



Illinois Mammals



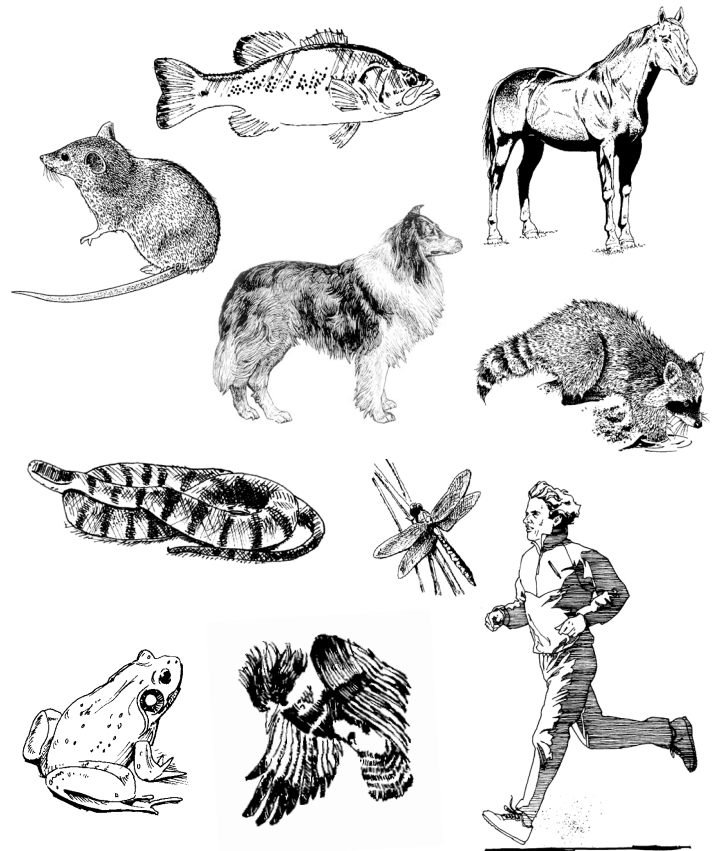
What are mammals?

There are many types of animals in Illinois. Insects, spiders, fishes, frogs and birds are just some of the animals you can find in our state. Mammals are animals, too.

Five of the animals shown below are mammals. Circle the five mammals.

How can you tell if an animal is a mammal?

- A mammal in Illinois has four limbs (arms/legs). Some mammals not in Illinois have fins.
- It has hair or fur.
- It is warm-blooded (its body temperature is kept at the same level regardless of the outside temperature).
- Most mammals have young born after developing inside the mother's body in a special organ called a uterus. A few mammal species lay eggs, but these mammals do not live in Illinois.
- After birth, the young are fed with milk produced in the female's mammary glands.
- A mammal has a large and complex brain.



Find the Mammals.

Using this Activity Book: For the Educator



When using this activity book from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education, students of **grades kindergarten through six** will become familiar with the traits and appearance of 16 mammal species that live in our state. The *Wild Mammals of Illinois* unit, *Wild Mammals of Illinois* resources trunk and associated lessons, video podcasts and publications from the IDNR can help you teach about mammals, too. You will find these and other supplemental items through the Web page. Contact the IDNR Division of Education at 217-524-4126 or dnr.teachkids@illinois.gov for more information.

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What are mammals?

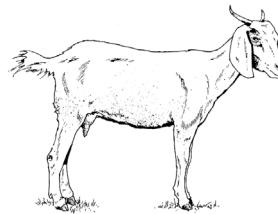
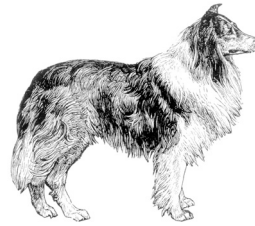
Where do mammals live?

Mammals can be found in many places in Illinois. You'll see them in the country and in cities. Some live in trees while others live on or under the surface of the ground. There are mammals that can be found in and around water, and some which prefer prairie habitat. Some mammals live in Illinois all year while others live here only part of the year and migrate to other places for the rest of the year (like red bats). Several mammal species of our state spend part of the year hibernating (like thirteen-lined ground squirrel).

What's the difference between wild and domesticated mammals?

Wild mammals are those species that depend upon themselves to find the food, water and shelter that they need. In Illinois, raccoons, deer mice, foxes and bobcats are some wild mammals. Wild animals do not make good pets. Domesticated mammals are those that have been bred for special purposes. They are related to mammals that were once wild, though. Cows, horses, sheep and pigs are all examples of domesticated mammals. Domesticated mammals receive some of their survival requirements from humans. "Tame" mammals are pets. They are domesticated animals. However, not all domesticated mammals are tame. In fact, with most mammal species, a single animal may become "tame" while the majority of the species remains wild. Some mammals that were once domesticated have become wild again. They are called "feral," such as feral hogs and feral cats.

Label each of the following species as either wild or domesticated.



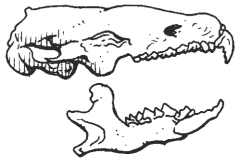
Types of mammals in Illinois

Scientists use a classification system in order to study species. The classification for mammals includes the Kingdom Animalia, Phylum Chordata and Class Mammalia. The Class Mammalia is further divided into orders. The mammal orders represented in Illinois are described below. Since the year 1900, a few more than 60 species of mammals have been found living in Illinois. You'll learn more about some of them in the pages to follow.

Order Didelphimorphia: Opossums

The opossum bears young that are not fully developed. After birth these tiny opossums crawl into a pouch on the female's body to complete their development.

Order Soricomorpha: Shrews and Moles



Shrews and moles are small mammals that feed mainly on insects. Shrews are active at night and are very ferocious for their small size.

Moles spend most of their life under ground, using their large front feet and claws to dig tunnels as they search for insect larvae and other prey.

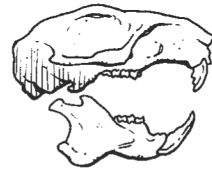
Order Chiroptera: Bats

Bats are the only true-flying mammals. Their hands are modified into wings. They use echolocation to find food. Some bats that live in Illinois in the summer migrate out of the state in the winter, while other bats hibernate.

Order Lagomorpha: Rabbits

This group includes the rabbits and hares, mammals with a short, furry tail. Rabbits have long legs and long ears. A distinctive trait is their four incisors (front teeth) on the upper jaw.

