Wildlife on WiFi

Celebrate PA Mammals - Elk!
Weekly Lesson Plan
About *Wildlife on WiFi*

*Wildlife on WiFi* ("WoW") seeks to connect Pennsylvania residents to their state’s wildlife from anywhere. To achieve this, WoW provides innovative online learning opportunities, virtual lessons and educational resources about wildlife and its conservation.

The *Wildlife on WiFi* online education hub features 50 lessons, activities, videos, story time readings, watchable wildlife livestreams, and more!

**To connect with *Wildlife on WiFi***

*Wildlife on WiFi* is available online at [http://bit.ly/PGCWInlifeOnWiFi](http://bit.ly/PGCWInlifeOnWiFi)

For questions or to schedule a virtual lesson, please contact [wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov](mailto:wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov).
About *Wildlife on WiFi* Weekly Lesson Plans

*Wildlife on WiFi* weekly lesson plans provide day-by-day activities to keep children learning, thinking, and getting outside! Designed for K – 6 grades, these plans can be adapted by educators to suit their needs and grade levels.

Educators and parents may find them ideal to support at home and virtual learning, but they may also be used during regular in-person or partial in-person teaching.

Live virtual lessons from a Game Commission educator are a great way to cap off a wildlife week. To inquire about a virtual lesson, please contact [wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov](mailto:wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov).
Overview: Elk are Pennsylvania’s largest mammal! This weekly lesson plan encourages students to learn all about Pennsylvania Elk while reinforcing observational skills, critical thinking, and core conservation, environment, and science concepts. Activities generally suitable for K – 6 with teacher adaptations based on age and teaching objectives.

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Day 1 Activities

Begin the week having students learning all about elk. Students should read the elk wildlife note and highlight 3-5 facts they find interesting. After students have had a chance to read about elk, they can learn how elk arrived into Pennsylvania in 1913 by completing this worksheet.

Students may find it helpful to visualize places where elk live. Have students search “Winslow Hill Elk Viewing Area” in Google Maps and select “satellite” view. They should see an aerial view of fields and forests where elk live in Elk County, Pennsylvania.

Elk coloring page

Access activities and resources by clicking the links in blue above.
Day 2 Activities

Students follow the trail of restoring elk to Pennsylvania by watching *Elk: Celebrating 100 Years* video. Following the video, lead a discussion about wildlife and the colonization of Pennsylvania, reintroduction of elk into Pennsylvania, and elk conservation and management using this *question and answer guide* pages 33-38).

Video update: The current elk population is estimated to be around 1350 elk.

*Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.*
Day 3 Activity

Does an elk’s diet differ in the summer versus the winter? What is bull behavior like in the fall? Students answer these questions and more as they learn about elk behavior through the seasons and their adaptations that help them survive in this lesson plan.

Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.
Day 4 Activities
Following the video, use this lesson plan to allow students to explore the digestive system of an elk by placing the organs of the digestive system in order and completing the student worksheet.

Access activities by clicking the links in blue above.
Day 5: Elk Smart Judging Distance

**Day 5 Activities**

Several hundred thousand people visit the small town of Benezette, Pennsylvania for a chance to view wild elk. Students can learn how to view wildlife (elk) responsibly by researching the Game Commission’s *Elk Smart* campaign. Have student visit the [Elk Smart page](#) and watch this [short video](#) to answer the following 4 questions:

1. What is Elk Smart?
2. How far away should people stay from elk?
3. List two reasons why you should never feed elk.
4. What should you do if you see someone acting carless around elk?

**Activity:** Have students measure 100 yards from a starting point. At the 100-yard mark have students place an object. Have students return to the starting point and look at the object placed to gain a sense of how far away 100 yards is. Or place several objects at different distances from a starting point, with one object 100 yards away. Have students guess what object is 100 yards away. Give students the correct answer.

*Access activities or resources by clicking the links in blue above.*

To cap off the week, consider a virtual *All About Elk* lesson from a Game Commission educator. To inquire, please contact [wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov](mailto:wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov).
Thank You!

Questions or Comments? Let us know at wildlifeonwifi@pa.gov.