



Nature Newsletter

Students Sharing Nature Knowledge



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Written and Illustrated
entirely by students

A Day In The Life: White-Tailed Deer

Wonderful Writer, 14 yrs.

FOREST, NC

This morning I woke up out of my bed made in the grass. I leapt down to the river to have a drink. On the way, I left a pile of scat to mark my territory. The water in the river was pleasant and chilly.

Then I went back to wake up my fawns so they would not miss the nice warm day. For breakfast we had grass, bark, and acorns.

My fawns and I decided to go on a nature walk for the day. We had no clue where we were going so we ended up at this long never-ending strange thing.

There were these bizarre things going down the long never-ending thing. Then there was this loud shrieking noise that came from one of the weird things coming down the long never-ending thing. I was so scared and I knew my fawns had to be. I told them to turn around and go back home and never to come back here again. They kill us deer, they don't even stop, and those big bright things blind us. Those humans don't even seem to care.

We made our way back deep into the woods for lunch; our meal was very tasty. We had leaves and water. That is one of my favorite meals ever.

After lunch my fawns wanted to finish going on the nature walk. It took me a while to tell them we could go, but finally I said "as long as we get back before dinner."

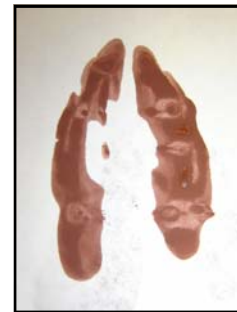
We made our way to the river to get a drink before we started out again. While we were getting a drink we noticed two of those humans, but this time they weren't in those bizarre fast things and they didn't have those things that have killed many of our kind. We decided to run into the woods just to be safe.



White Tailed Deer

Once we got into the woods I told my fawns to stay where we could still see the humans. I was so curious. They are fascinating creatures. Why would they want to kill our kind? What have we ever done to them?

After a little while had passed we decided to head home for the day. I was so happy when my fawns told me it was the most excellent day they had had in a long time!

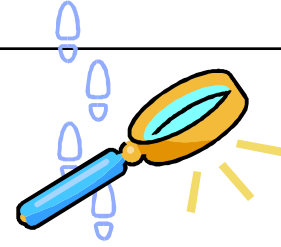


Deer Track Print
Courtesy of Mr. Natural Scientist

Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <i>Nature Detectives</i> | 2 |
| <i>Track Story: Bear and Beaver</i> | 3 |
| <i>The Blue Butterfly</i> | 3 |
| <i>Cloud of the Month</i> | 3 |
| <i>Nature Drawing</i> | 4 |

Calling All Nature Detectives!



WHO AM I?

1. I am the only marsupial native to North Carolina.
2. I am an omnivore.
3. I have a pointy nose, black leathery ears, gray/black fur and a hairless tail.
4. I am good at climbing, running and swimming; however, I am fairly slow.
5. I have 5 digits on my foot and one of them is opposable and similar to the human thumb.
6. I am nocturnal.
7. We breed twice a year from January to October.
8. I am known for "playing dead" when approached by predators.



My Footprints

WHO AM I?



One of My Footprints

1. I am usually found living in forests but am sometimes found in swamps and desert scrub.
2. I am around 6 feet long and I weight up to 300 pounds.
3. I have long thick fur, which is black or brown.
4. I enjoy swimming and climbing trees.
5. I cannot see very well; however, I have a good sense of smell.
6. Our mothers hibernate during the winter and give birth to 2 or 3 cubs.
7. I am an omnivore who eats plants, leaves, fruits, berries, nuts, roots, honey, insects, and other small mammals.
8. I am scared of Grizzly Bears and try to stay away from them.

Answers and Clues created
by Super Tracker

For More Information on these and other
animals, ask your fellow students!

1. Virginia Opossum 2. Black Bear

Track Story: Black Bears and Beavers

Beavervision Watcher

WOODS, NC One morning I woke up and I went outside in the woods. I found some bear tracks. I followed the bear tracks all the way through the woods. I saw some deer, I saw hunters, I saw a baby rabbit. I saw some rabbits eating carrots that they stole out of my mom's garden. The bear tracks went around a pond, and I saw a beaver. The beaver was chopping down a tree with its teeth. I saw a baby beaver swimming in the pond. I went in the pond with the baby beaver, and I hung onto its tail while it

was swimming (kids don't try this at home!). Then it took me into its beaver den, we swam under the water to get in. We went inside and watched Beavers Days of Our Lives and the Beaver Odd Parents on their beaver vision. After watching beaver vision I left the den to find more tracks. I swam across the pond and found more tracks on the other side. I walked part way into the woods and found 5 black bears eating blueberries.



*Print of Black Bear Track
Courtesy of Mr. Natural Scientist*

Animal Story: The Blue Butterfly

by Ms. Basketball Butterfly

I saw this butterfly outside my house. I was going to the store with my mom. It was in a blue rosebush in my garden. I was playing basketball and I watched it lay its eggs on a leaf on the rose bush. It was watching me play basketball.



*Illustration by
Ms. Basketball Butterfly*

After I finished playing basketball, I went to look at the eggs. In a few days the egg hatched and out came a caterpillar. The caterpillar became a pupa. The pupa is also called a chrysalis. The pupa becomes a blue butterfly.

Cotton Candy Cloud of the Month



**Airplanes cause
contrails high
in the sky**

*Sculpture, illustration and eating
by Mr. Creative Candy Cloud*

Artistic Impressions

by Fantastic Articulate Artist, 15 yrs



This is a lightening whelk shell. It can be found from Cape Cod to Georgia. I was inspired to draw this because of its fascinating curves and dark but interesting features. I added the two fragile sand dollars at the base of the whelk to create a realistic allusion of the beaches of the Carolina shore. Drawing this picture took me back to my home on the beaches of the NC Outer Banks, sitting on the cold, grainy textures of the sand, looking out at the endless sea that crashes with soothing, calming whispers.

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