

Illinois Wild Mammals



Resources

The activities in these lessons incorporate educational resources of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) Division of Education. Use the information below to find out more about these and other supportive items, including how to obtain them. The activities can be performed by using resources from other sources, but they may not be Illinois-specific.

Biodiversity of Illinois CD-ROM Series

The *Biodiversity of Illinois* CD-ROM series provides information about more than 1,000 species that live in or pass through Illinois. The three CD-ROMs contain more than 3,000 images and are searchable, networkable and PC- and Mac-compatible. Each CD has life history and factual information, range maps, sounds and other features. These CD-ROMs are included in most of the resources trunks for loan from the IDNR. Teachers in Illinois may request one copy of each CD-ROM, however supplies are very limited. Send your request on school letterhead to IDNR Education, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702.



Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume II: Woodland Habitats

Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume III: Prairie and Edge Habitats

Field Trip Tips

Taking students on a field trip can be an enjoyable experience and offer an opportunity to make your lessons come alive. The *Field Trip Tips* Web page at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education> offers planning tips, destinations and topics that can be studied at each site along with links to IDNR Division of Education teaching resources.

Grants

Taking your students outdoors for learning can be beneficial in many ways and reinforce classroom lessons. Two grants from the IDNR can help. The *Schoolyard Habitat Action Grant* program provides up to \$1,000.00 per teacher for development or enhancement of wildlife habitat on the school grounds or other public place. The *Illinois Biodiversity Field Trip Grant* program offers grants of up to \$500.00 per teacher to take students on a field trip to study Illinois' natural heritage. Details and the application form can be accessed at <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/grants.htm>.

Illinois Early Learning Standards and Illinois Learning Standards

Additional IDNR lessons on this topic are also available and correlated to the Illinois Early Learning Standards, where appropriate, and Illinois Learning Standards. See <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/standards.htm> for details.

Illinois' Natural Resources Trading Cards

The *Illinois' Natural Resources Trading Cards* have images and information about hundreds of species. Five sets of cards (63 cards per set) were originally produced. Availability varies, but teachers in Illinois may request one set



of each of the five sets of cards. Send your request on school letterhead to IDNR Education, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702.

The cards are also contained in the resources trunks for loan from the IDNR.

Illinois Wild Mammals Resources Trunk

Posters, lessons, field guides, skulls, pelts, track replicas and scat replicas are just some of the items contained in this "trunk." The trunk is a large plastic container filled with hands-on resources that will help make mammal lessons more meaningful for students. *Illinois Wild Mammals* resources trunks are available for loan from locations throughout Illinois. Visit <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education> and click on "Items for Loan" to access the list of lending sites and the trunk content list.



Project Squirrel

Students can become citizen scientists by observing squirrels in their schoolyard or neighborhood and reporting the results to Project Squirrel. This program of the Chicago Academy of Science's Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum will be even easier to participate in with the release of the Project Squirrel mobile phone app, which is sponsored by the Peggy Notebaert Nature Museum in cooperation with the IDNR. For more information, visit <http://www.projectsquirrel.org/>.

Publications

Illinois-specific posters, activity books and other items can be ordered or downloaded through the IDNR Publications page at <http://www.dnr.illinois.gov/Publications>.

SMARTBoard™ Activities

Visit <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/SmartBoardintro.htm> for access to a variety of lessons developed for use on a SMARTBoard™.

Teacher Training

Teacher training on mammal-related topics that also includes instruction in how to use the activities in this unit is available through the IDNR's ENTICE (Environment and Nature Training Institute for Conservation Education) program. Available mammal-related workshops include *Wildlife Basics for Early Childhood Educators*, *Illinois Bats*, *Illinois Mammals*, *Prying into Prions: Investigating Chronic Wasting Disease*, *Illinois' Urban Wildlife*, *Reading the Signs and Tracks, Scats and Habitats*. Visit <https://www.entice-workshops.com> for the complete ENTICE schedule and to register. Continuing Professional Development Units are available. Online workshops are also offered.

Videos

Numerous videos and video podcasts are available through the IDNR's Web site (<http://dnr.state.il.us/education/podcasts.htm>), YouTube page (search for "IDNREducation") and the iTunes store. The *Exploring Illinois' Natural Resources* DVD is available by request on school letterhead. This DVD contains five videos on the topics of mammals, birds, trees, aquatics and biodiversity.

Wildlife in the Classroom

This publication provides information regarding possessing wildlife or wildlife remains and is of value to all teachers. The publication may be read or downloaded at <http://dnr.state.il.us/education/CLASSRM/wildlifeintheclassrm041409.pdf>.



Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175. This information may be provided in an alternative format if required. Contact the DNR Clearinghouse at 217/782-7498 for assistance.