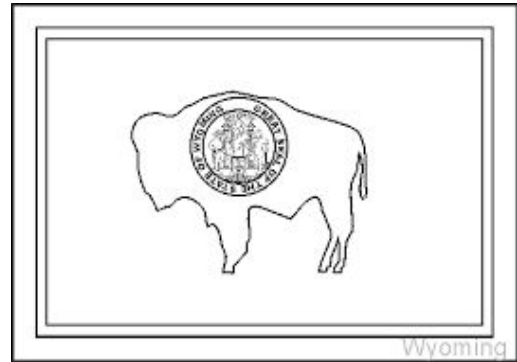




Wyoming Game & Fish Dept.

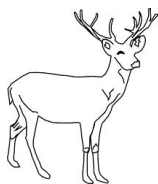
WYOMING WILDLIFE

Did you know that there are more animals than people in Wyoming? There are 120 different species of mammals in our state. The largest one is on our state flag! What animal do you think that is? _____ . Adult males weigh 1,600 pounds on average, and females average 1,000 pounds. You can color in the Wyoming State Flag and that giant animal right here!

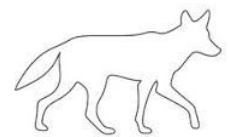


DID YOU KNOW...

You can find out a lot about what wildlife have been in an area by looking for tracks in the mud, dirt, or snow. Match the wildlife below to the tracks that they might leave:



Deer



Coyote



Grizzly Bear



Red Squirrel



Raccoon



Beaver

Having trouble matching animals to their tracks?

That's ok! It can be very tricky. Here are some hints to match these wildlife to their tracks:

- Beavers have webbed feet to help them swim better.
- Grizzly bears have *really* long claws- about 3 inches in real life!
- Coyote tracks look a lot like dog tracks, but are a little smaller.
- Deer have hooves.
- Squirrels have 4 toes on their front paws and 5 on their back paws.
- Raccoons have 5 toes on their front paws and 5 on their back paws.

Have you ever wondered why some wildlife have antlers or horns?

Antlers and horns come in all shapes and sizes. Typically, the larger the set of antlers or horns, the stronger the male is. Females choose a mate based on the size of their antlers or horns because it tells them who may have the best set of genes to pass on to their young.

Antlers vs. Horns

Animals that have horns are stuck with the same ones for life! The males and even some females grow them, and they never fall off. Horns are made of a material called keratin, which is the same material that your fingernails and hair are made of. Pronghorn antelope have a type of horn, but they are unusual because they fall off each year. Pronghorn horns have a bony core that is covered by a black, keratin cover. It is the keratin cover that falls off.

Antlers differ from horns in several ways. They grow mainly on male animals, and the males "drop" their antlers each year. This means that the antlers fall off each autumn. Antlers also branch into many points and are made of a bony matter. While antlers are growing in the springtime, they are covered in velvet, which is a layer of skin filled with blood vessels. These blood vessels provide vitamins and minerals to help the antlers grow. Once the antlers are finished growing, the velvet dries up and the animals rub it off. Next time you are out hiking, look for trees that animals have rubbed their antlers on. The trees may have the bark scraped off as a result.

WHO HAS ANTLERS IN WYOMING?

Elk



White-tail Deer



Mule Deer



Fun Fact: Take a look at the white-tail and mule deer antlers. One way to tell these species apart is by the branching pattern of their antlers. Mule deer typically branch multiple times, while white-tail deer have many spikes coming off of one main beam.

WHO HAS HORNS IN WYOMING?

Pronghorn Antelope



Mountain Goat



Bighorn Sheep

