

## Mighty Moose

Catching a glimpse of a magnificent Moose grazing beside highways in Canada is a treat for motorists. However, finding one in the woods is a lot less common. Moose are known to be very difficult to track. Locating hoof prints or finding dropped antlers are your best bet in finding out whether the stealthy beast has been in an area. The first step in finding moose is looking in the right location - where they forage.

Moose nip off 15 to 20 kilograms of twigs daily in the winter, leaving rough, shredded tips.

They consume 25 to 30 kilograms of forage on summer days; mainly twigs, shrubs, leaves and upland plants.

When forage is hard to find, they'll scrape the bark off trees to feed on.

**Looking for more information on Moose? check out our website for fact sheets at: [www.ontwf.org/backyard](http://www.ontwf.org/backyard)**

## Moose Facts:

- In North America, Moose are the largest member of the deer family.
- A bull's antlers grow each summer. They are soft with velvety skin, then harden by late September when they rub the velvet off against tree trunks.
- Each year, antlers are shed in November or December and another, slightly larger set begins to grow in the middle of the next summer.
- The flap of skin that hangs beneath a moose's throat is called a bell.
- Moose live in every Canadian province.
- Moose are very good swimmers and can easily swim up to 16 kilometres.
- Moose can swim as fast as two men paddling a canoe, and can run up to 56 km/h on land.
- The word moose comes from the Algonquin word mooswa, which means "twig-eater."
- Moose can feed under water.
- Moose can dive more than five metres for food on a lake bottom.

## World Fisheries Day: November 21st, 2016

World Fisheries Day was established in 1998 to draw attention to marine life and the health of our earth's oceans, lakes and rivers. It brings to light the issues of overfishing, habitat destruction, pollution, global warming and other serious threats.

Check and see if your local school is participating in classroom activities to celebrate this day which helps our youth learn how to help make a difference in the health of our aquatic ecosystems and all the species that call it home.

Check in your community to see what you can take part in, or set up your own rallies, workshops, exhibitions or public meetings and show support for the importance of water and the lives it sustains.

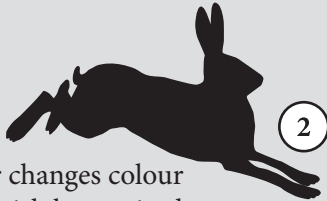
Collectively we can find solutions to the problems that threaten our waterways. Get hooked on World Fisheries Day this November 21.



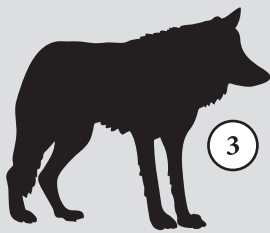
## Name that species

Using the clues and the silhouettes shown below, name these species:

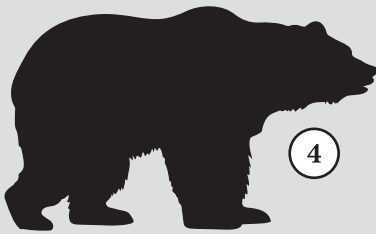
The national symbol of Canada, representing our country for over 300 years.



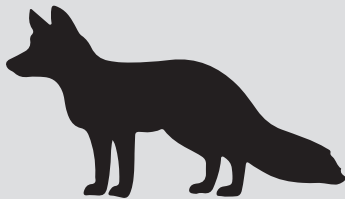
Their fur changes colour from greyish brown in the summer, to white in the winter.



At birth, their eyes are blue, but turn to yellow when they are approximately 8 weeks of age.



These omnivores tend to shuffle along slowly when walking, but are able to run at speeds of around 40-50 km/hr. However, they cannot maintain this pace for long.



This species is found in all of Canada's provinces and territories, making them one of the country's most wide-spread mammals.

Answers:  
1. Beaver  
2. Hare  
3. Grey Wolf  
4. Black Bear  
5. Red Fox

## Why Bat Boxes?

Bat houses give female bats a safe, warm place to raise their young. Bats typically only have one pup each year, so populations are slow to grow and, with increasing habitat loss, bats are finding it harder to find places to roost and to raise their young.

By installing a bat house, you give these pups a chance to survive and for populations to be healthy. A healthy bat population means we can use fewer pesticides on our plants, thanks to their diet, which consists of a variety of insects including: mosquitoes, tipulid, moths, wasps and other flying insects.

### How MUCH do they eat?

On average bats eat 1,000 insects per night, or half their body weight. A small colony of bats can eat over one ton of insects in one year, or more than 600 million bugs.



Bat boxes are available for purchase at a variety of retailers, or you can find building plans online to make your own!

### Picking a location

- Needs warmth from the sun.
- 15 - 18 feet from the ground - easy to fly in and out while also restricting predators.
- Within quarter mile of water.
- Install on a pole, the side of building, or a standalone tree.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph is a 2015 and 2016 OWF grant recipient, receiving funding to help implement their environ-mentoring program.



Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph

## ENVIRON-MENTORING

ENVIRON-MENTORING PROGRAM

*"A group program whereby our "Bigs" (volunteer mentors) and "Littles" (child mentees) learn about nature, wildlife, and their surroundings. At the same time, they are nurturing the mentor relationship that the Bigs and Littles have built. Environ-Mentoring provides environmental and conservation education to youth who otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity, fostering a sense of responsibility in children, helping them develop leadership and communication skills, and improving their confidence."*

The goal of this program is to nurture an understanding of environmental and conservation issues in the youth participating in the program. Children have the opportunity to attend a variety of sessions intended to offer hands-on, curriculum-based outdoor education classes. Each year, the Grand River Conservation Authority provides environmental and outdoor education programs to over 50,000 children from the Guelph community. Their staff is made up of trained nature interpreters with a passion for kids and environmental education.






They have gone snowshoeing, canoeing and caving. They have studied birds, water habitats, and winter wildlife, and have learned about GPS navigation. The Environ-Mentoring Program has been such a success that we wish to run it as long as we can, for the benefit of new children who will be supported by mentoring through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Guelph.



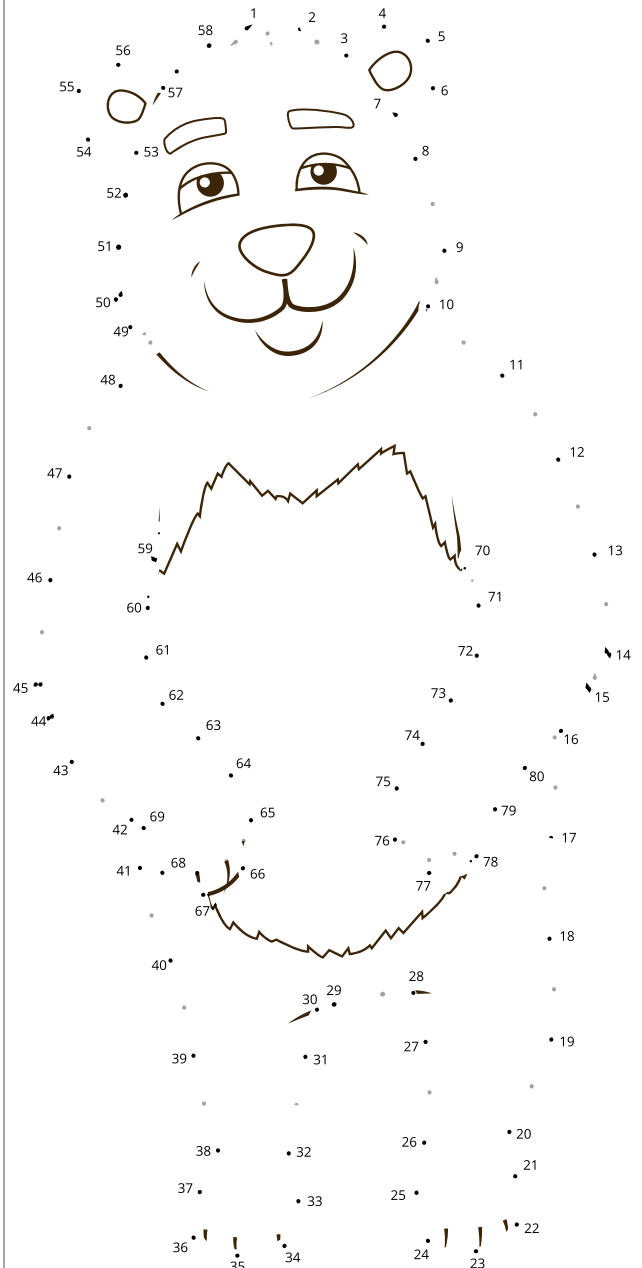
# nature crusaders

# KIDS CORNER

## THE NATURE QUIZ

1. What type of turtle is the only turtle NOT at risk in Ontario?
2. What do Herbivores eat? 
3. Are butterflies insects?
4. True or false: amphibians are invertebrate animals? 
5. True or false? Bats are mammals. 
6. True or false? Moose are herbivores.
7. Which dies after it's stung you? A bee or a wasp?
8. What is the only insect in the world that makes food humans can eat? 
9. True or False - all trees have leaves.
10. True or False - Trees give off carbon dioxide, which pollutes the air.
11. What tree do acorns come from? 
12. What percentage of the world's wetlands are in Canada?

