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AMERICAN BEAVER



GETTING TO KNOW...

THE AMERICAN BEAVER

Region & Habitat	Throughout U.S. rivers, lakes, marshes and ditches
Classification	Mammal
Size	Mass: 24 - 71 lbs, Length: 2.4 - 3 ft
Nocturnal or Diurnal	Primarily Nocturnal, but often active during daylight
Population	10-15 million in the wild
Average Lifespan	10 years
Gestational Period	128 days, litters size 2-5 kits
Diet	Herbivore
Scientific name	Catsor Canadensis
Fun Fact	Beavers have orange teeth! Their long incisors become orange from an iron-rich protective coating of enamel.

Beavers are thickset and are famous for their paddle-shaped tails, with short legs and large hind feet that are webbed. Their fur is waterproof and dense brown to tan in color, covered by coarse guard hairs. Known to be monogamous, beavers usually live in family groups of up to 8 related individuals called colonies. Their young stay for up to 2 years.

Beavers are well-known for building watertight dams made of sticks, reeds, branches, and saplings to modify their habitat. Their dams form slow-moving ponds that reduce stream erosion, help provide places for other wildlife to live, and can even create a fireproof refuge, protecting themselves and other animals from wildfires. Which is why they've been dubbed "North America's Best Firefighter".

Beavers communicate by vocalizations, posturing, and using scents, but one of their most important signals is the tail slap, used to alert others to find refuge in deep water. The beaver is a herbivore and enjoys woody stems, plants, and soft barks like poplar, aspen, willow, birch, and maple. They store branches during the winter on the floors of their lodges.

Beavers used to live in almost every year-round stream in North America and numbered in the millions. But demand for their fur catapulted, and they were trapped almost to extinction. Recently, beavers have made a comeback through reintroduction and natural expansion, but still many areas could benefit from more beavers to restore crucial wetland habitats.

WORD SEARCH

W R V V S V V G E H I E P J
W A T E R P R O O F H Z I X
C W F O Q N F H H D X F A Y
C C O U G L M A M M A L Z Q
R O U O R D J S N Y Z N Q Y
D L K C D H M A C B P Z G B
K O W V W M C S T E B O W N
T N U D Z I L V J A A I E P
M I Y F R Q A A Z V I P B A
O E O E A G K W Q E B L B A
F S M Y I Q E V W R A G E N
W A U I B R I V E R K I D P
Q P K K I X W A T E R J W V
Z P U X W O G Z T X V F V H

Beaver
American
Mammal

River
Lake
Webbed

Fur
Water
Wood

Tail
Colonies
Waterproof

CONNECT THE DOTS



SOLUTIONS





