

WILDLIFE OBJECTIVES

Essential Topics

1. Knowledge of PA **FUR BEARERS**
 - a. Fur bearer ID –mounts, fur/pelts, tracks
 - b. Characteristics of fur bearers
 - c. Natural history of fur bearers
2. Understanding Wildlife Ecology
 - a. Survival requirements of fur bearers and how they are met
 - b. Ecosystem dynamics:
 - *Predator-prey relationships
 - *Herbivore, Omnivore, Carnivore
 - *Energy flow-food chain, food web, food pyramid
 - *Ecological succession
 - c. Adaptations – fur, feet, teeth, protection
3. Issues Involving Fur bearers and Society
 - a. Endangered and threatened species
 - b. Habitat loss and fragmentation
 - c. Human impact (i.e. hunting/trapping/poaching, loss of habitat, development, etc.)

Learning Objectives

I. KNOWLEDGE OF FUR BEARERS

Envirothon students will be able to:

- a. Answer questions concerning the natural history of various fur bearers.
- b. Explain the value and various uses of furs
- c. Describe how fur bearers are caught and the advantages/disadvantages of methods use and its impact on populations
- d. Identify fur bearers from mounted specimens, pictures, and/or pelts. See List A
- e. Identify specific habitat requirements and preferences of fur bearers.
- f. Identify fur uses, values, and trends

2. UNDERSTANDING WILDLIFE ECOLOGY

Envirothon students will be able to:

- a. Identify basic needs of fur bearers.
- b. Identify any unique characteristics of fur bearers
- c. Describe and explain different structural & behavioral adaptations and/or strategies that help fur bearers survive.
- c. Explain carrying capacity and identify natural and human factors which impact carrying capacity and/or fur bearer populations.

- d. Cite examples of factors which may influence carrying capacity
- e. Describe food chains and food webs and be able to cite examples.
- f. Describe factors that limit or enhance population growth.

3. ISSUES INVOLVING WILDLIFE AND SOCIETY

Envirothon students will be able to:

- a. Identify fur bearers that are listed as endangered, threatened or candidate species and describe the main causes that have led to their depleted populations.
- b. Identify and explain factors which can make a species more likely to become endangered and/or threatened.
- c. Describe the fur market trends, supply/demand, and values.
- d. Describe the means of obtaining the furs,
- e. Explain why hunting/trapping regulations were set and describe two regulations which help protect the animal.

Reference Material List: (all NEW resources, all hard copies – all provided)

1. PA Wildlife Notes – all notes related to species listed below in List A - FREE from PA Game Commission. (also provided in hard copy – more available at Middle Creek)
2. What is a Furbearer (Included)
3. Trapping Management
4. Tanning Skins
5. Trapping Tips
6. Fur Value/Uses
7. Any Tracks Field Guide

FUR BEARERS of PA – List A

LIST A

| | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Bobcat | Fisher |
| Beaver | Muskrat |
| Red/Gray Fox | Coyote |
| Mink | Raccoon |
| Skunk | Opossum |
| Weasel | *River Otter |
| Pine Marten | |

*Valuable fur, but it is illegal to hunt/trap in PA, but not other states.