

WILD TIMES

KIDS MAGAZINE

SPRING 2019



INSIDE:

Give baby animals space

What the heck is a lek?

Don't miss Wyoming
Free Fishing Day!

ACTIVITIES | LESSONS | INFORMATION | FUN

HABITAT CONNECTION

Baby animals — give them space!

Baby wildlife can be very cute, but it is important to remember these young ones and their parents need lots of space. Many people often see young animals alone in the wild and want to “save” them. The good news is they do not need to be saved at all! It is natural for many animals to leave their young tucked away by themselves for a long time while they hunt or graze. For example, deer fawns have white spots to blend in well in the shadows during the day and hardly have any scent so that other wildlife do not find them. Fawns naturally sit very still for hours, which means it is safer for the mother to leave them on their own while they find food. If people come close, wildlife parents may be too scared to come back and care for their young. If humans decide to “rescue” baby wildlife that seem abandoned, those baby wildlife could end up getting used to people and won’t be able to return to the wild where they belong.





Leks, like this one near Laramie, Wyoming, can have a few or hundreds of grouse during the spring sunrise dances.

What the heck is a lek?

The Game and Fish is very busy in the spring. Part of the work biologists and volunteers do each spring is count how many greater sage grouse gather together to breed at special areas called leks. Each spring, male sage grouse do a sunrise dance at leks to attract females. Leks are often found in open areas where the males can be better seen and heard by females. Because most of the male sage grouse in an area can be found at a lek, it is a good time to find out about how many sage grouse are in that area. Since lek

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department has guide on where to go find leks around Wyoming. It also includes tips to make sure that you do not bother the sage grouse at a lek.

counts have been happening in some parts of Wyoming since the late 1940's, the biologists can get a good idea about whether sage grouse numbers are going up or down.

March and April are the best time to visit a lek and see sage grouse. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department

has guide on where to go find leks around Wyoming. It also includes tips to make sure that you do not bother the sage grouse at a lek. The guide and can be viewed or downloaded from the Game and Fish website: <https://wgfd.wyo.gov/Habitat/Sage-Grouse-Management/Sage-Grouse-Lek-Viewing-Guide>

WILDLIFE PROFILES



American Robin (*Turdus migratorius*)

Range: Robins can be found anywhere in North America and live in Wyoming year-round.

Size: Robins are about 9 to 11 inches long with a wingspan of about 14 inches but only weigh about 2.5 ounces.

Habitat: Robins are active mostly during the day and can be spotted on lawns, in parks, in trees around town and around farm crop fields. They are one of the most commonly seen birds, so you can easily spot one if you look around enough!

Young: Robins build nests in trees in the early spring where they lay 3-5 eggs. After 11 to 14 days, the baby robins

(chicks) hatch and depend on their parents for the next two weeks until they leave the nest. Both parents feed young throughout their early life.

Predators: Robins can be eaten by hawks, cats and snakes.

Food: Robins like to eat caterpillars, millipedes, centipedes, beetles, earthworms, other insects and fruit.

Did you know? Young robins are often brought to Game and Fish offices after they have left their nests. It is best to leave these young alone; the parents are often nearby and actively feeding them, even when they look helpless on the ground.

WILDLIFE PROFILES



Greater Sage Grouse (*Centrocercus urophasianus*)

Range: Greater sage grouse live in sagebrush country in the Western United States and Southern Canada.

Size: Adult males range in length from 26 to 30 inches and weigh between 4 and 7 pounds. Adult females are smaller, ranging in length from 19 to 23 inches and weighing between 2 and 4 pounds.

Habitat: Greater sage grouse are obligate residents of the sagebrush ecosystem, which means that they only live in sagebrush habitats.

Young: A week or so after breeding, the hen builds a nest and lays 6 to 8 eggs.

The eggs hatch after about 26 days and chicks become independent from their mothers at 12 weeks of age.

Predators: Adult greater sage grouse are often eaten by coyotes, bobcats, American badgers, falcons, hawks and eagles. Greater sage grouse eggs are eaten by ground squirrels, American badgers, magpies and ravens.

