

Guide to New York mammals



a free coloring book for young scientists



shutterbug science

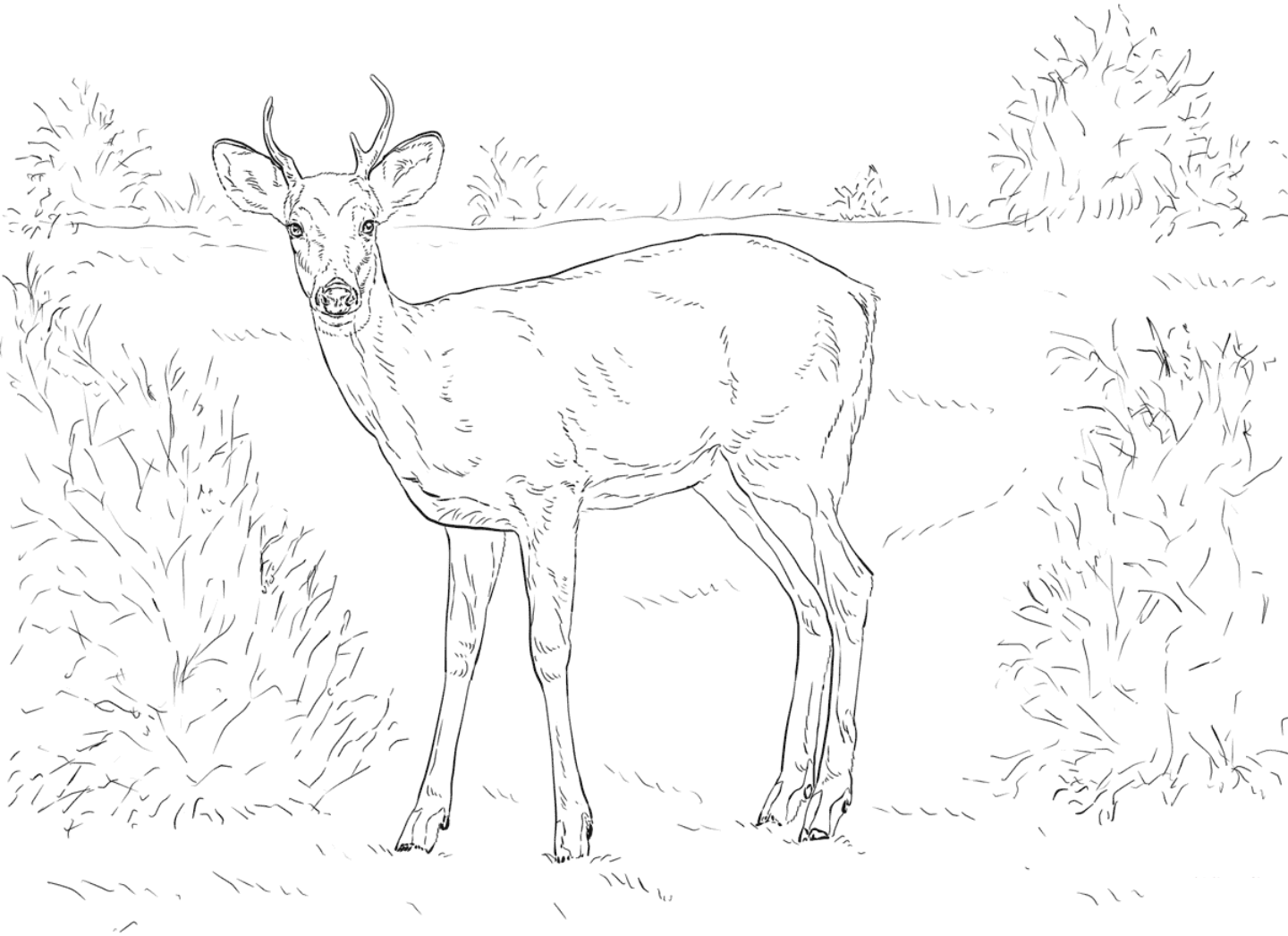
Do you Love animals? Do you want to Learn more about the WILD animals that Live in your state? If so, we hope you'll have fun reading and coloring this book!

