

Elk Country

WPSU Virtual Field Trip Teacher Guide



For Grades: 1st – 6th

Duration: 3 class sessions

Objectives:

- Describe physical and behavioral animal adaptations unique to Pennsylvania wildlife.
- Explain the importance of conserving natural resources.

Contents:

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Discover the wilds of Pennsylvania by visiting the Keystone Elk Country Alliance, a conservation education center located in Benezette, Pennsylvania.

Explore the Elk Country Visitor Center and learn about Pennsylvania wildlife – all without leaving the classroom.

Elk Country Field Trip Kit Visual Inventory

Constellation Projector

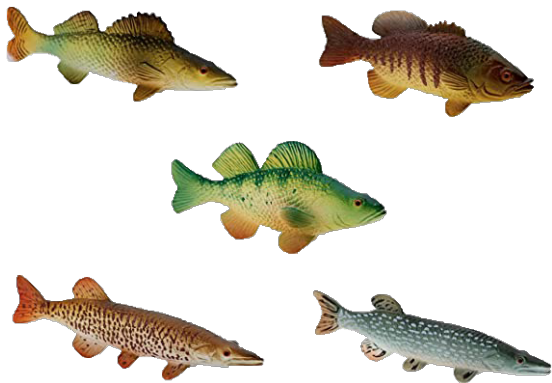


*** This activity requires the following additional materials: dark construction paper or card stock**

K'nex



Northern Fish Replicas

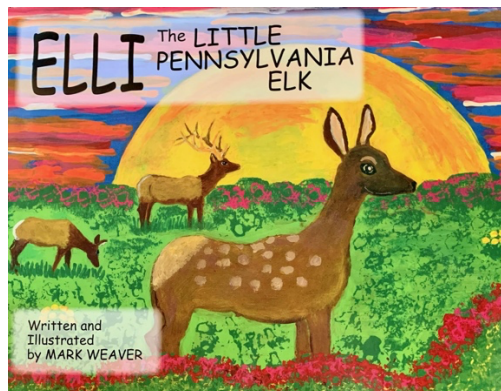


*** This activity requires the following additional materials: chalk or crayons and paper**

Animal Tracks Stones



Elli the Little Pennsylvania Elk Book



Classroom Activity Guide

Constellation Projector

Use the projector template in the Teacher Guide to cut out specific sized strips on construction paper, then using a pencil or similar sharp object, have students poke stars into the paper as they copy from the constellation guides.

K'nex

Discover the history of the [Kinzua Bridge State Park](#), then try to replicate the bridge and test its stability against wind and other natural elements!

Northern Fish Replicas

Place paper over the fish and use chalk or crayons to rub over the mold to create individual prints.

Animal Track Stones

Take the prints outside to create animal tracks in various surfaces like dirt and sand. What happens if they go through a puddle? Create animal paths and have students track down the culprit! Have students match the animal to the track.

Virtual Field Trip Website

Scan this code to find the Teacher Guide online to be able to access the resource links included in this document



Constellation Projector Demo Video

Scan this code to find a video demonstrating how to create constellation film and install into the projector for display



Plan Your Trip!

B E F O R E

KWL Chart [Assessment]: Use the included KWL chart to help students assess what they “Already Know” and “What they Wonder” about Pennsylvania wildlife and conservation practices. Use their answers to help guide a discussion prior to the field trip and identify areas of interest to explore and research together.

Guiding Questions:

- Name some animals native to Pennsylvania.
- What do you know about Elk?

Hiding in Plain Sight activity: Use this [PBS LearningMedia](#) Plum Landing video to learn how plants and animals are interdependent. Follow up with some standards based fun science activities!

1. Discuss the observations and inferences made in the Plum Landing video.
2. Use this [Lesson Plan](#) to play predator-versus-prey games.
3. Use the *Pasta Prey* activity to help your students understand how camouflage helps prey escape predators.

As a class, discuss what your students learned about ecosystem dynamics.

It's Field Trip Day! Start your trip by going over the different animals and plants found in Pennsylvania with your students and having them predict what they will learn. Then as a class, or in small groups, travel through the locations to see images, read descriptions, and watch videos. Have your students take notes and draw observations based on the questions below:

- Where did Rocky Mountain Elk originate?
- Why is it important that we preserve this species?
- What are some of the unique physical characteristics of elk?
- How do elk survive the winter? What do they eat?

