

Lesson Title : Physical Characteristics of Elk

Essential Question: What adaptations do elk have that help them survive?



Instructional Time needed for Lesson: 30-40 min

Lesson Summary:

In this lesson students will learn about the unique physical characteristics of elk. They will also learn how these characteristics change throughout the seasons, how they compare between males and females, how they compare to adults and calves, and how they help the elk survive.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of class instruction students will be able to:

Objective 1: Students will be able to state three things that elk do to stay warm in the winter.

Objective 2: Students will be able to explain the process by which antlers grow and fall off each year.

Objective 3: Students will be able to state six adaptations that elk use to survive in their habitat.

Objective 4: Students will be able to compare and contrast the winter coat and summer coat.

Objective 5: Students will be able to state three facts about elk coats.

Objective 6: Students will be able to identify the three different types of teeth that elk have.

Objective 7: Students will be able to explain the function of each of the three types of teeth that elk have.

Objective 8: The students will be able to state the differences between calves, cows, and bulls in terms of size, sexual dimorphism, and the role they play in the family group.

Extension:

Compare the age of bull elk to the type of antler that they have.

Compare how elk survive different seasons to how deer survive different seasons.

Information on these animals can be found at www.pgc.state.pa.us

Key Terms:

- Bull
- Cow
- Calf
- Antler
- Ivory
- Ecosystem
- Environment
- Evolution
- Adaptation
- Wapiti
- Camouflage
- Pedicles
- Territory
- Guard Hair

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



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