We're anthropologists in the Markham Lab at stony Brook university. We study monkeys and apes in Places far from New York, Like chimpanzees in Tanzania. We also enjoy watching the WILDLife in our own backyard!

Did you know New York is home to a Lot of exciting animals? You Don't always have to travel far to see something interesting and new!



white-tailed Deer



The white-tailed deer, named for the white color underneath its tail, lives in and near forested areas.

Its coat is reddish-brown in summer but becomes grayish-brown in winter. Male deer grow antlers every year. The males use their antlers when fighting each other during the mating season.

Raccoon



The raccoon is known for the black mask around its eyes. With a reputation for mischief, raccoons are most active during the night. They are **omnivores** and eat a wide variety of foods including insects, worms, fruits, and nuts. They are intelligent and curious animals with a well-developed sense of touch.

chipmunk



Chipmunks are small, striped rodents. They gather food like nuts and berries on the ground. While out **foraging**, they carry food in their cheeks like hamsters.

When alarmed, they give a shrill chirp. Chipmunks typically live alone in burrows. They store food in their burrows when preparing for the cold winter months.

OPOSSUM



Opossums are **marsupials**. They have silver-gray fur and long pink tails. When a opossum is attacked, it may first hiss and show the **predator** its teeth. Next, it may stay very still and pretend to be dead. We call this behavior “playing opossum”. Opossums are **omnivores** but they eat mostly fruits and grasses.

GRAY TREE SQUIRREL



Gray tree squirrels **forage** primarily on nuts, seeds, and fruits. They have white underbellies and gray or brown backs and bushy tails. These squirrels build large nests, usually in the forked branches of trees. They are one of the few North American mammals that can descend head first down a tree.

FLYing SQUIRREL



Flying squirrels do not really fly, but instead can glide very gracefully from one tree branch to another. Extra skin connecting their wrist and ankle helps with this gliding, acting much like a parachute. Flying squirrels are **nocturnal** and hide in tree cavities during the day.

Beaver



Beavers are large, **semi-aquatic** rodents. They are skilled builders, constructing dams and lodges on small streams and rivers. They have large, flat tails. When startled, a frightened beaver slaps the water surface with its tail before it dives to safety. This slap may alarm a **predator** and warn other beavers of danger.

Groundhog



The groundhog – also known as a woodchuck – lives along the edges of forests and in open clearings. They generally stay close to their burrows, which they hide in when threatened and defend aggressively from intruders. Groundhogs are **herbivores** – grasses make up the majority of their diet.

