

Animal Facts:

Beavers

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Beavers are large rodents with flat, paddle like tails. They live in northern America and northern Eurasia.



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Beavers live in rivers, streams and lakes near woodlands and they are good swimmers, using their webbed feet as flippers and their tail as a rudder.



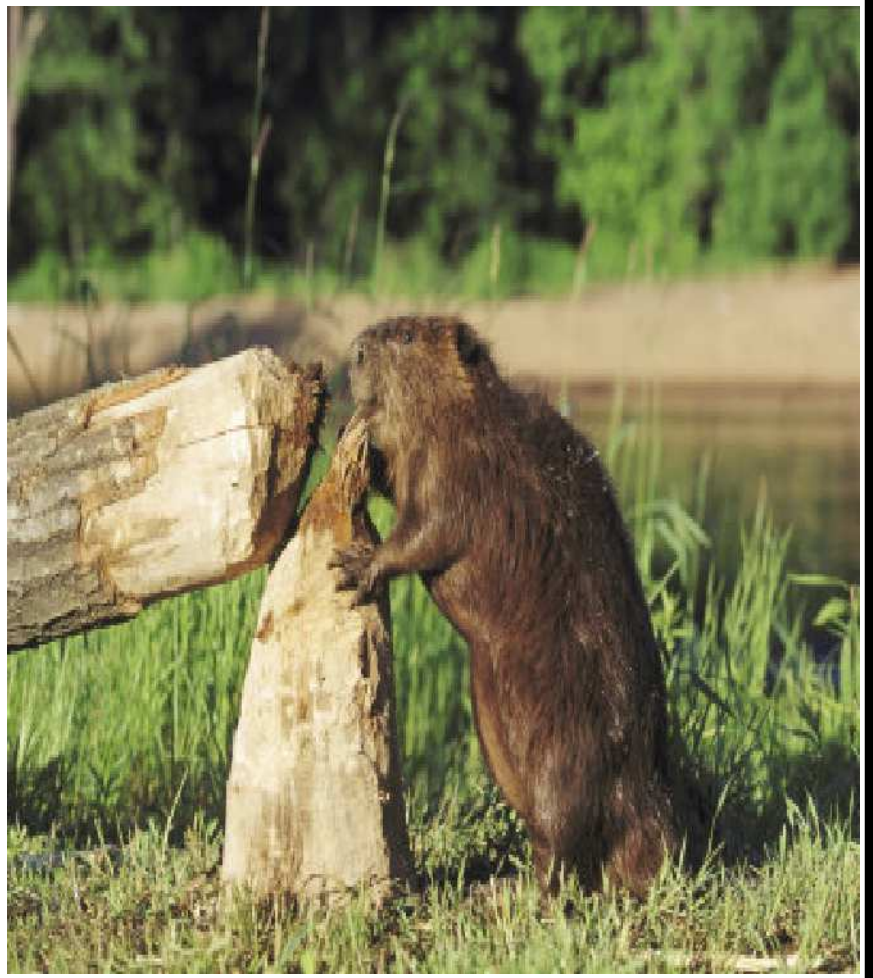
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A beaver can swim under water for almost 1 km, holding its breath all the way.



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Beavers can chop down quite large trees with their incredibly strong front teeth, gnawing around the tree in a ring until it finally crashes down.



Beavers feed on bark as well as tree roots and shrubs. They especially fond of poplars and willows.



Beavers build dams across streams from tree branches laid on to a base of mud and stones. Families of beavers often work together on a dam.



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Beaver dams are 5 to 30 m long on average, but they can be up to 300 m long.



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Beavers repair their dams year after year, and some beaver dams are thought to be centuries old.



Behind the dam, beavers build a shelter called a lodge to live in during winter. Most lodges are like mini islands made of branches and mud, with only a few underwater tunnels as entrances.



Beavers lodges keep a beaver family so warm that in cold weather steam can often be seen rising from the ventilation hole.