Once you have explored the Elk Country educational materials, discuss as a class how you can do your part to keep Pennsylvania wild.

D U R I N G

Plan Your Trip!

A F T E R

KWL Chart [Assessment]: Complete the KWL chart you began before the trip by directing students to fill-in the “What I Learned” column.

- Discuss as a class what new things they learned.
- Discuss if there was anything that they thought they knew before the field trip that was not quite correct and how the field trip helped to clear up the misconceptions.
- Discuss any questions that students may still have.

Classroom Extensions

Exploration: Identify a Pennsylvania State Park in your community by visiting the [Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources](#) website to see what is near you.

Expert: Contact the Keystone Elk Country Alliance to schedule a Distance Learning Experience or an in-person field trip:

Ben Porkolab, Conservation Education Coordinator

ConEd@KECAUS.com

814-787-5173

<https://experienceelkcountry.com>

Experience: Request your WPSU [Elk Country Classroom Activity Kit](#) from your local Intermediate Unit (IU) Lending Library to extend the Field Trip experience.

Camouflage [Activity]: Turn your classroom into a fawn nursery and have your students hide ‘fawns’ around the room. Fawns have spots to hide them from predators. Have your students create unique camouflage patterns on their fawns to hide among your classroom decorations.

- Provide each student with a [cut out fawn](#).
- Have students color their fawns to hide around the room. Invite another class in to see if they can find the cards.
- Tip: Encourage students to use at least 3 colors when decorating their cards.



At-Home Extension

Watch & Create [Activity]: Learn about the [oviparous animals](#), and then create a birdfeeder for your backyard.

- Gather your materials: cardboard tube, any nut butter or lard, string, and bird seed.
- Cut a hole in the top of your cardboard tube and thread string through it to hang.
- Smear your peanut butter or lard on the cardboard roll.
- Roll your cardboard in bird seed.
- Hang it up near a window where you can watch the birds feast! *(An example of the activity begins at [16:00 on the video](#).)*



Additional Resources

Grades K-5

- [Wild Kratts: Cats & Dogs](#) [Game]: Encourage students to learn about domesticated animal behaviors with this engaging interactive from PBS Kids.
- [Animal Mistaken Identity Guessing Game](#) [Activity]: Practice scientific observation with this activity challenging students to identify animals that have similar characteristics.

Grades 6-8

- [Careers in Wildlife](#) [Video & Reading]: Explore the many careers available conserving wildlife. Learn about training and volunteer opportunities in this worthwhile field.
- [Bird Beak Adaptations](#) [Media Collection]: Use these detailed photographs to explore how eight species of birds use their unique beak structures to thrive in the wild.

Grades 9-12

- [Human Impact on Wildlife](#) [Lesson Plan]: Discover the different ways humans impact habitat and wildlife through a media-rich lesson plan from *NATURE*.
- [Conservation and Public Policy](#) [Video and discussion questions]: Learn how conservation legislation shapes our environment and how you can get involved in the decision making.

Standards Alignment

- Science and Technology and Engineering Education:
 - 3.1.3.A3 Illustrate how plants and animals go through predictable life cycles that include birth, growth, development, reproduction, and death. (PA)
 - 3.1.3.C2 Describe animal characteristics that are necessary for survival. (US)
- Career Education and Work:
 - 13.1. Career Awareness and Preparation (A, C, E, & H)
 - 13.3. Career Retention and Advancement (B, C)

Feedback

We would greatly appreciate your feedback as we continue to develop and improve upon this program. Please consider taking this short survey.

