

Beaver's 101



Photo by Steve

- North American Scientific Name: *Castor Canadensis* / European Scientific Name: *Castor fiber*
- Did you know beavers are considered a rodent? In fact they are the second largest rodent in the world.
- Like humans, beavers can change the environment around them drastically. They live in wetlands, along streams and rivers. They build dams and lodges which are their homes.
- Beavers can hold their breath underwater for as long as 15 minutes.
- Beavers are monogamous meaning they only have one breeding partner during mating season. They live & work with their families on preparing and gathering food as well as continuously working on their lodges and dams.
- Babies are called kits and grow into yearlings. Sadly, nearly 70% will die from either disease or predators.

- They are notorious for their tail which ranges from 6 to 12 inches long, 4 to 5 inches wide, and $\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick. They use their tail as not only a tool during building, but to warn their family members around them about potential danger by slamming it on top of the water.
- They have webbed feet.
- Some of their teeth never stop growing and are specifically used for cutting trees and gnawing away at tree branches and bark.
- Beavers are considered herbivores or vegetarians. Their diet consists of mainly bark from various trees such as Aspen.