

Name _____



The Life Cycle of a Deer

Deer have a fascinating life cycle that begins from birth and continues through different stages of growth. A deer's life starts when a female deer, called a doe, gives birth to a baby deer called a fawn. Fawns are usually born in the spring after a gestation period of about six to seven

months. At birth, fawns have white spots on their fur, which help them blend into their surroundings for protection from predators.

For the first few weeks of life, fawns rely on their mothers for milk and care. They stay hidden in tall grass while their mothers search for food. As they grow, they start eating plants and learning survival skills by following their mothers.

By the time a fawn is about three to four months old, it begins to lose its white spots. It continues to grow and becomes more independent, but it often stays close to its mother for the first year of life. As the fawn grows into a young deer, it enters the juvenile stage.

Deer reach adulthood at around one year old. Male deer, called bucks, may grow antlers during their second year, while females do not. Adult deer can live in the wild for about 6 to 10 years, but some can live longer if they avoid predators and have enough food.

The life cycle ends when the deer grows old and eventually dies, completing the circle of life. Throughout their lives, deer play important roles in the ecosystem by helping plants grow and serving as prey for predators.