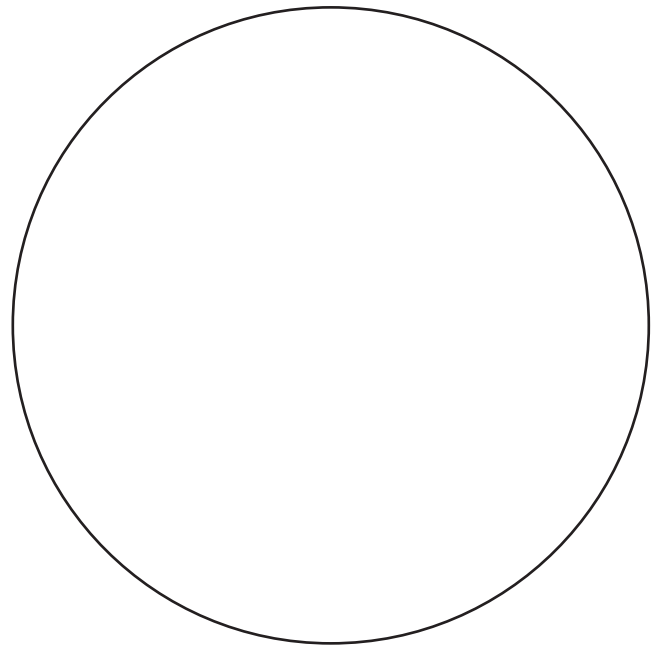
Thank you!

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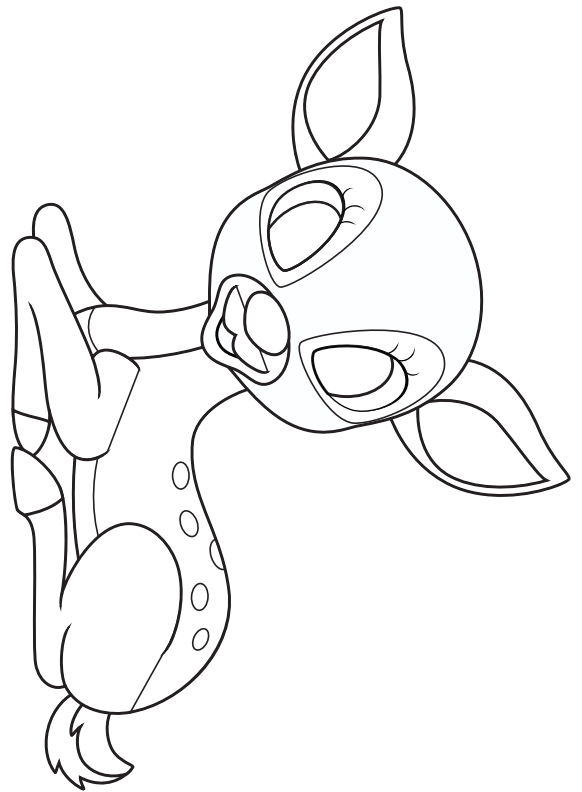
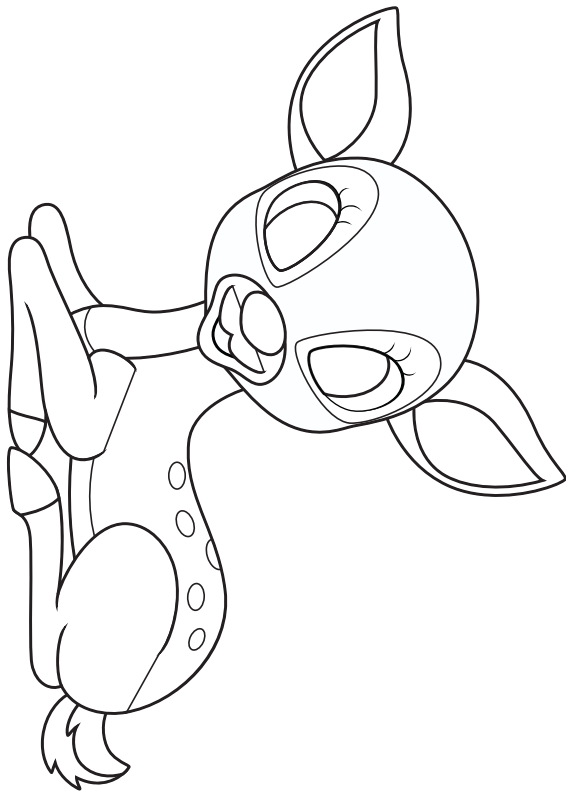
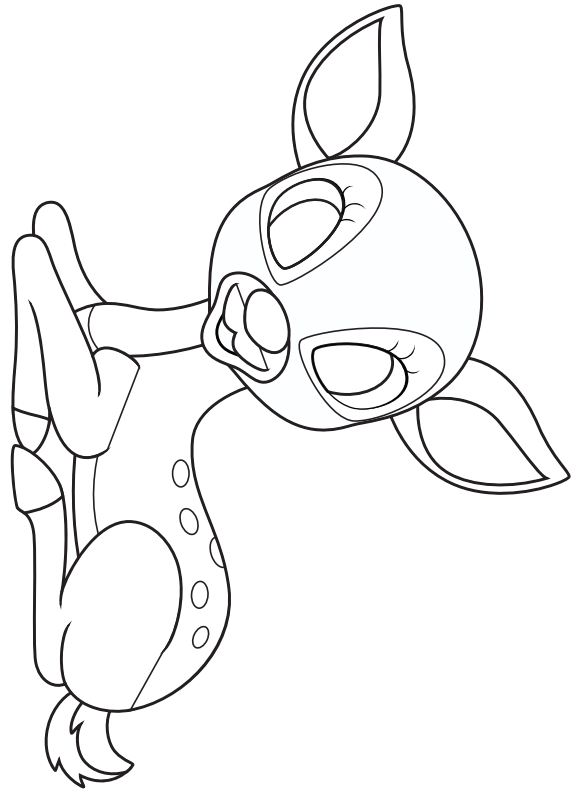
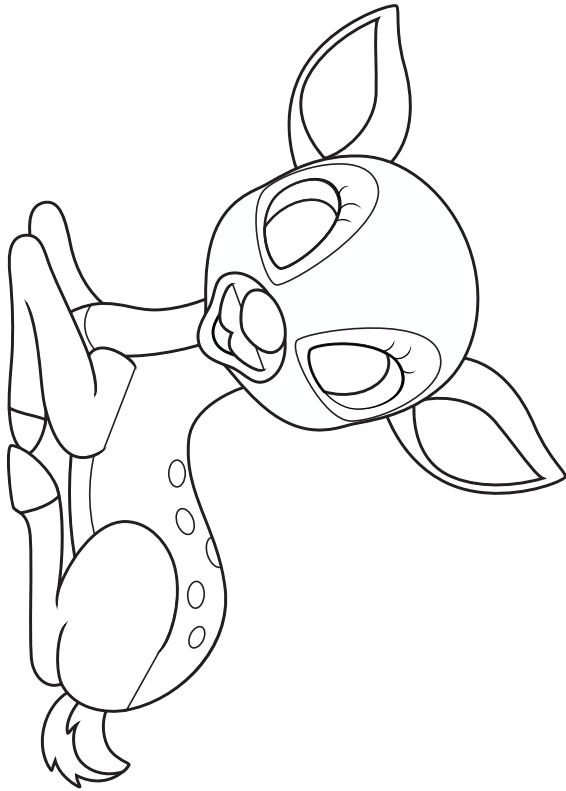
Projector Constellation Map Templates