## CONNECT the Dots!



ANSWERS: 1. Painted Turtle 2. Plants 3. Yes 4. False: amphibians are vertebrate animals as they have backbones 5. True 6. True 7. A bee 8. A bee 9. False, some have needles 10. False: Trees and all other green plants take in carbon dioxide and give off oxygen which we breathe. 11. Oak tree 12. 25%

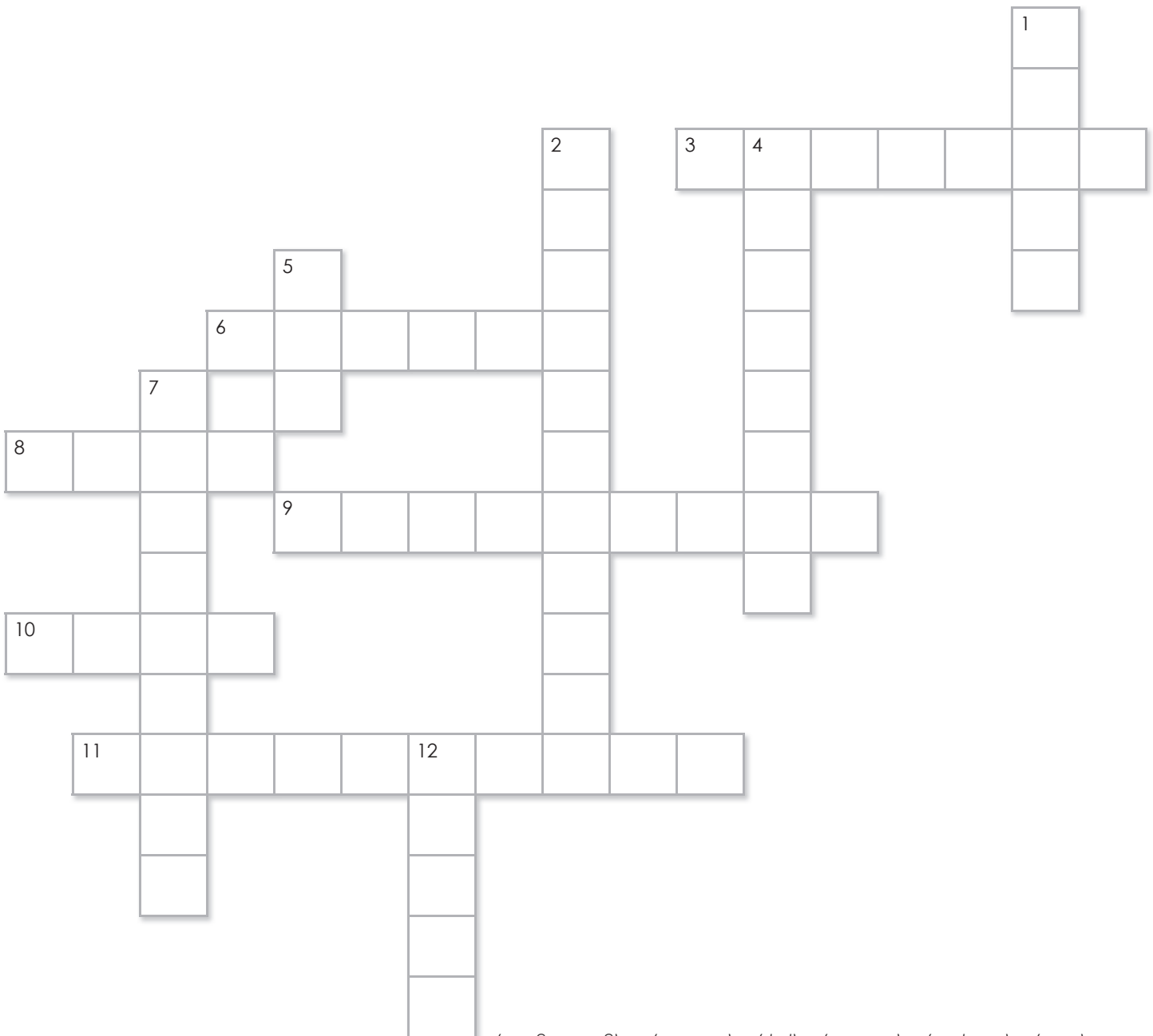
# Critters Crossword

## ACROSS

3. What do you call a baby goose?
6. What type of animal is slow moving and has a shell?
8. They hop and croak.
9. What do you call an animal that eats only plants?
10. What is a skunk's favourite food?
11. An animal species that is disappearing is said to be: -----

## DOWN

1. Bats use echolocation, dolphins use: -----
2. Before I became a butterfly, I was a: -----
4. What do you call animals that eat both plants and animals?
5. What do you call a baby bat?
7. An animal that is active at night is called: -----
12. What bird flies in a V formation?



ACROSS: 3 (gosling) 6 (turtle) 8 (frog) 9 (herbivore) 10 (gub) 11 (endangered)  
 DOWN: 1 (sonar) 2 (caterpillar) 4 (omnivore) 5 (pup) 7 (nocturnal) 12 (goose or geese)