Order Rodentia: Rodents



Rodents are small- to medium-sized mammals from mice to beavers. They have incisors that grow continually throughout their

life and must be worn down by gnawing on hard materials. Rodents have a large gap between their incisors and the rest of their teeth. This order contains the largest group of mammals in Illinois.

Order Carnivora: Carnivores



Coyotes, raccoons, skunks and otters are just some of the carnivores of Illinois. These mammals feed primarily on prey that they

capture. They are large- to medium-sized mammals with claws on their feet.

Order Artiodactyla: Even-Toed Ungulates

The ungulates group contains the white-



tailed deer, a large mammal with long legs and hooves. The stomach of these mammals has four chambers.

Opossum

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.



Coloring Instructions: Color the fur white, then add some black or gray streaks. The face is white. The feet and inner ears are black. The tail, nose and toes are pink.

Virginia opossum

Didelphis virginiana

The Virginia opossum (head and body: 15 - 20 inches; tail: 9 - 20 inches; weight: 9 - 13 pounds; number of teeth: 50) can live about anywhere on land, from woods to cities. It eats plant and animal materials, such as fruits, grains, eggs, worms, carrion (dead animals) and even garbage and pet food. When an opossum is scared, it may play dead, hiss, growl, bare its teeth or run. It is active at night and lives throughout Illinois. The young are very small when born, and an entire litter (as many as 14) can fit in a teaspoon. They crawl into a pouch on the mother's body where they stay and develop for about two months.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Shrew

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both

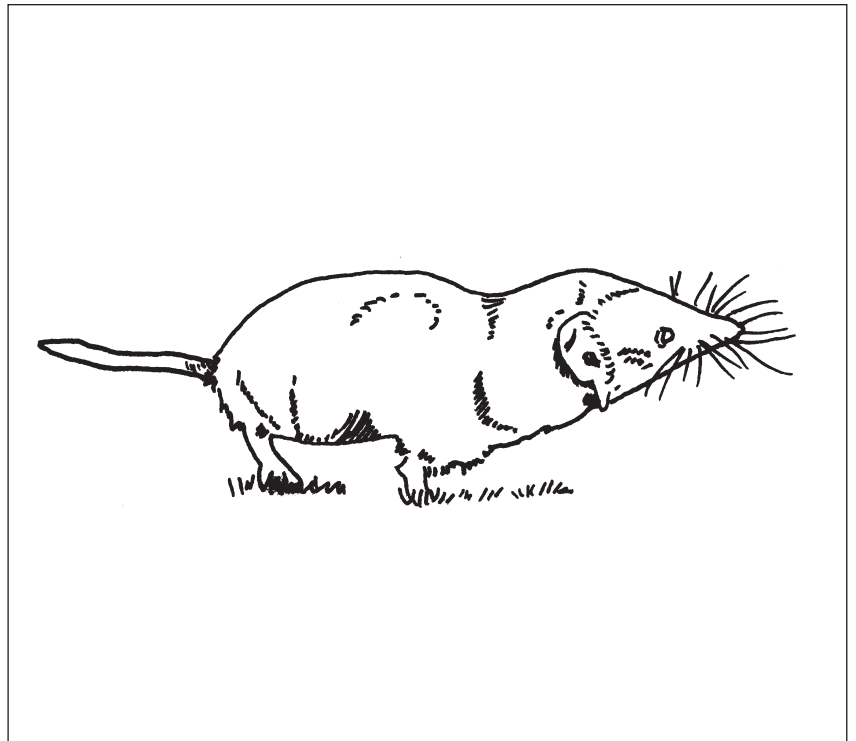
the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



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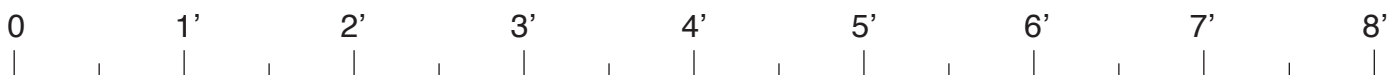


Coloring Instructions: Color the back, sides, head and tail gray with red-brown over it. The belly is the same color but lighter. The feet are pink.

North American least shrew

Cryptotis parva

The tiny least shrew (head and body: 2.5 - 3.5 inches; tail: 0.5 - 0.8 inches; weight: 0.2 - 0.3 ounces; number of teeth: 30) lives in grassy fields throughout Illinois, where it eats insects, spiders and earthworms. It moves in burrows under the surface of the ground and is active both day and night. This mammal can eat more than its body weight in food each day. It locates prey by using its sense of hearing. The least shrew will fight to protect its home range.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Bat

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

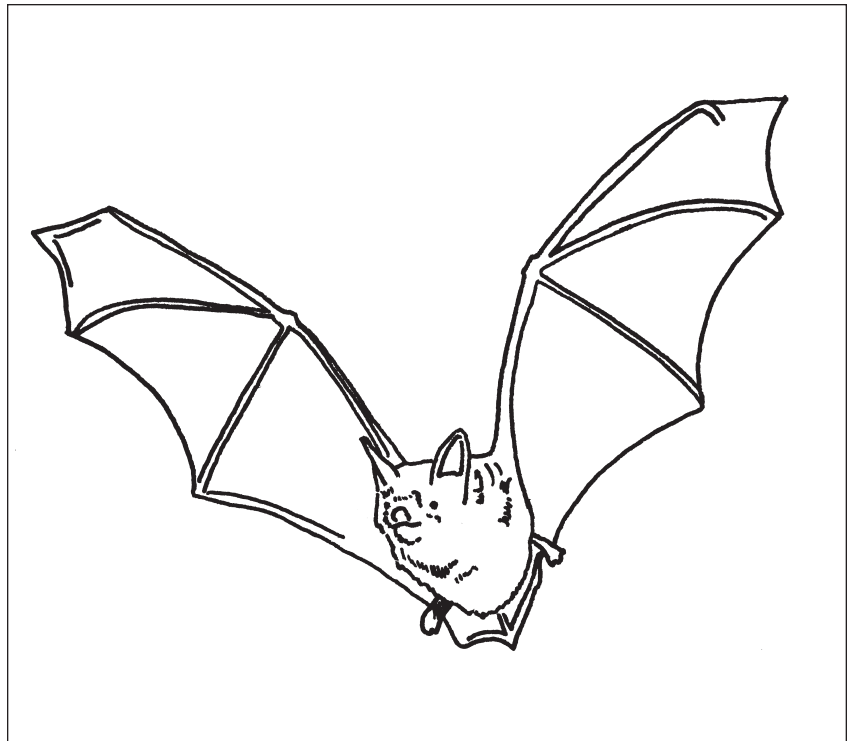
Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.

