NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Wildlife Notes #28 Whitetail Deer-Mrs. Weimer

White-tailed Deer Biology and Adaptations

**White-tailed deer: *Odocoileus virginianus***

* White-tailed deer are the most widely distributed large animal in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Named for the white hairs on the underside of its tail. When startled by danger and fleeing an area

whitetails “flag” their tails as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* The whitetails coat is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in summer and turns to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in fall and winter.
* A fawns spotted coat serves as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The spots imitate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hitting the forest floor
* Most fawns are born during May and June.
* In good habitat, does generally have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* A whitetail’s keen senses of **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** help them detect danger from predators including bear, coyotes**,** bobcats, and humans!
* Whitetails can run and bound through dense vegetation at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ miles per hour.
* White-tailed deer, like cows, are \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ or “cud” chewers. They have a \_\_\_\_ chambered stomach. The first chamber, called the *\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_* stores food which is later regurgitated, chewed, and swallowed.
* Deer are predominantly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ feeding on leaves, buds, and twigs. An average adult deer requires \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ pounds of forage per day.
* In heavily hunted areas deer rarely live past\_\_\_\_\_ years of age. Where hunting pressure is light deer may live to be \_\_\_\_\_\_ years of age.
* Antler and body size is used to estimate a whitetail’s age. (the number of antler points is not corresponding with age)
	+ SIZE IS DUE TO\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Difference between antlers and horns\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* A bucks antlers are covered with “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” while they are growing
* The pattern of tooth replacement and wear is used by biologists to determine a whitetail’s age.
* Many factors affect a whitetail’s antler development, including:
1. Diet - Nutrition
2. Age
3. Genetics
4. Herd Management
* Whitetails leave many signs behind as evidence of their presence.
	+ 1.
	+ 2.
	+ 3.
	+ 4.
	+ 5.
* **Whitetail Habitat**
* **Food** - consists of an abundant supply of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* **Water** - generally not a limiting factor, obtain much of what they need from the plants they eat
* **Cover** - necessary to elude hunters and other predators and for protection from the weather
* **Space** - area required to escape predators, locate a mate, and find sufficient food, water and cover
* A young seedling/sapling forest provides excellent habitat. Whitetails also prefer “\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_” or transition areas between fields and forests.
* White-tailed deer are a valuable, renewable, natural resource that must be managed

NAME\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_The Private Life of Deer

1. Whitetail deer have (good) or (poor) vision. They see (movement) or (detailed) images.
2. Whitetail deer mostly rely on the senses of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. To alert of whitetail deer of danger, deer will do what two things:
	* 1. a.
		2. b.
4. The habit whitetail deer like is called the \_\_\_edge\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, where \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ meet.
5. A century ago there were less than \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whitetail deer, now there are nearly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. The perfect habit for whitetail deer is the:
	1. suburbs
	2. cities
	3. rural forest
7. Cayuga Heights has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whitetail deer per square mile, but should have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ whitetail deer per square mile.
8. Are whitetail deer picky eaters?
9. Whitetail deer can jump \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ feet.
10. Whitetail deer have stomachs like:
	1. dogs
	2. cows
	3. sheep
11. What two times of day to whitetail deer prefer to be active?
12. What does a deer do when a light shines in their eyes at night?
13. How do bucks let other deer know they are in the neighborhood?
14. Why do bucks fight each other every fall?
15. Do female whitetail deer always get along with each other?
16. True or False Whitetail deer learn which threats are dangerous and how to get around them.
17. How did Key Deer evolve to look different than regular whitetail deer?
18. An albino deer lacks \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
19. Fawns are born without
	1. sight
	2. hearing
	3. scent