

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# The World's Largest Deer

By Guy Belleranti



What animal has a long, big-nosed head, a bulky body on long skinny legs, and a big flap of furry skin hanging from its throat? The world's largest deer – the moose.

The moose's big nose gives it a great sense of smell. The big body gives it

strength. The large legs help it walk through deep snow under the evergreen and deciduous



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are not moose. Instead, these elk (also called wapiti) are a slightly smaller species of deer.

Moose are herbivores or plant eaters. They eat tall grasses, leaves, twigs, buds, berries, pinecones, bark, and other vegetation. In warmer months, they spend lots of time in lakes, ponds, and rivers cooling off. They're very good swimmers and will dive underwater to find tasty greens.

Moose may not look like fast runners, but their looks are deceiving. If a moose feels threatened, it can charge at 35 miles an hour. Mothers are very protective of their calves, who along with the old and sick, are most vulnerable to predation by wolves, bears, and mountain lions.

Only bulls grow antlers, and what a work of art their antlers are. They're flattened and huge, with a spread of four to six feet!

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1. According to the information in the article, what is the relationship between moose and North American elk?
  - a. Moose are a smaller species of deer than North American elk.
  - b. North American elk are not a species of deer, but moose are.
  - c. Moose and North American elk are both species of deer, but moose are larger.



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4. Moose are strong, powerful animals, but that doesn't mean they don't have predators. Name three predators of the moose.

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5. Which description would **not** be true of a moose?
    - a. A moose is an omnivore.
    - b. A bull moose has a rack of antlers.
    - c. A cow moose has a bell.
    - d. In Europe, moose are known as Eurasian elk.

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Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.



1. \_\_\_\_\_ meadows

a. run ahead at a high speed



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5. \_\_\_\_\_ bulky

e. animals that only eat plants

6. \_\_\_\_\_ charge

f. helpless, powerless, defenseless

7. \_\_\_\_\_ antlers

g. heavily built; large

8. \_\_\_\_\_ protective

h. able to fool someone into thinking something that isn't true

9. \_\_\_\_\_ herbivores

i. safeguarding; keeping someone or something from harm

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Eurasian

j. plant life

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In the article, "The World's Largest Deer," you learned that moose are strong, powerful animals with unusual features that help them thrive in their environment.

On the lines below, describe your favorite animal. Where does it live? What does it look like? What does it eat? Identify three features that help that animal adapt to its environment.



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5. Which description would **not** be true of a moose?

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9. e. herbivores

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10. b. Eurasian

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