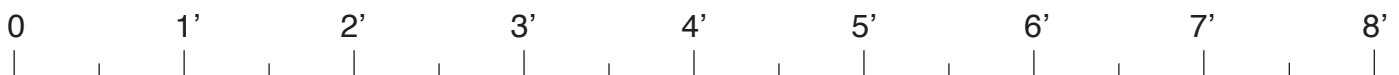


Coloring Instructions: Color this mammal red-brown.

eastern red bat

Lasiurus borealis

The nocturnal red bat resides in Illinois during the spring, summer and fall. Trees, shrubs and bushes are preferred roosting spots. It migrates south out of the state before winter when its food source, insects, is not available. The red bat (head and body: 3.5 - 4.5 inches; tail: 1.8 - 2.0 inches; weight: 0.3 - 0.5 ounces; number of teeth: 32) is one of the most common bat species in Illinois. It may be found statewide.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

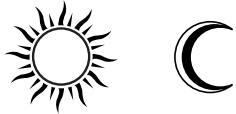
Rabbit

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

Circle the moon if it is active by night.

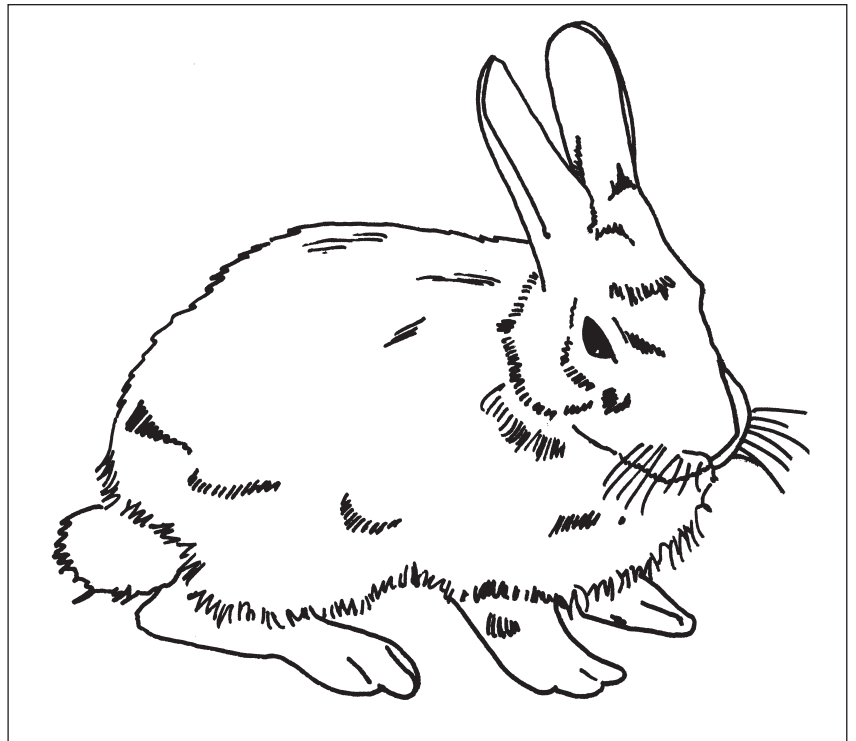
Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



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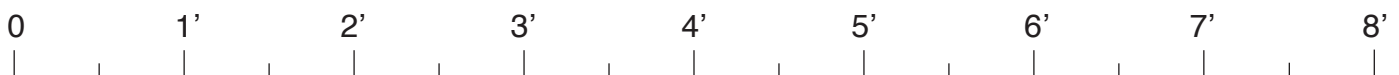


Coloring Instructions: Color the fur gray-brown except at the back of the neck, where it is red-brown. The tail is white. The inside of the ears is gray-pink.

eastern cottontail

Sylvilagus floridanus

The eastern cottontail (head and body: 14 - 17 inches; tail: 2 - 3 inches; weight: 2 - 4 pounds; number of teeth: 28) has big hind legs and long ears. Found statewide in Illinois, this mammal is active at night, in the early evening and in the morning. It lives near brush piles, hedges, short grasses and shrubs and eats plant materials such as grasses, clover, alfalfa, seeds, buds, fruits and bark. Female cottontails place their blind, helpless newborns in a shallow depression in the ground or a short burrow. These areas are lined with hair and covered with grasses to hide the young when the female is away.



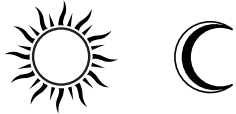
Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Rodent

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

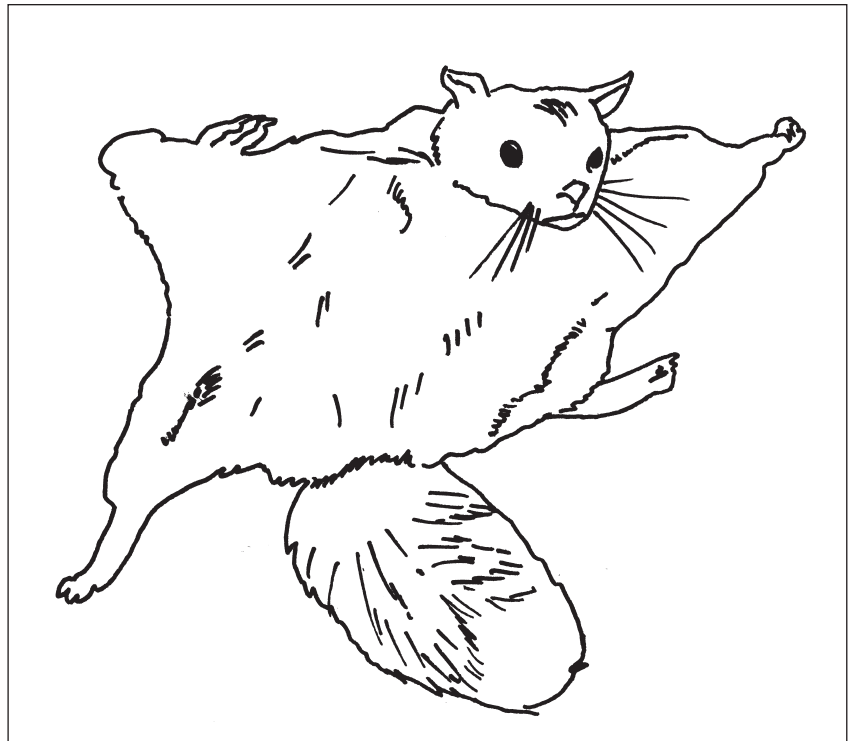
Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.

