

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Wildlife and Biodiversity in Canada

Canada is home to some of the most amazing animals in the world. With its vast forests, cold Arctic lands, and beautiful lakes, Canada provides the perfect habitat for many unique species. Some of the most famous animals in Canada include the moose, beaver, polar bear, and Canadian goose.

### **Moose: The Gentle Giant**

The moose is the largest member of the deer family. A fully grown moose can be as tall as a horse and weigh over 1,500 pounds (680 kg)! Male moose, called bulls, have large, flat antlers that can spread up to six feet wide.

Moose live in forests and near lakes, where they eat plants, twigs, and even underwater vegetation. Although they are usually calm and peaceful, moose can be very strong swimmers and fast runners, reaching speeds of 35 miles per hour (56 km/h) when needed!

### **Beavers: Nature's Builders**

The beaver is Canada's national animal. These small, furry creatures are known for their strong teeth and incredible building skills. Beavers use their teeth to cut down trees and build dams in rivers. These dams create ponds, which give beavers a safe place to live.

A beaver's home, called a lodge, is made of sticks and mud. Inside, there is a dry, warm space where the beaver family can stay safe from predators like wolves and bears. Beavers also have a flat tail, which helps them swim and slap the water to warn other beavers of danger!

### **Polar Bears: Kings of the Arctic**

In the cold Arctic region of Canada, polar bears roam the icy land. These powerful animals are the largest bears in the world. They have thick white fur and a layer of fat, which keeps them warm in freezing temperatures.

Polar bears are excellent swimmers and hunt for their favorite food—seals—by waiting near holes in the ice. Although they look cuddly, polar bears are strong hunters and can smell their prey from miles away!

Sadly, due to climate change, the ice in the Arctic is melting, making it harder for polar bears to find food. Scientists are working to protect these amazing animals and their habitat.

### **Canadian Geese: The Sky Travelers**

One of the most recognizable birds in Canada is the Canadian goose. These large birds have black heads, long necks, and brown bodies. They are famous for their V-shaped flying formations when they migrate south for the winter.

Canadian geese are often seen in parks, lakes, and open fields. They are excellent parents and protect their goslings (baby geese) carefully. These birds are also known for their loud honking sounds, which they use to communicate with each other!