How to use this template:

1. Make at least several copies of this page and cut out the shapes to share with your students as stencils.
2. Have students use the shapes to trace them on their construction paper or card stock and cut out the shapes for themselves.
3. Students can draw constellations onto the circle and rectangle, using the provided constellation map, and then poke holes through to allow the light to shine through when they place the pieces into the projector.

Share constellation stories and patterns with your students using this [informational sheet](#) from PBS Kids for Parents and Ready Jet Go!

Camouflage Activity: Fawn Cutouts



*Image adapted from [Nature Vectors By Vecteezy](#)

WPSU





WPSU Virtual Field Trip KWL Chart



Name _____

Date _____

What I <u>Know</u>	What I <u>Wonder</u>	What I <u>Learned</u>

Career Readiness Portfolio Artifact

Name _____ Grade _____

Teacher _____ School _____

Virtual Field Trip Taken: _____

Which Career Education and Work Standard did the Field Trip or related activity align with?

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ Career Awareness and Preparation (learning about a new skill or type of work or career)
- ☐ Career Acquisition (learning skills to attain a career)
- ☐ Career Retention and Advancement (learning how to run a business, market, and/or create a new idea to solve a problem)
- ☐ Entrepreneurship (learning how to run a business, advertise, and have a new idea)

What did you learn or find interesting on this field trip?

Something I want to learn more about:

This field trip was: ☐ Awesome! ☐ Somewhat interesting ☐ Not the best