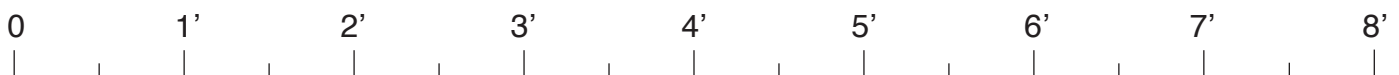


Coloring Instructions: Color the head, tail and feet of this mammal gray-green-brown. Color its lower side white.

southern flying squirrel

Glaucomys volans

The small (head and body: 5.5 inches; tail: 3.5 - 4.5 inches; weight: 1.8 - 2.8 ounces; number of teeth: 22), southern flying squirrel has a flap of loose skin between the front and hind legs that makes a gliding surface when the legs are stretched out. It lives statewide in trees in hardwood forests near water. It glides from higher to lower surfaces. This mammal eats hickory nuts, acorns, other tree seeds, fungi, fruits, may at times eat bark, bird eggs, insects and young birds. It is a nocturnal squirrel that is alert and active all year but may sleep for several consecutive days in winter.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

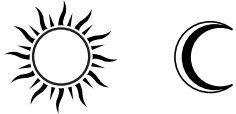
Rodent

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

Circle the moon if it is active by night.

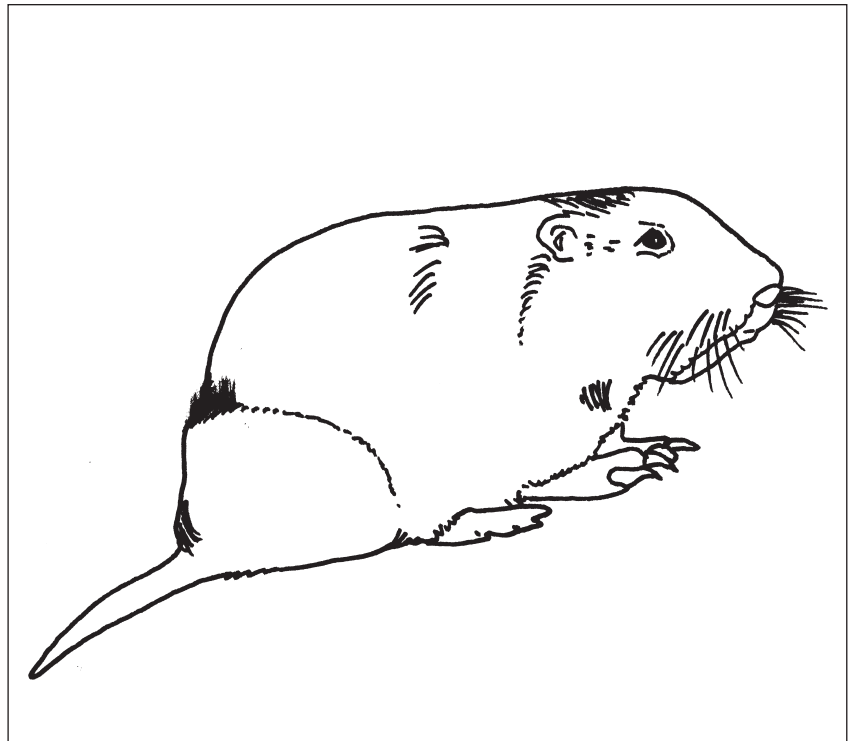
Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.



Coloring Instructions: Color the fur black. On the belly, add a little tan color to the black. The tail, top of the feet and a spot on the throat are all white.

plains pocket gopher

Geomys bursarius

The pocket gopher (head and body: 5.5 - 9.0 inches; tail 2.0 - 4.5 inches; weight: 4.5 - 12.5 ounces; number of teeth: 20) has special adaptations for a fossorial, or underground, life. Its front feet are large with a strong claw on each toe to help it dig. It can close its mouth behind the incisors, or front teeth, so it can dig with the teeth without getting dirt in its mouth. Areas where pocket gophers live have mounds of dirt at the entrance of the burrow. Active day and night, the pocket gopher eats plants, especially their roots. In Illinois, it is only found in areas along the Kankakee and Illinois rivers.



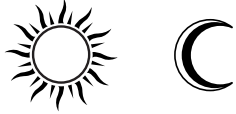
Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Rodent

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

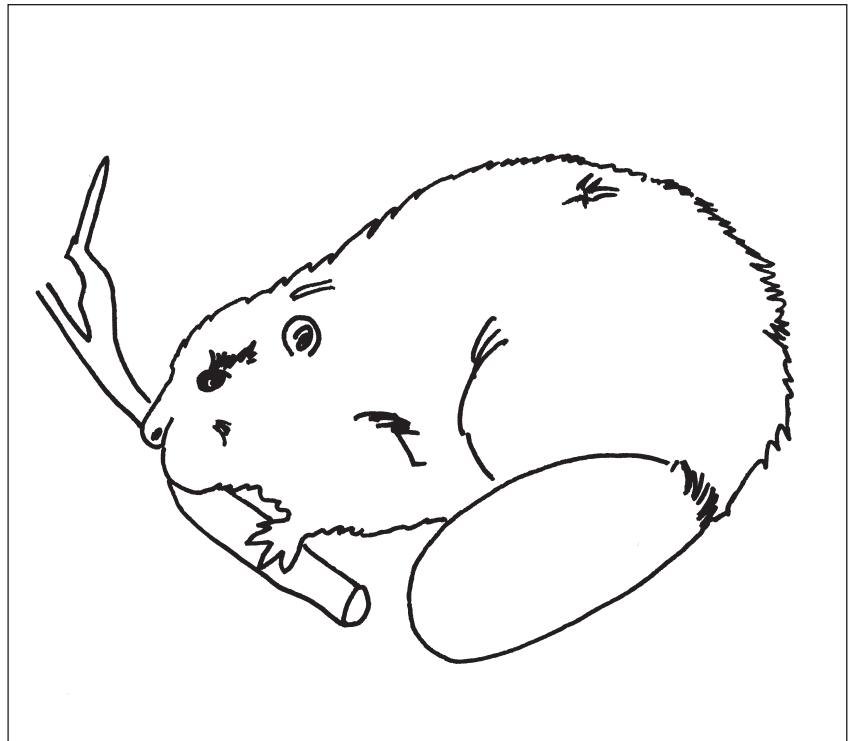
Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.



