



Activity Guide - Thinking like a deer

All animals have the same basic needs: Food, Water and Shelter. In order to survive, all animals must find a habitat (or home) that provides all of these things. That includes us! Sometimes, animals can find all these things in our communities. Understanding a bit more about a species' basic needs helps us to better understand human-wildlife conflict. Today, we will use deer as an example!

Your mission:

First, find an adventure buddy and head out to a natural area (a nearby park or a hiking trail out of town). As you walk, your mission is to think like a deer! You will be seeking out the basic things you (as a deer) must find to survive. Record all the examples of food, water and shelter you find on the worksheet. Once you've done this, you will be repeating the activity again in town. Invite your trusted adventure buddy out for another walk, this time around your neighbourhood or around your schoolyard. Once you get home, there are a few extra questions to answer about your experience.

Before you go:

In BC, we have three types of deer (white-tailed deer, mule deer and coastal black-tailed deer). All deer are **herbivores**, meaning they eat only plants. Preferred natural foods include grasses, shrubs and woody plants, but when in town, deer will often feed on flower gardens and fruit trees. As for shelter, deer need to find '**bedding areas**' where they feel safe and secure to rest. This usually means a quiet spot in the forest with lots of **concealment cover** (thick trees or bushes that allow animals to stay hidden from people and predators).

You'll need:

- A printed copy of this Activity Guide
- Clipboard
- Pencil
- Adventure partner

Safety first! Always bring an adventure partner with you (parents are great for this!) and pay attention to your surroundings (stay on marked trails in the woods and watch for cars in town).

Thinking like a deer

Junior Ranger Name: _____

Hometown: _____ **Date:** _____

1. Record all potential deer foods, water sources and shelter that you see during your walk in a natural area:

| Thinking like a Deer in the wild... | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Food | |
| Water | |
| Shelter | |

2. Record all examples of potential deer foods, water sources and shelter that you see during your walk in town:

| Thinking like a Deer in town... | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Food | |
| Water | |
| Shelter | |

3. Did you see or hear anything that might frighten a deer?

In the wild: _____

In town: _____

4. Which area do you think offered the best habitat for a deer? _____

5. Can you think of any problems with deer living in town (Examples of human-deer conflict)?