

Eastern Cottontail Rabbit

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Sylvilagus floridanus*

TYPE: Mammals

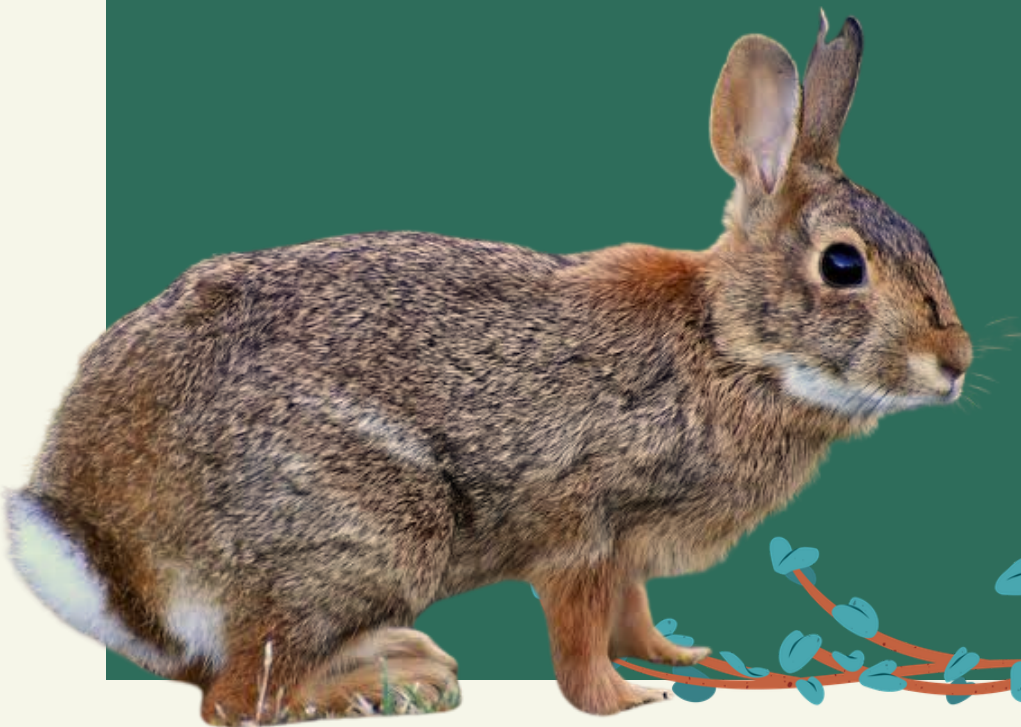
DIET: Herbivore

SIZE: 15.5 to 18.75 inches

WEIGHT: 1 to 4 pounds

Fun Facts!

- Their excellent sense of smell helps them stay safe!
- They have about 100 MILLION scent receptors in their noses, which they twitch to expose as many of the scent receptors as possible to sniff out danger.
- An eastern cottontail rabbit can twitch its nose between 20 to 120 times a minute.



Groundhog

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Marmota monax*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivore

SIZE: Head and body: 17.75 to 24 inches, tail: 7 to 9.75 inches

WEIGHT: 13 pounds

Fun Facts!

- Also known as woodchucks, groundhogs spend much of their days alone, foraging for plants and grasses and digging burrows up to 66 feet long.
- Groundhogs excavate complex underground tunnel systems that can span up to 20 feet deep and 700 feet long, moving up to 700 pounds of dirt in the process.
- Their abandoned tunnels are frequently used by other wildlife like rabbits and chipmunks, while their digging helps aerate and fertilize the soil.



Eastern Grey Squirrel

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Sciuridae

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Omnivore

SIZE: 5 to 36 inches

WEIGHT: 1 to 1.5 pounds

Fun Facts!

- Newborn eastern gray squirrels don't have fur when they are born and are not able to see.
- They leave the nest by around ten to twelve weeks old and they become fully grown by around nine months.
- Black squirrels aren't a distinct species; they are eastern gray squirrels born with a genetic mutation that causes an excess of dark pigment (melanin). Because their dark fur absorbs and retains heat much better than gray fur, they possess a survival advantage that helps them easily endure cold Ontario winters.



White-Tailed Deer

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Odocoileus virginianus*

TYPE: Mammals

DIET: Herbivore

AVERAGE LIFE SPAN IN CAPTIVITY: 6 to 14 years

SIZE: 6 to 7.75 feet

WEIGHT: 110 to 300 pounds



Fun Facts!

- Their stomachs allow them to digest a varied diet, including leaves, twigs, fruits and nuts, grass, corn, alfalfa, and even lichens and other fungi.
- They occasionally venturing out in the daylight hours, but white-tailed deer are primarily nocturnal or crepuscular, browsing mainly at dawn and dusk.



Garter Snake

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Thamnophis sirtalis*

TYPE: Reptile

DIET: Carnivore

SIZE: Average length: 22 inches, max length: 54 inches

WEIGHT: 2.6 to 5.3 ounces

Fun Facts!

- Garter snakes live in every Canadian province.
- They are also found across Mexico, Guatemala, and Costa Rica.
- Long thought to be completely harmless, scientists discovered garter snakes actually produce a mild neurotoxic venom in their saliva. While it is perfect for subduing small prey like frogs or slugs, it is harmless to humans—though it might cause minor swelling if they bite.



Ladybug

SCIENTIFIC NAME: Coccinellidae

TYPE: Invertebrates

DIET: Omnivore

SIZE: 0.3 to 0.4 inches

WEIGHT: 0.0007 to 0.0035 ounces

Fun Facts!

- Ladybugs are colorful for a reason. Their markings tell predators: "Eat something else! I taste terrible."
- When threatened, the bugs will secrete an oily, foul-tasting fluid from joints in their legs.
- They sometimes also play dead when they feel threatened.
 - Ladybugs have special receptors on their feet and antennae that allow them to detect scents.



Earthworm

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Lumbricus terrestris*

TYPE: Invertebrates

DIET: Herbivore

SIZE: 2 to 14 inches

WEIGHT: 0.01 to 0.39 ounces

Fun Facts!

- Earthworms' bodies are made up of ringlike segments called annuli. These segments are covered in setae, or small bristles, which the worm uses to move and burrow.
- Earthworms have no lungs and breathe directly through their skin. Because they need to stay moist to absorb oxygen, they emerge from their burrows after rainstorms to avoid suffocating in waterlogged soil.
- A single earthworm has 5 pairs of hearts (10 total), is both male and female, and has no eyes



Monarch Butterfly

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Danaus plexippu*

TYPE: Invertebrates

DIET: Herbivore

SIZE: Wingspan, 3.7 to 4.1 inches

WEIGHT: 0.0095 to 0.026 ounces



Fun Facts!

- Every fall, as cold weather approaches, millions of these delicate insects leave their home range in Canada and the United States and begin flying south.
- They continue until they reach Southern California or central Mexico, which is nearly 4000 km away!
- They are naturally poisonous: Monarch caterpillars exclusively eat milkweed, ingesting toxins that remain in their bodies into adulthood, making them taste terrible and toxic to predators.