Coloring Instructions: Color the fur brown. Color the tail and feet gray-black.

American beaver

Castor canadensis

The beaver is the largest rodent in Illinois (head and body: 25 - 40 inches; tail: 9 - 10 inches; weight: 30 - 60 pounds, some have weighed close to 100 pounds; number of teeth: 20). This nocturnal mammal has a large, flat tail and webbed hind feet that help it swim. The tail may be used to slap water as a means of communicating with other beavers. Beavers spend most of their time in water, only coming onto land to rest, rear young and feed. The beaver has the ability to cut down trees to construct dams and lodges. It eats plant materials that it finds statewide along streams, rivers, ponds and lakes.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Rodent

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

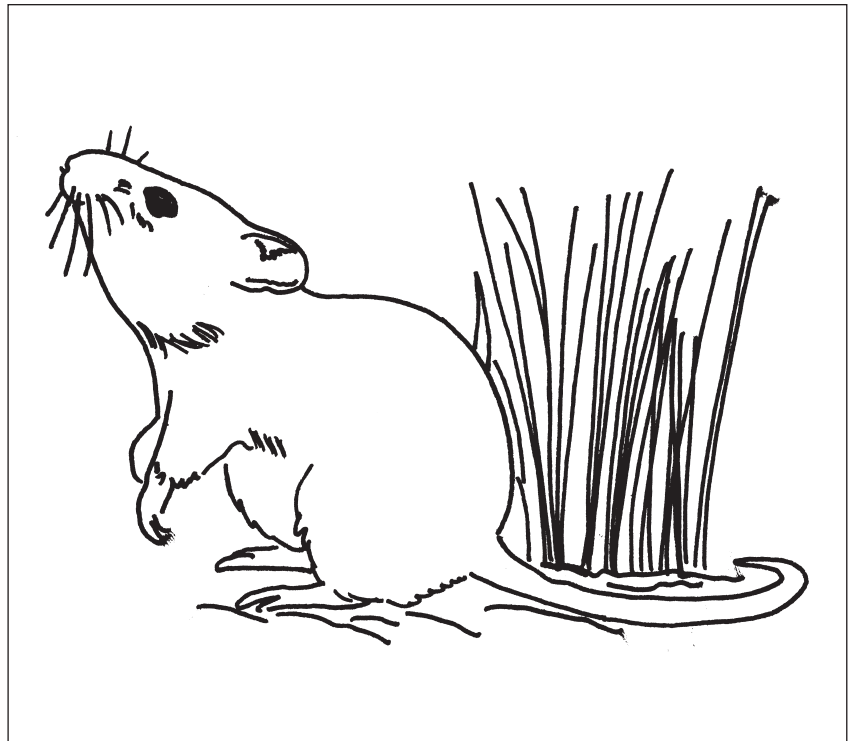
Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.



Coloring Instructions: Color the back and sides gray-brown. The belly and feet are white. The top half of the tail is black, while the lower half of the tail is white. The ears are black with a white edge.

deer mouse

Peromyscus maniculatus

The deer mouse (head and body: 3 - 4 inches; tail: 3 - 5 inches; weight: 0.7 - 1.3 ounces; number of teeth: 16) lives statewide in grasslands, prairies, pastures and fields. This rodent is a nocturnal omnivore that eats insects and the seeds of native and farm plants (corn, soybeans, wheat). One of its behaviors is to store food for eating at a later time. It builds a shallow burrow system or may use the burrows of other small mammals.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

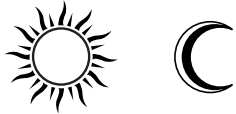
Rodent

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

Circle the moon if it is active by night.

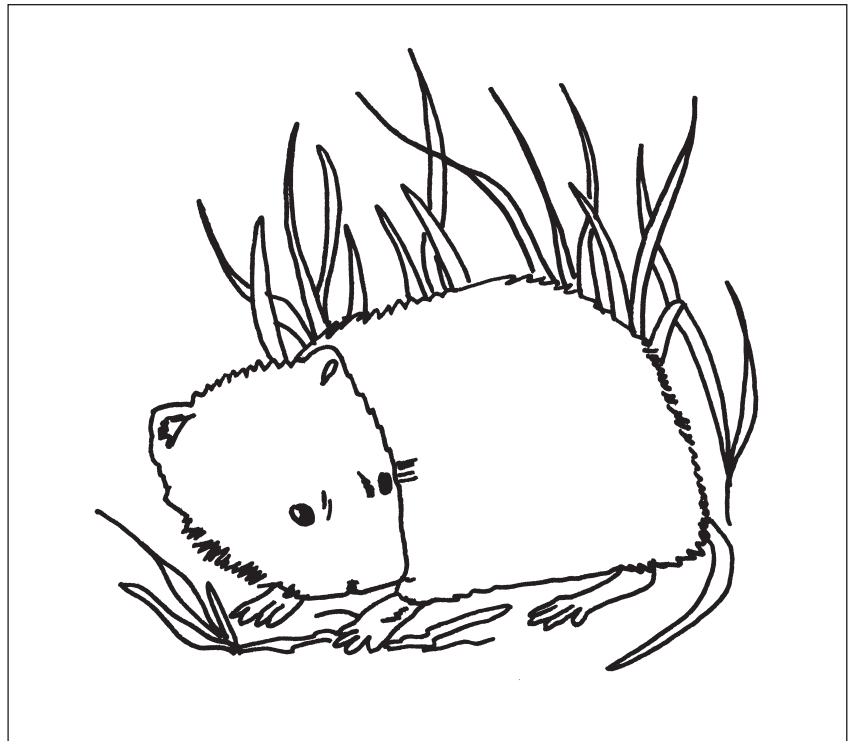
Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.



