

Lesson Title : Elk Reproduction

Essential Question: How do elk calves survive from birth to adulthood?



Instructional Time needed for Lesson: 30-40 minutes

Lesson Summary:

In this lesson students will learn how elk are born, and survive to adulthood. Learn about the herd structure of the elk and how calves evade predators. Take a look into the dynamics of the elk population and how biologists monitor the health of the herd and estimate how many elk live in Pennsylvania.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of class instruction students will be able to:

Objective 1: Describe the pre-birth preparation done by elk cows.

Objective 2: Analyze why elk cows have pre-birth preparations as it relates to the overall survival of the species.

Objective 3: Describe what the time frames are of both the elk breeding season, the gestation period for the elk, and the resulting timing of the calving season.

Objective 4: Define the calf "hider strategy".

Objective 5: Describe calf capture and collaring by wildlife biologists.

Objective 6: Analyze the larger environmental and ecological benefits achieved by elk calf capture and collaring.

Extension:

Have students use radio telemetry equipment to locate hidden collars to demonstrate how biologists locate elk.

Have students play hide and seek and compare how if someone is motionless like the "hider-strategy" they are harder to spot than if they run.

To conserve and enhance Pennsylvania's elk country for future generations.

Key Terms:

- Cow
- Calf
- Bull
- Rut
- Radio Telemetry
- Hider Strategy
- Estrus
- Population Dynamics



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