

Lesson Title : The Ruminant System

Essential Question: How many chambers are in an elk's stomach?



Instructional Time needed for Lesson: 15 min

Lesson Summary:

In this lesson students will learn about the digestive system of elk and other ruminants. They will learn about the placement and function of each of the four chambers of a ruminant's stomach. Students will also discover what ruminants have to do and eat different than humans in order to digest their food.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon completion of class instruction students will be able to:

- Objective 1: Define the term ruminant.
- Objective 2: Explain how a ruminant's stomach functions, sequentially.
- Objective 3: Name all four chambers of an elk's stomach.

Extension:

Have students develop a list of other animals that are ruminates and have them compare and contrast their habitat and preferred food.

Key Terms:

- Ruminant
- Cud
- Grazer
- Rumen
- Reticulum
- Omasum
- Abomasum
- Esophagus
- Browser

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



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