



## The Animals of Yellowstone National Park

eslvideo.com Quiz by: rmd



1. Which animal is NOT found in Yellowstone National Park?

- a) wolf
- b) bear
- c) elephant

3. How many baby bears does a female grizzly usually have at once in Yellowstone?

- a) 1
- b) 2
- c) 3

5. Where do river otters in Yellowstone live most of the time?

- a) on land
- b) in water
- c) in trees

7. How long does a female grizzly bear usually take care of her babies before they go off on their own in Yellowstone?

- a) 1 year
- b) 1.5 years
- c) 2 years

9. How fast can bison run?

- a) 20 mph
- b) 30 mph
- c) 35 mph

2. What do wolves in Yellowstone mostly eat?

- a) elk
- b) bison
- c) berries

4. What is the nickname for young bison in Yellowstone?

- a) red dogs
- b) fluffy kittens
- c) red bison

6. How many bison currently inhabit Yellowstone?

- a) 50,000
- b) 10,000
- c) 5000

8. How do male elk use their antlers in Yellowstone?

- a) to attract females
- b) to fight other males over females
- c) both a and b

10. What do river otters in Yellowstone use their strong tails and flexible bodies for?

- a) talking to other otters
- b) catching fish
- c) protecting themselves from predators

## Gap-fill

Complete the sentences using the words below.

### Wordbank

**communicate**    **antlers**    **abundant**    **prey**    **access**    **agile**    **survival**  
**sole**    **enabling**

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1. Elk are the most \_\_\_\_\_ of the seven native ungulate species in Yellowstone, with an estimated population of 10,000 to 20,000 animals.
2. Yellowstone's thermal features keep its waters from freezing over, allowing otters year-round \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Male bison can stand over six feet tall and weigh up to one ton, making bison the largest land mammal in North America. Despite their size, bison are \_\_\_\_\_ and can run over 30 miles per hour
4. In summer months, male elk (known as bulls) are easily distinguished by their \_\_\_\_\_, which they drop and regrow each year.
5. Perhaps no animal is more iconic to Yellowstone than the gray wolf. Each of Yellowstone's wolf packs consists of around 10 wolves. These social animals know how to \_\_\_\_\_ with other members of their own pack and to indicate their territory to rival packs.
6. Pack members work together to hunt large \_\_\_\_\_.
7. Otters have two young per litter. Females act as the \_\_\_\_\_ parent and enjoy playing with their young in and around the water.
8. Playtime also helps otters learn \_\_\_\_\_ skills.
9. Otters propel themselves through the water with powerful tails and flexible bodies, \_\_\_\_\_ them to catch fish like native Yellowstone trout.

## Transcript

Yellowstone, the world's first national park, is known for its geysers, Hot Springs, and magnificent landscapes. It's also home to the largest concentration of mammals in the lower 48 states, including these five animals that were in the park:

### Gray Wolf

Perhaps no animal is more iconic to Yellowstone than the gray wolf. Each of Yellowstone's wolf packs consists of around 10 wolves. These social animals how to communicate with other members of their own pack and to indicate their territory to rival packs. Pack members work together to hunt large prey in the winter time. Elk make up over 90% of their diet. A single wolf pack can kill upwards of 20 elk over the course of one month. Elk are one of the seven native ungulate species in Yellowstone, and they are the most abundant, with an estimated population of 10 to 20 thousand animals in summer months.

Male elk, known as bulls, are easily distinguished by their antlers, which they drop and regrow each year. A healthy bull's antlers are just under six feet wide. During mating or rutting season, males use their antlers to fight one another over females.

### Grizzly Bear

An estimated 150 grizzly bears call Yellowstone home. After they emerge from hibernation in the spring, grizzlies will feed on elk, bison, and other ungulates, as well as a variety of plants. A female will give birth to up to 3 cubs at a time. The drive to protect and feed her little ones may put her claw to paw with some of the park's other top predators, as well as male bears. She'll raise her young on average for a little over two years before sending them off to live on their own in Yellowstone's wilderness.

### American Bison

Nearly 5,000 bison inhabit Yellowstone. The park is the only place in the lower 48 where bison have roamed freely since prehistoric times. Males can stand over six feet tall and weigh up to one ton, making bison the largest land mammal in North America. Despite their size, bison are agile and can run over 30 miles per hour, an advantage when

they're being chased by Yellowstone's predators. Bison calves are ready to run and keep up with the herd within hours of birth. Their orange-red fur has earned them the nickname "red dogs." A young bison's hair turns to the classic chocolate brown color within a few months.

#### North American River Otter

While many of Yellowstone's other iconic animals roam on land, river otters spend much of their time in the park's lakes and rivers. Yellowstone's thermal features keep its waters from freezing over, allowing otters year-round access. Otters have two young per litter. Females act as the sole parent and enjoy playing with their young in and around the water. Playtime also helps otters learn survival skills. And the water isn't just a big otter playground, but a food source as well. Otters propel themselves through the water with powerful tails and flexible bodies, enabling them to catch fish like these native Yellowstone trout.