



Beaver

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This report is about the North American Beaver. You will learn about its habitat, enemies, family life, habits, and what it eats.

Description: The beaver is a big mammal but not the largest. It has a long scaled tail which helps them swim. The beaver's tail also helps them carry wood back to build their dam. The legs on a beaver are big black and are webbed. Beavers weigh about 45-60 pounds, but the biggest beaver in the world weighed 110 pounds. Beavers fingers have big claws. It is about 30 cm tall and its tail is 25 cm long. Beavers have a long waterproof tail and fur.

Habitat: Beavers live in a big lodge that is called a dam. They use mud and wood to build their dam. They cut the trees down with their teeth and make it almost a dome shape. They make it so that the entrance is under water so their enemies can't get in. Beavers make their dams with bark, but only from the trees that lose their leaves. The beaver builds its dams in the fall. They build them with mud so that when winter comes the mud freezes and its as solid as concrete. Beavers usually live by ponds or lakes.

Diet: Beavers eat bark, water lily roots, twigs, leaves, branches and plants, but beavers don't eat fish. Beavers save logs for food each year from spring to fall.

Habits: Beavers do not hibernate. They are active all through the seasons.

Family Life: Beavers live with their family in a dam. The female has 2-8 babies. Their mating season is during

January and February. When the babies are born they have their fur and their eyes are closed. Beaver babies are called kits. The kits are born in spring. Beaver kits stay with their family for 1-2 years before they leave on their own.

Enemies: The beaver's enemies are bears, foxes, people, coyotes, wolves, lynx, otters, weasels, hawks, eagles, owls and bobcats. They slap their tails on the water to scare away their predators.

Interesting facts: Beavers can swim a quarter mile without air. It is the biggest rodent in North America and the second largest in the world. Beavers have special muscles so that when it swims it can close its nose and ears. Their teeth never stop growing so they have to bite bark keep their teeth from growing too big. They live about 20 years.

Bibliography

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