Coloring Instructions: Color all of this mammal, except the bottom half of the tail and the belly, brown-black with yellow tips. The bottom half of the tail is tan. The belly is tan with yellow.

prairie vole

Microtus ochrogaster

The prairie vole (head and body: 3.5 - 5.0 inches; tail: 1.2 - 1.6 inches; weight: 1.0 - 1.5 ounces; number of teeth: 16) lives in an underground burrow system connected on the surface by runways. It searches day and night for plant materials to eat. This mammal species is a food source for many animals, including hawks, owls, coyotes, foxes and bobcats. The prairie vole lives statewide in Illinois.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

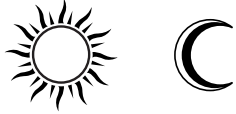
Rodent

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

Circle the moon if it is active by night.

Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.

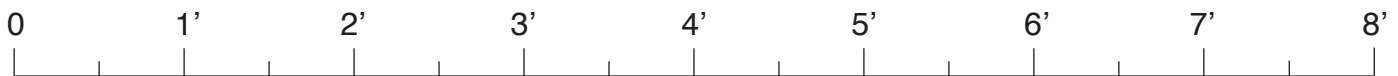


Coloring Instructions: Color the fur gray-brown, except for the tail. Color the tail dark gray.

house mouse

Mus musculus

The house mouse (head and body: 3.0 - 3.5 inches; tail: 3.0 - 3.7 inches; weight: 0.4 - 0.8 ounces; number of teeth: 16) lives in fields or buildings. It will eat any human food, livestock feed, seeds, fruits and insect larvae. Found statewide, this rodent is primarily nocturnal and is a good swimmer and climber. It reproduces year round, and its offspring can breed six weeks after birth. The house mouse was introduced to the United States from Europe by humans.

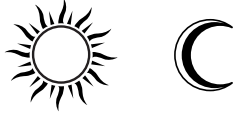


Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Rodent

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day. Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.



Coloring Instructions: Color the fur on the back and the top half of the tail brown. The sides should be gold with an orange stripe. The belly, bottom half of the tail and feet are white.

meadow jumping mouse

Zapus hudsonius

The upper front teeth of the meadow jumping mouse are grooved. Its back feet are enlarged for jumping. This small rodent (head and body: 3 inches; weight: 0.5 - 0.8 ounces; number of teeth: 18) has a very long tail (4 - 6 inches). Active mainly at night, the meadow jumping mouse can be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in moist areas in fields, woods and along streams, ponds and marshes. It eats seeds. When disturbed, it moves in a series of jumps. The meadow jumping mouse hibernates during the winter, usually entering hibernation in late September or October.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Carnivore

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

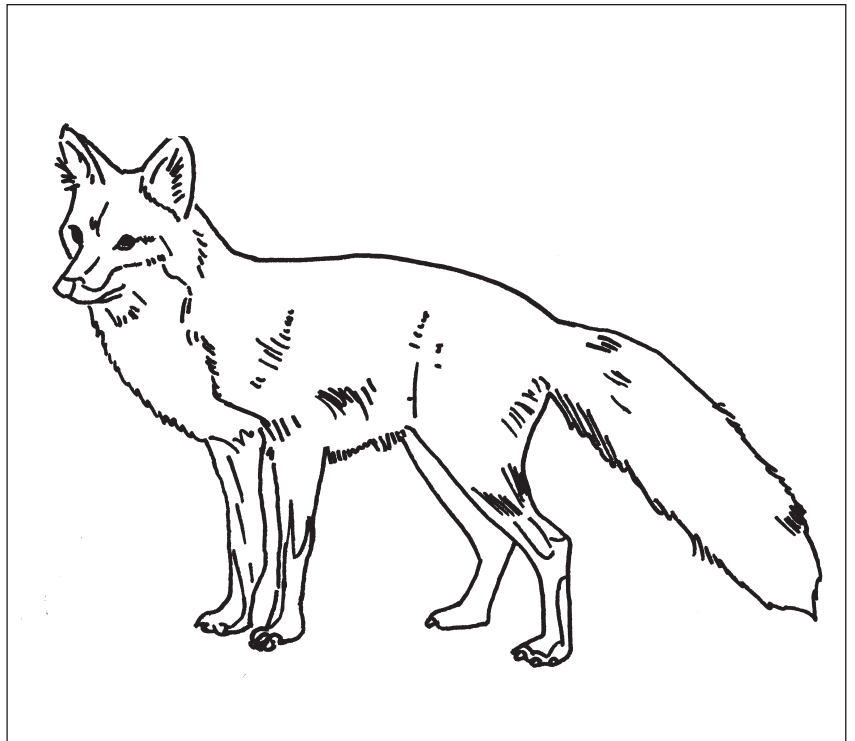
Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



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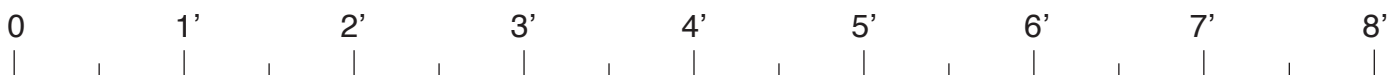


Coloring Instructions: Color the back red-yellow and the belly white. The ears, legs and tops of the feet are black. The tail is a mix of red and black with black hairs near the end and a white tip.

red fox

Vulpes vulpes

The red fox (head and body: 22 - 25 inches; tail: 14 -16 inches; weight: 8 - 15 pounds; number of teeth: 42) is found statewide in Illinois, living in grasslands, field edges, bottomland woods and brushy areas. This carnivore eats some plant materials, too. Its diet consists of berries, birds, dead animals, frogs, fruits, grasses, insects, small mammals and turtles and varies by season. In the summer and fall, plants and insects are its main food sources. In the winter and spring, it eats many small mammals. It is active mostly at night. The male is called a "dog," and the female is a "vixen." The red fox barks, howls, whines and yips. It uses a den, an underground burrow, to raise its family. Families remain together until fall.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Carnivore

