WILDSAFE RANGERS

think like a deer

All animals have the same basic needs in order to survive: Food, Water, Shelter, and Space.
All animals need a habitat (a home) that can provide these basic needs. Understanding a bit more about a species basic needs help us better understand human-wildlife conflicts. Today we are going to use deer as an example!

before you go!

In BC, we have three species 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).

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.

what you will need
• Clipboard or something hard to write on
• An adventure partner • Pencil
• Printed copy of this Activity Guide

optional
• Binoculars
• Field Guide
• Camera

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).*

Think like a deer

WildSafe Ranger Name: _____

Home Town: _____ **Date:** _____

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

Think like a deer in the wild

Food	
Water	
Shelter	

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

Think 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)?

_____

*When you're done, take a photo or scan this page and submit it to **bc**@wildsafebc.com (ask a parent to help!)