



**Contributor:** Virginia E. Bates **Grade Level:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>

**1. Identify the standards to be addressed:**

2.K.LS1: From Molecules to Organisms: Structures and Processes

**2. Statement of the objective and lesson outcomes:**

Students will learn about native animals in Tennessee. After the lesson, students will be able to visually identify animals that are native to Tennessee.

**3. Materials, resources, and technology to be used by teacher/students:**

Materials, resources and technology to be used by teacher/students: Slideshow on animals, coloring sheet.

**4. Introduction of the topic:**

There are many native animals to Tennessee. Students will learn about the animals and be able to identify them as different from other animals.

**5. Procedure for instruction:**

Introduce topic, go over slideshow, complete activity on testing knowledge of native animal identification then color worksheets.

**6. Assessment of Understanding:**

Knowledge test at the end of slideshow.

# Native Tennessee Animals

# Bobcat

- The **bobcat** (*Lynx rufus*) is a medium-sized [cat](#) native to [North America](#). It is featured in some stories of the indigenous peoples of North and Central America and in the folklore of European-descended inhabitants of the Americas.



# Wild Boar

- The **Wild boar** (*Sus scrofa*) is a [suid](#) native to much of Eurasia and [North Africa](#). The species is now one of the widest-ranging mammals in the world, as well as the most widespread suiform. It has been assessed as the least concern on the IUCN Red List due to its wide range, high numbers, and adaptability to a diversity of habitats. It has become an invasive species in part of its introduced range.



# White-tailed Deer

- The **White-tailed deer** (*Odocoileus virginianus*) is a medium-sized [deer](#) native to the Americas where it is the most widely distributed wild ungulate. Texas is home to the most White-tailed deer of any U.S. state or Canadian province, with an estimated population of 5.3 million.



# North American River Otter

- The **North American river otter** (*Lontra canadensis*) is a semiaquatic mammal that lives along its waterways and coasts. It is the only river otter that is found north of Mexico. These animals live in burrows and like most predators, prey upon the most readily accessible species. They suffer greatly from habitat loss and are often captured for their fur. In the wild, they live only for 8-13 years but in captivity, their life expectancy can reach up to 25 years.





# Eastern Fox Squirrel

- The **Eastern fox squirrel** (*Sciurus niger*) is the largest species of tree squirrel native to [North America](#). Despite the differences in size and coloration, it is sometimes mistaken for [American red squirrels](#) or [Eastern gray squirrels](#) in areas where the species co-exist.



# Eastern Cottontail

- The **Eastern cottontail** (*Sylvilagus floridanus*) is a New World cottontail rabbit, a member of the family [Leporidae](#). It is the most common rabbit species in [North America](#).





# Southern Flying Squirrel

- The **southern flying squirrel** or the **assapan** (*Glaucomys volans*) is one of three species of the genus *Glaucomys* and one of three flying squirrel species found in [North America](#). It is found in deciduous and mixed woods in the eastern half of [North America](#), from southeastern [Canada](#) to [Florida](#). Disjunct populations of this species have been recorded in the highlands of [Mexico](#), [Guatemala](#), and [Honduras](#).



# Eastern Meadow Vole

- The **Eastern meadow vole** (*Microtus pennsylvanicus*) is a [North American](#) rodent. It is active year-round, usually at night. It also digs burrows, where it stores food for the winter and females give birth to their young.



# Eastern Elk

- The **eastern elk** (*Cervus canadensis canadensis*) is an extinct subspecies or distinct population of [elk](#) that inhabited the northern and eastern [United States](#), and southern [Canada](#). The last eastern elk was shot in [Pennsylvania](#) on September 1, 1877. The subspecies was declared [extinct](#) by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in 1880. Another subspecies of [elk](#), the Merriam's elk, also became extinct at roughly the same time.



# Eastern Elk Continued

- As of 2017, the IUCN has reclassified all North American elk subspecies aside from the [tule](#) and [Roosevelt](#) elk as *C. c. canadensis*. If this is accurate, this means that the subspecies is not extinct, and has returned to the eastern U.S. in the form of the [Rocky Mountain elk](#), introduced to the region in the 20th century.





# Common Snapping Turtle

- The **Common snapping turtle** (*Chelydra serpentina*) is a species of large freshwater [turtle](#). It is noted for its combative disposition when out of the water with its powerful beak-like jaws, and highly mobile head and neck (hence the specific epithet *serpentina*, meaning "[snake-like](#)"). In water, it is likely to flee and hide underwater in sediment. Lifespan in the wild is poorly known, but long-term mark-recapture data from Algonquin Park in Ontario, Canada, suggest a maximum age over 100 years.





# Let's Test Your Knowledge

elephant



Bobcat



Hippo



Common  
Snapping Turtle



Hamster



Dolphin



# Let's Test Your Knowledge

Eastern Meadow  
Vole



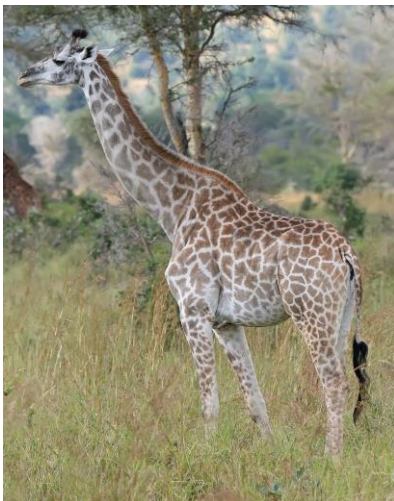
Shark



Eastern Fox  
Squirrel



Giraffe



Eastern Elk



Polar Bear





# Let's Test Your Knowledge

Southern Flying  
Squirrel



Panda



Monkey



Kangaroo



Eastern Cottontail



North American  
River Otter



# Sources

"Animals of Tennessee." *Animalia*, [animalia.bio/tennessee-region](https://animalia.bio/tennessee-region). Accessed 21 Sept. 2024.  
Google images