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



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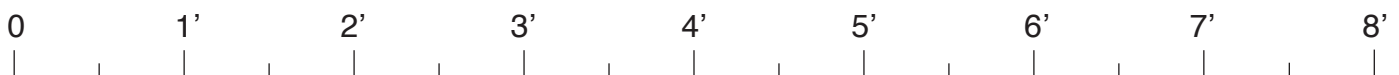


Coloring Instructions: Color the body and every other ring on the tail gray-black. Color the remaining tail rings and the mask on the face black.

raccoon

Procyon lotor

The raccoon (head and body: 18 - 28 inches; tail: 8 - 12 inches; weight: 8 - 25 pounds; number of teeth: 40) is an easily recognized mammal with its black-masked face and ringed tail. It lives in a variety of habitats, but the habitat must be close to a permanent source of water. A raccoon will eat vegetation and prey: nuts, berries, grains, seeds, crayfish, fishes, turtles, cottontails, voles and mice. This species is common in urban environments, feeding on garbage and pet food and living in hollow trees and houses. The raccoon is a good climber and swimmer. Found throughout Illinois, it is active at night.



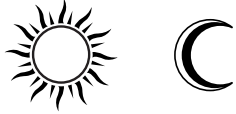
Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Carnivore

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.



Coloring Instructions: Color the sides, belly, tail, feet, head and area on the back between the two stripes black. Color the stripes on the back and on the face white. Add a little white on the tail.

striped skunk

Mephitis mephitis

The striped skunk (head and body: 13 - 18 inches; tail: 7 - 10 inches; weight: 4 - 10 pounds; number of teeth: 34) can be found statewide in Illinois. It lives in pastures with grassy fence rows, weedy roadsides or open woods. It feeds on frogs, birds, dead animals, garbage, grasses, insects, fruits, small mammals, reptiles, roots and vegetables. Active mostly at night, the skunk is known for its bad-smelling scent that is used to spray any animal it considers to be a threat. When disturbed, the skunk will arch its back, raise its tail to show the scent glands and stomp the ground. It generally releases its foul scent after this warning. The spray may travel more than 10 feet. Young are raised in an underground den, which is usually taken over from another mammal.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Carnivore

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

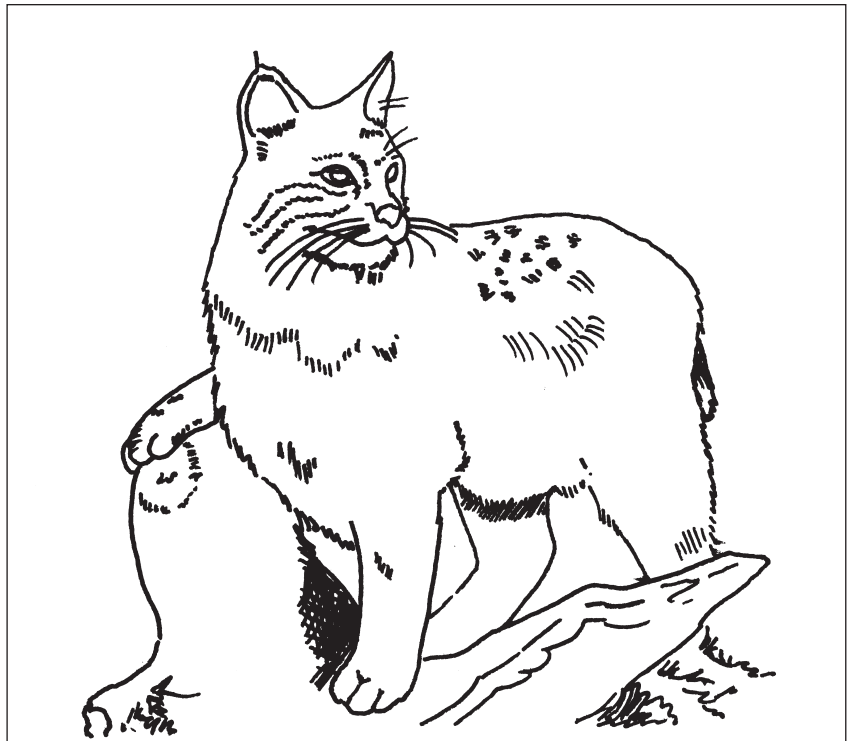
Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.



Coloring Instructions: Color the back, head, back of the ears and top of the tail in patches of gray, brown and tan. Color the belly and legs tan with black spots. The bottom of the tail and inside of the ears are white. The tip of the ears and tail are black.

bobcat

Lynx rufus

The bobcat (head and body: 25 - 35 inches; tail: 5 inches; weight: 15 - 30 pounds; number of teeth: 28) lives in wooded bluffs or rolling hills mixed with open fields, brushy ravines or open lowlands along rivers. Active at night, this meat-eater feeds on cottontails, squirrels, mice and birds. The home range of a bobcat can vary wildly depending on the habitat, age and gender. Bobcats in high quality habitats in Southern Illinois cover 20 square miles for adult males and 6 square miles for adult females. It was once considered rare in Illinois but can now be found statewide.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Even-toed Ungulate

Nocturnal/Diurnal:

Circle the sun if this mammal is active by day.

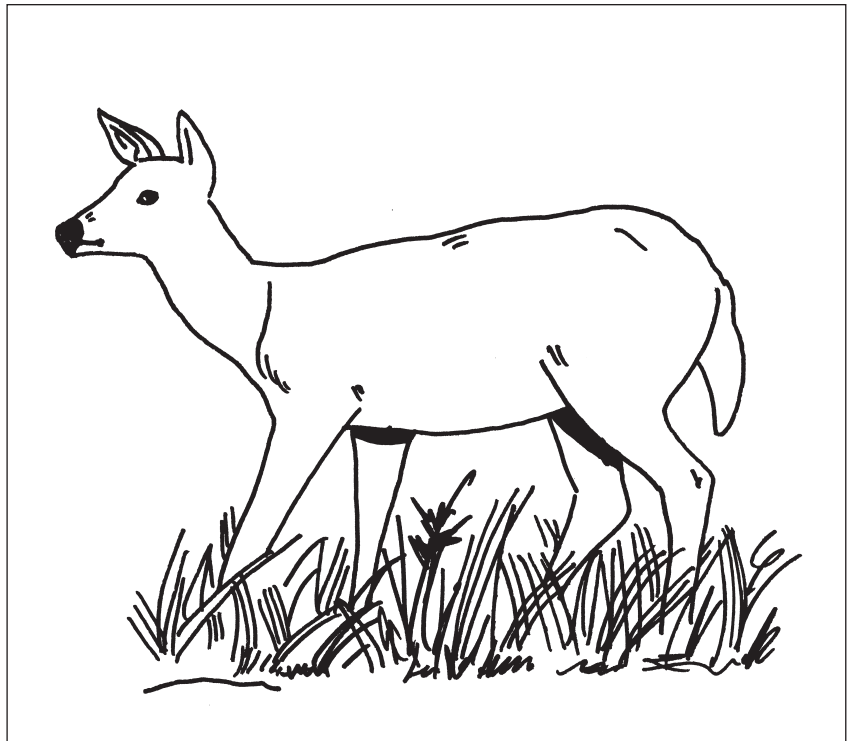
Circle the moon if it is active by night. Circle both the sun and moon if it is active day or night!