Red fox



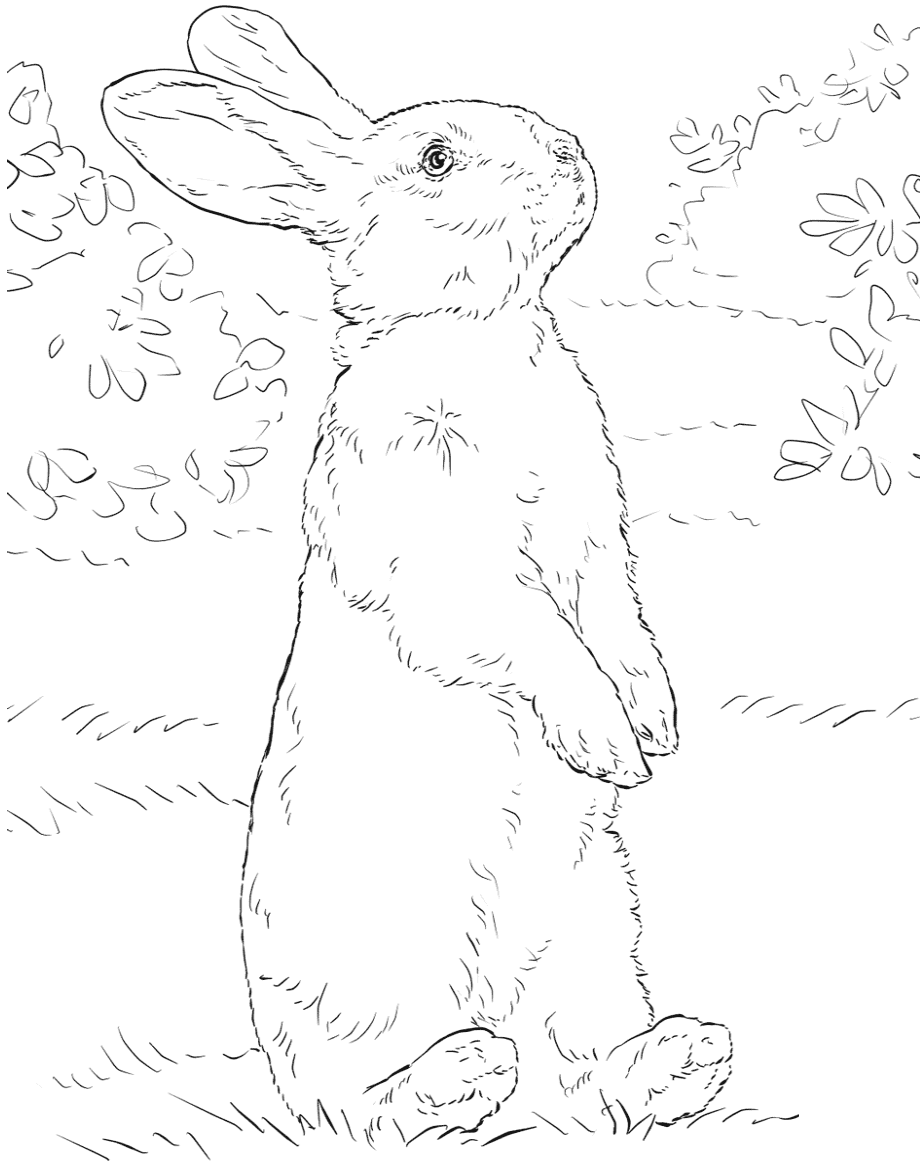
The red fox is the largest and most common of the North American foxes. They are skilled hunters but also eat fruits and grasses. They communicate with each other through **vocalizations** and ear and tail movements. Red foxes live in family groups made up of a male, female, and their young offspring.

STRIPED SKUNK



Striped skunks are mostly black, but they have two bright white stripes down their backs. They are primarily **insectivores** and live in wooded areas. Their best defense is to spray **predators** with a strong smelling fluid. Stand back if you see a skunk!

Eastern cottontail rabbit



Cottontail rabbits are known for their short white tails that look like cotton balls. Fast speed, quick turning, and very sensitive hearing are their primary defenses against **predators**. A **vigilant** rabbit may sit upright while listening for danger, but will run if attacked.

Eastern mole



Eastern moles are well adapted for a life under ground. Though they have poor eyesight, they are strong diggers with large hands and powerful arms. They are usually gray with pink faces and hands. Earthworms are one of their favorite foods, but they also eat slugs, snails, grubs, and ants.

Definitions

Forage – Search for food.

Herbivore – An animal that eats only plants.

Insectivore – An animal that eats only insects.

Marsupial – A kind of mammal that carries its young in a pouch. Well known marsupials from Australia include kangaroos and koalas.

Nocturnal – An animal that is most active at night.

Omnivore – An animal that eats a wide variety of food items.

Predator – An animal that eats other animals.

Semi-aquatic animal – An animal that spends some of its time in the water and some of its time on land.

Vigilant – Keeping watch or guard for danger.

Vocalization – A calls, song, grunt, or other sound that an animal makes to communicate with others.

