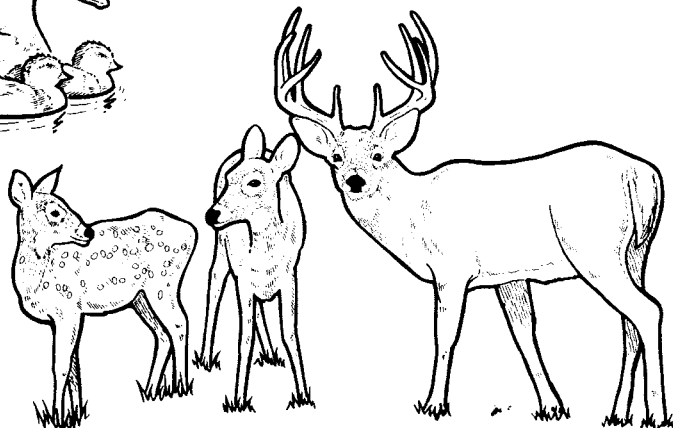


TEXAS WILDLIFE *Coloring Book*

Published by
Texas Parks and Wildlife

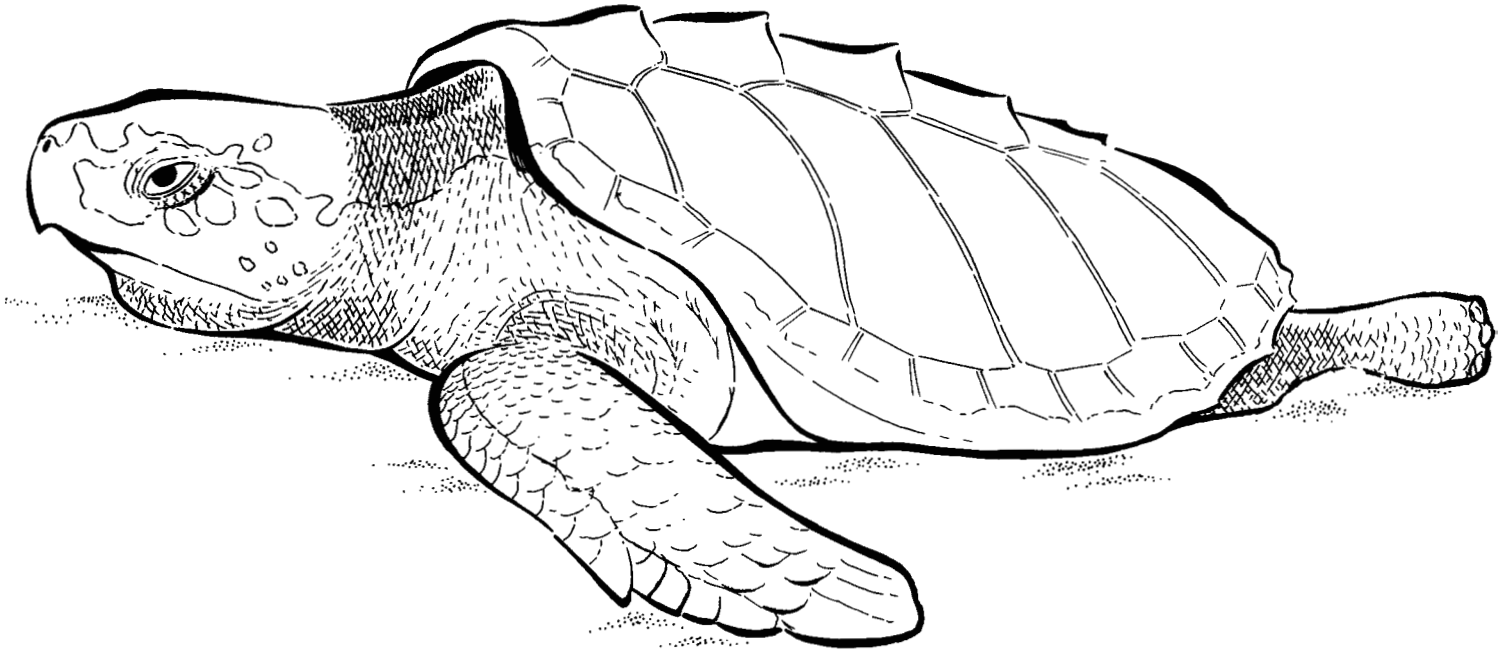


KEMP'S RIDLEY SEA TURTLE

Lepidochelys Kempfi (Cold-blooded)