Food: Sage grouse like to eat insects as well as sagebrush and other plants.

Did you know? The greater sage grouse is the largest species of grouse in North America.

AROUND WYOMING



Even after Wyoming Free Fishing Day on June 1, kids 14 and younger and residents of Wyoming can still fish without a license.

Enjoy Wyoming Free Fishing Day

Wyoming Free Fishing Day is June 1 this year, and it's a great day to kick off your summer fishing. On this day, anyone can fish for free without a license. After good moisture this winter, we have a lot of water in our fisheries statewide, and the fish are getting big.

Game and Fish invites you to go fishing or join us at a family fishing event for Free Fishing Day we're hosting around the state. Learn to

Just as a reminder — all fishing regulations, creel and size limits, gear restrictions and stream closures remain in effect on Free Fishing Day.

fish, brush up on your skills and learn more about where to fish. Follow the Wyoming Game and Fish Department Facebook page for more details.

Just as a reminder — all fishing regulations, creel and size limits, gear restrictions and stream closures re-

main in effect on Free Fishing Day. Anglers can review the regulations on the Game and Fish website before heading out. Even after Free Fishing Day, kids 14 and under who are residents of Wyoming can fish without a license.



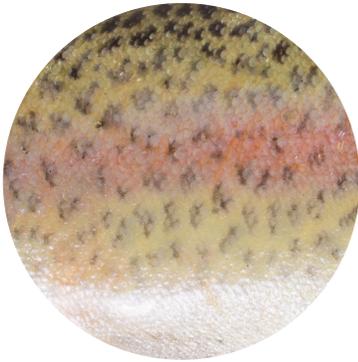
Head outdoors for a scavenger hunt

Head outdoors (with permission from your parents) to see if you can find everything on this springtime scavenger hunt!

- Something fuzzy**
- Two different kinds of seeds**
- Two pieces of human-made litter (and toss them in a trash while you're at it)**
- Something straight**
- Something round**
- Something smooth**
- Something rough**
- Two different shaped leaves**
- Something that makes noise**
- A leaf that has been chewed on**
- Something you think is pretty**
- Something green**
- A flower**

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

Wildlife have many different textures on their bodies. Some have fur, others have scales and some even have feathers. Can you match each texture pictured below with the animal it belongs to?



1.



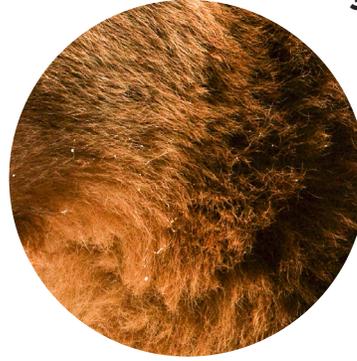
2.



3.



4.



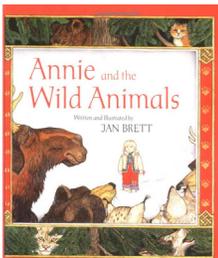
5.

Answers:

Answers: 1- Rainbow trout ; 2- American robin ; 3- Horned lizard ; 4- Deer fawn ; 5- Grizzly bear

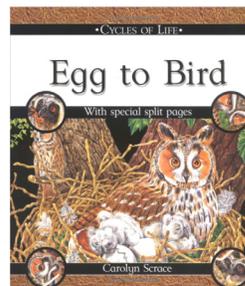
LEARNING LINKS

Books to check out



Annie and the Wild Animals by Jan Brett

When Annie's cat disappears, she attempts friendship with a variety of unsuitable woodland animals.



Egg to Bird by Carolyn Scrace

Through vivid illustrations and diagrams, the author details the life cycle of birds.



Volume 13, No. 2

Spring 2019

Editor/writer: Ashley Andersen Leonard

Design: Justin Joiner

Additional editors and contributors: Sara DiRienzo, Grant Frost

The Wyoming Game and Fish Department receives financial assistance in Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration. Under title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or disability. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility as described above, or if you desire further information please write to: Department of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Division of Human Resources, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail stop: 2000, Arlington, Virginia 22203.