountain Avens
- Mountain Death Camas
- Narrowleaf Hawksheard
- Narrow-leaved Arnica
- Northern Bedstraw
- Northern Goldenrod
- Northern Monkshood
- Northern Sweet-vetch
- Northern Yellow Locoweed
- Northwest Territory Sedge
- Pasture Sage
- Prairie Crocus
- Prickly Rose
- Raup's Paintbrush
- River Beauty
- Scheuchzer's Cottongrass
- Showy Crazyweed

- Showy Jacob's Ladder
- Siberian Aster
- Silverberry
- Smooth Brome
- Soapberry
- Sparrow's-egg Lady's-slipper
- Speckled Alder
- Subalpine Fir
- Tamarack
- Three-toothed Saxifrage
- Trembling Aspen
- Tufted Fleabane
- Twinflower
- White Spruce
- White Sweetclover
- Wild Flax
- Wild Strawberry
- Willow
- Yellow Water Lily

CARNIVORES

- American Marten
- American Mink
- Arctic Fox
- American Black Bear
- Canada Lynx
- Cougar
- Coyote
- Ermine
- Fisher
- Grey Wolf
- Least Weasel

Grizzly Bear

- Northern River Otter
- Polar Bear
- Red Fox
- Wolverine



ATE JNGUI

- Barren-ground Caribou
- Dall's Sheep
- Elk
- Moose
- Mountain Goat
- Mule Deer
- Muskox
- Stone's Sheep
- White-tailed Deer

Woodland Caribou

Wood Bison

RODENTS

- American Beaver
- Arctic Ground Squirrel
- Bushy-tailed Woodrat
- Common Muskrat
- Hoary Marmot
- Least Chipmunk
- Lemming
- Meadow Jumping Mouse
- North American Deermouse
- North American Porcupine Northern Flying Squirrel
- Red Squirrel
- Vole
- Woodchuck



Pick up a copy of the Checklist of Yukon Birds to keep track



YUKON BIRDS

INSECTS

Ant

Aspen Leaf Miner

Beetle

Blackfly

Bumblebee

Caterpillar Deerfly

Dragonfly Honey bee

Mayfly Mosquito

Moth Wasp

DTHERS

Bowhead Whale

Collared Pika

Little Brown Myotis

Beluga

Seal

Shrew

Snowshoe Hare

Horsefly

Water Strider

Butterfly

USE, DON'T GO OUTSIDE! CLIMB TREES, BUILD FORTS, FOLLOW STREAMS, AND TURN OVER ROCKS! JUST REMEMBER NOW THAT YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT YUKON'S WILDLIFE, TO BE RESPECTFUL OF THE NATURAL WORLD AND MINIMIZE YOUR IMPACT ON THE LAND.