Let's learn about the Sea Turtle

Kemp's Ridley sea turtle, found in coastal waters and bays of the Gulf and in the Atlantic Ocean, is the smallest, most endangered sea turtle. This reptile weighs 80 to 100 pounds and grows to 30 inches long. Little is known about its life in the open ocean. It prefers shallow waters close to shore where it feeds on such things as crabs, snails, clams and some plants, and often is caught and drowned in shrimp nets. Pollution, both chemical and plastic, affect it. From April through August females lay clutches of soft, white eggs in sandy beaches from Veracruz, Mexico, to Corpus Christi, but few have nested on Texas beaches in recent years. When the young hatch in 50 to 70 days, they head for the water. In some areas, this turtle and its eggs are eaten by humans. Because it is critically endangered, the Ridley is the focus of international conservation efforts.



What did we learn about the Sea Turtle?

1. Is this animal a bird, mammal, reptile or fish?
2. What is its common name?
3. Is it a game, nongame or endangered species?
4. Is it warm-blooded or cold-blooded?
5. Where does it live in Texas?
6. Is it a predator, prey or both?

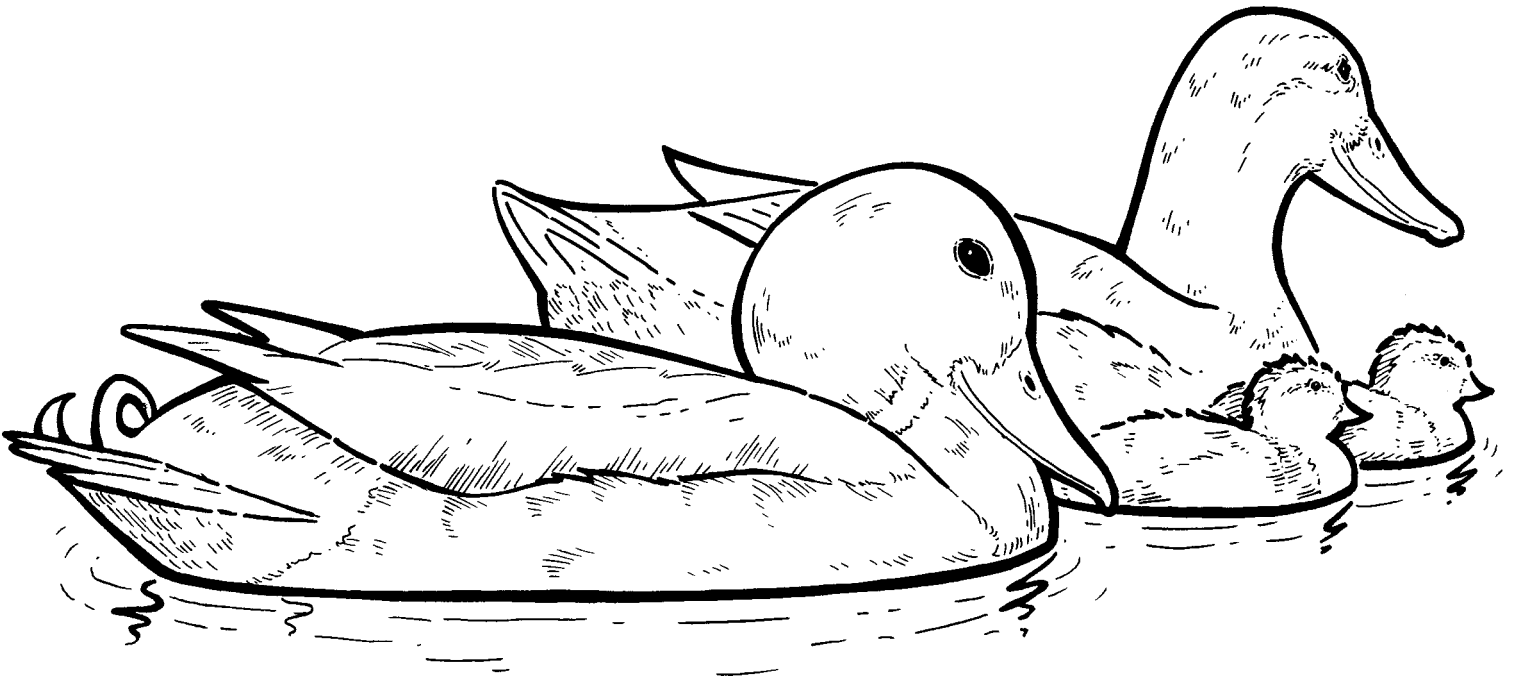


MALLARD DUCK

Anas platyrhynchos (Warm-blooded)

Let's learn about the Mallard Duck

The mallard, a migratory game bird, winters in Texas marshes, swamps, ponds, lakes and bays and is found in parts of the state in the summer. It is known as a "puddle duck" and feeds by dabbling and "upending" in shallow water rather than by diving. It eats the roots of wild lilies, reeds and cattails, duckweed, and seeds from wild millet, rice, smartweed and other plants. It also eats many kinds of insects, including mosquito larvae. The female's nest, found close to water among the reeds or grass, may contain 8 to 15 greenish buff eggs that take about 25 days to hatch. Hawks and other predators eat the eggs and hatchlings, and hunters harvest adult mallards during the hunting season.



What did we learn about the Mallard Duck?



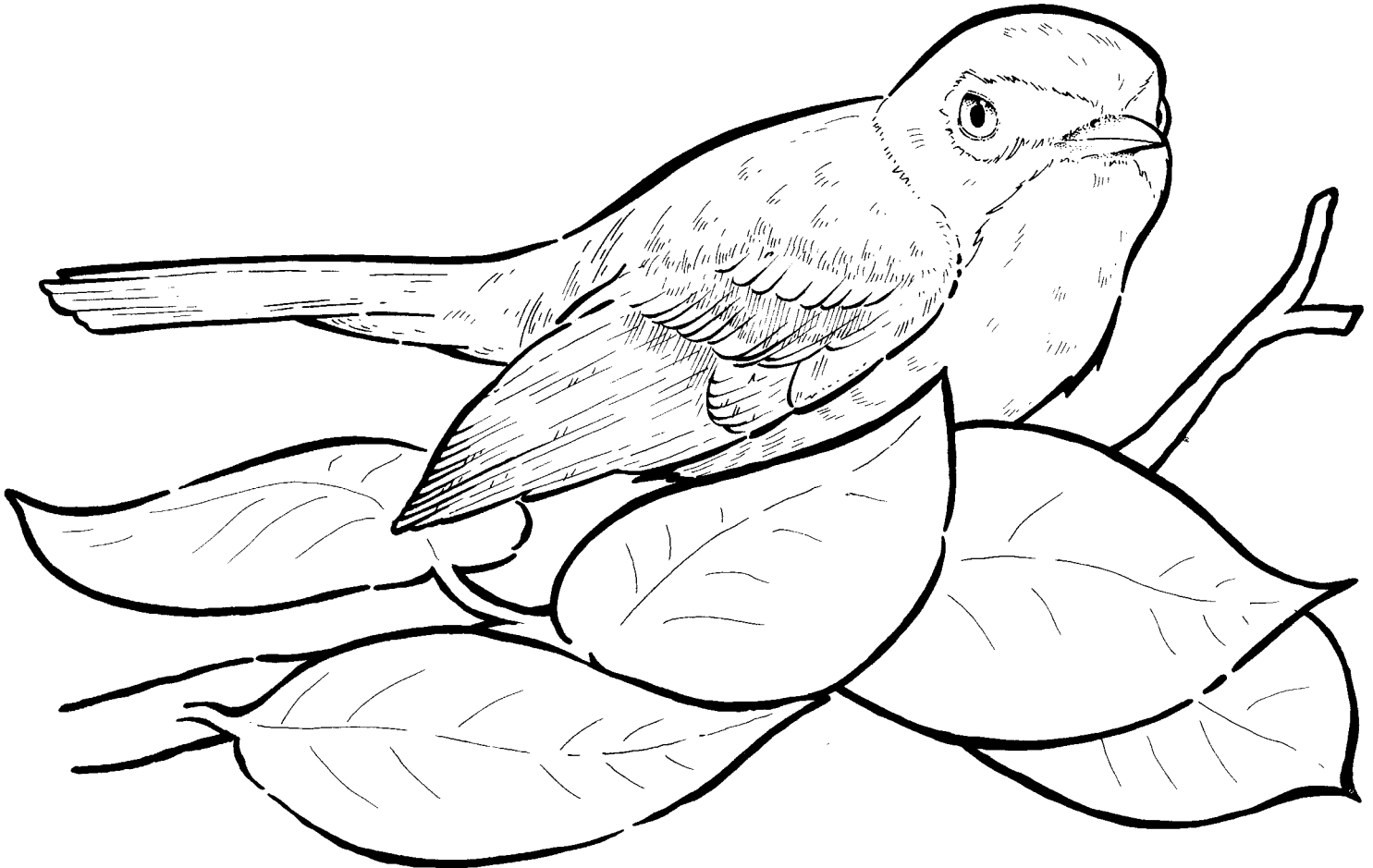
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BLACK-CAPPED VIREO