Where in Illinois?



Color the area in the map where this mammal is found.



Coloring Instructions: Color the back, head and the back of the ears gray-brown. Color the sides and legs tan. The belly and inside of the ears are white.

white-tailed deer

Odocoileus virginianus

The white-tailed deer is the largest Illinois wild mammal (height: 3.0 - 3.5 feet; head and body: 4.5 - 6.5 feet; tail: 0.5 - 1.0 foot; weight: males 100 - 250 pounds, females 100 - 150 pounds; number of teeth: 32). Deer are in the family of mammals characterized by having hooves, antlers that are shed and replaced annually, and a four-chambered stomach that allows them to chew a cud. Antlers usually develop only on males. Active mainly at night, dusk and dawn, the white-tailed deer seeks wooded areas for shelter and feeds in fields, pastures and brushy areas. Plant materials, such as twigs, leaves, grains, grasses and acorns, are the main part of its diet. The deer population in Illinois has gone from being plentiful in the early 1800s to having very few in the state by the early 1900s back to abundant numbers statewide today.



Length Line: Mark the length of this mammal on the Length Line. Include the length of the tail in the total length.

Hibernation

During harsh, cold winters like we have in Illinois, many of the foods mammals need become scarce or are not available. In order to survive these periods of limited food supply, some mammals hibernate. Hibernation is like a very deep, long sleep. This period of inactivity allows a mammal to live a long time on very little food.

The rate at which a living creature uses the energy it receives from food is called metabolism. During hibernation, a mammal's rate of metabolism is greatly slowed. Also during hibernation, a mammal's body temperature, heart rate and breathing rate drop. While a normal body temperature may be 95°F, during hibernation it can drop as low as 36°F. A normal heart rate of over 100 beats per minute may drop to only four or five per minute. Breathing may slow to less than one breath per minute.

Before they begin hibernation, mammals eat so much that they develop a thick layer of fat. This fat will supply them with the energy they will need during their long nap. Some hibernating mammals lose as much as one-third of their total body weight during hibernation. Mammals that do not deeply hibernate gather and store food to eat during wakeful periods.

Hibernation is never continuous. There are always periods of wakefulness, which occur more often as the hibernation period comes to an end. For each species that hibernates there is a critical temperature. When the air temperature rises above the critical temperature, they wake up. They also wake temporarily if the temperature drops so low that they are in danger of actually freezing. Upon waking they can move to a deeper, warmer chamber or warm up a little by shivering or moving around until the temperature rises. As spring approaches and the air warms, food is once again available, and the hibernating mammal will awaken and return to normal activity.



Investigating Hibernation

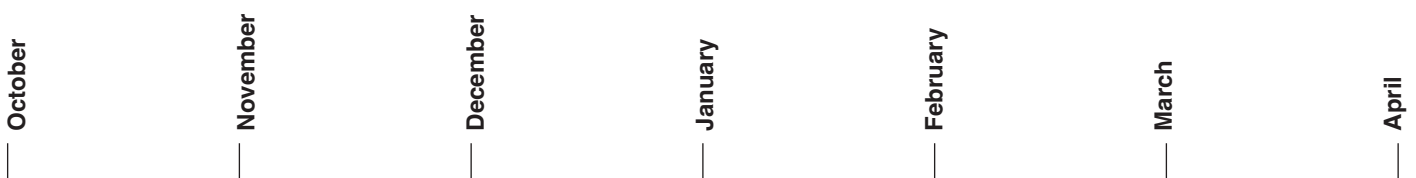
Ten Illinois mammal species hibernate in winter.
Study the chart and answer the questions.

Species	Diet	Time Spent Hibernating
little brown bat	insects	six months
Indiana bat	insects	six months
southeastern bat	insects	six months
Keen's myotis (bat)	insects	six months
eastern pipistrelle (bat)	insects	six months
big brown bat	insects	six months
woodchuck	plants	five or six months
Franklin's ground squirrel	plants, insects	six or seven months
thirteen-lined ground squirrel	plants, seeds	six months
meadow jumping mouse	seeds	six or seven months

What makes up the diet of these mammal species?

Why do you think they hibernate so long?

On the following time line show some events that normally happen in your life during the six months these mammals are hibernating.



What Do You Know?

Use only the mammal information in this booklet to answer these questions.

1. What is the shortest mammal in this activity book?
2. What is the largest mammal in this activity book?
3. What is the average number of teeth for the rodents in this activity book?
4. What is the average number of teeth for the carnivores in this activity book?
5. Which mammal in this activity book has the most teeth?
6. Which mammal in this activity book migrates?
7. Which mammal in this activity book is not native to Illinois?
8. Which order of mammals has front teeth that grow continually?
9. In the blanks, write the weight for each of the mammals. If it has a range of weights, use the heaviest weight. Now make a bar graph of the weight information. List two conclusions that you can draw from your graph.

- beaver _____
- bobcat _____
- deer mouse _____
- eastern cottontail _____
- house mouse _____
- least shrew _____
- meadow jumping mouse _____
- plains pocket gopher _____
- prairie vole _____
- raccoon _____
- red bat _____
- red fox _____
- striped skunk _____
- southern flying squirrel _____
- Virginia opossum _____
- white-tailed deer _____

ANSWERS - What Do You Know?
1. least shrew; 2. white-tailed deer; 3. 18; 4. 36; 5. Virginia opossum; 6. red bat; 7. house mouse; 8. Order Rodentia

Resources

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