Vireo atricapillus (Warm-blooded)

Let's learn about the Vireo

Scattered populations of the endangered black-capped vireo live in the central part of the state. This tiny bird has special habitat needs-trees and shrubs with ground-reaching foliage combined with open grassy areas where the insects on which it feeds are plentiful. It winters in Mexico, returning to Texas in late March to nest. Major threats to its survival include changes in its habitat, and the aggressive cowbirds nesting habits. Cowbirds lay eggs in about 80% of the vireos' nests. When the larger cowbirds hatch, they kick the young vireos out, and the parent birds continue to feed and raise the cowbirds. The future of the vireo depends on habitat management and cowbird control.



What did we learn about the Vireo?

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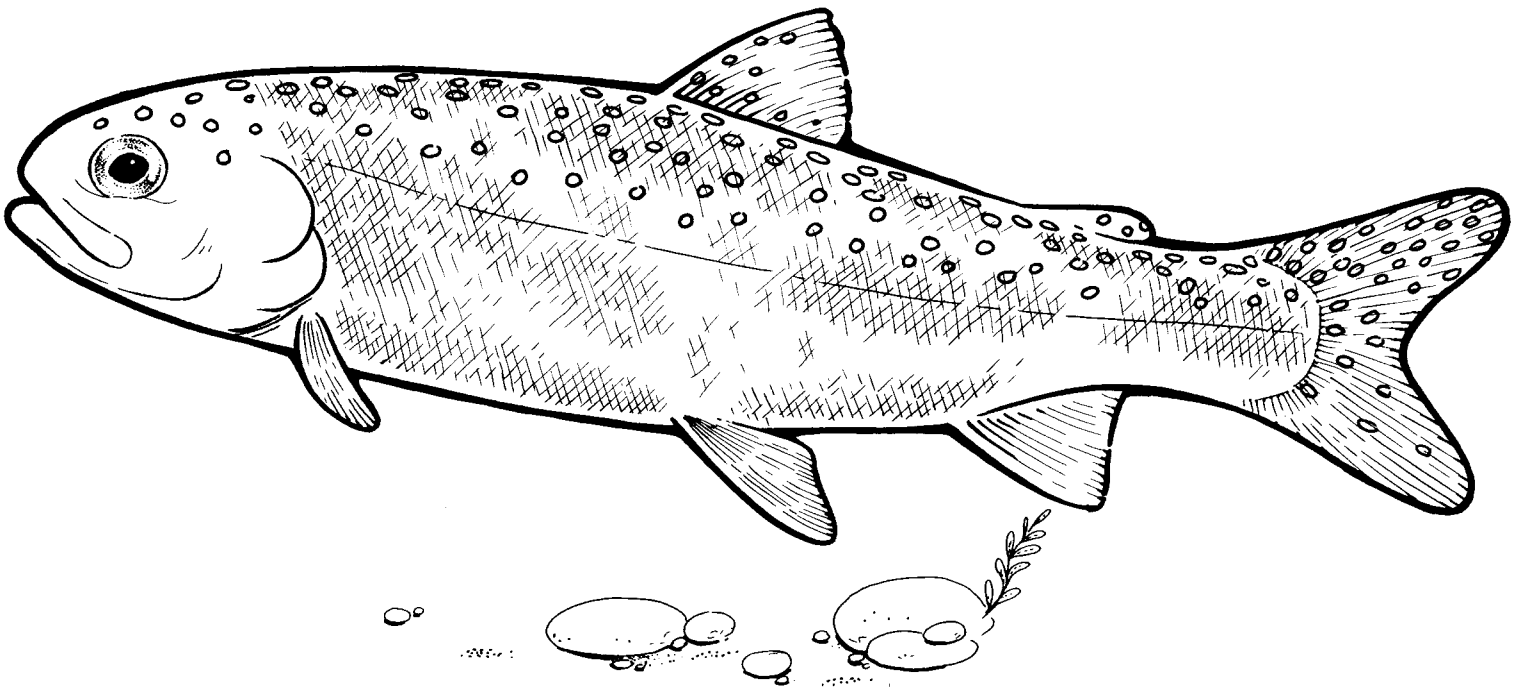


RAINBOW TROUT

Salmo gairdneri (Cold-blooded)

Let's learn about the Trout

Rainbow trout are not native to Texas; however, each year when water temperatures are cool enough for them to survive, 8- to 10-inch hatchery-reared rainbows are stocked in selected locations around the state. Anglers look forward to catching these sporty game fish. This annual stocking is known as a "put and take" fishery—if the rainbows that are "put" in the water to be "taken" by anglers are not caught, they usually do not survive the summer heat. Rainbows feed on insects and other small water creatures.



What did we learn about the Trout?



1. Is this animal a bird, mammal, reptile or fish?
2. What is its common name?
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RINGTAIL

Bassariscus astutus (Warm-blooded)

Let's learn about the Ringtail

The ringtail, found in most of the state, is a nocturnal (night-active) mammal that prefers rocky canyon ledges, crevices and caves; abandoned houses or barns; and hollow trees for homesites. It eats rats, mice, birds, rabbits, snakes, lizards and insects, as well as fruits and berries. Breeding takes place in early spring, and in six weeks two to four toothless young are born. Their eyes and ears, sealed at birth, open in about a month, and by the time they are four months old they are on their own. Worst enemies include the great horned owl and large snakes. Since the ringtail is a special type of game animal, known as a fur-bearer, a trapper's license is required to hunt it.



What did we learn about the Ringtail?

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TEXAS KANGAROO RAT

Dipodomys elator (Warm-blooded)

Let's learn about the Kangaroo Rat

The Texas kangaroo rat is a small endangered mammal found only in a few counties in north-central Texas. It has a white-tipped tail longer than its body, and it hops like a kangaroo, using large hind feet. It is nocturnal (night-active), searching for food during the darkest hours. Seeds are its main diet, and mesquite beans are favored in late summer. It lives in an underground burrow system of tunnels with storage spaces and sleeping areas. Two or three young are born in late May or June, but very little is known about this mammal's breeding habits and family life. Predators include owls, coyotes, bobcats, foxes and large snakes. The primary threat to this endangered species is clearing mature mesquite brushland and converting it to pasture and cropland.



What did we learn about the Kangaroo Rat?

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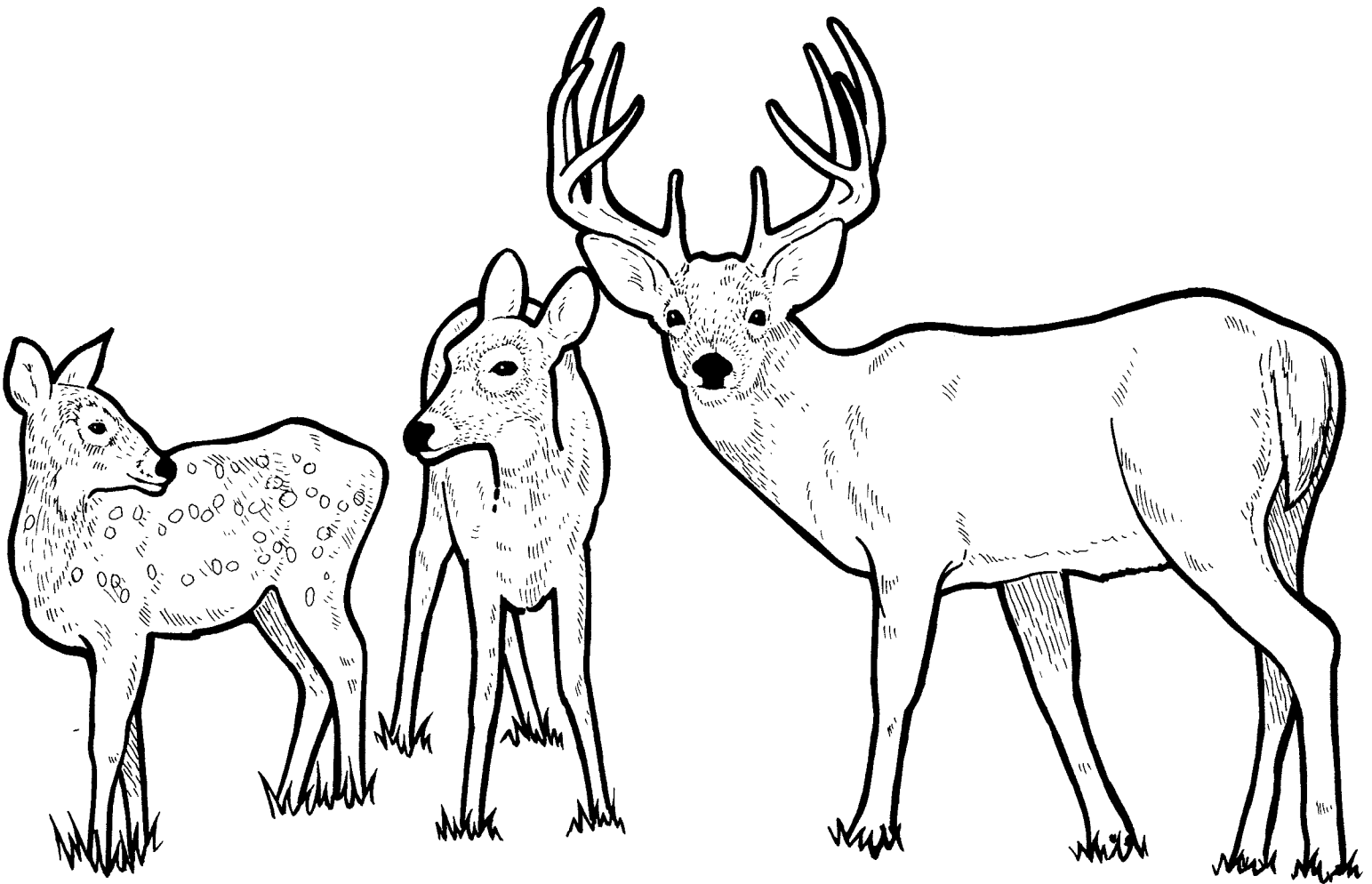


WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus (Warm-blooded)

Let's learn about the White-tailed Deer

The white-tailed deer is a big game mammal found throughout the state. Estimates place its population at more than four million. It feeds on twigs, leaves, grasses, forbs (weed plants), fruits and nuts. Breeding takes place as early as September in the coastal area and reaches a peak in South Texas in December. Fawns, born in seven months, are hidden for the first two weeks, but follow the mother as soon as they are able. The buck's majestic antlers are shed between December and March, and a new rack is grown the following year, appearing in May. Predators include the coyote, bobcat, cougar and wild dog. Hunting helps keep the deer population in balance with its food supply.



What did we learn about the White-tailed Deer?



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