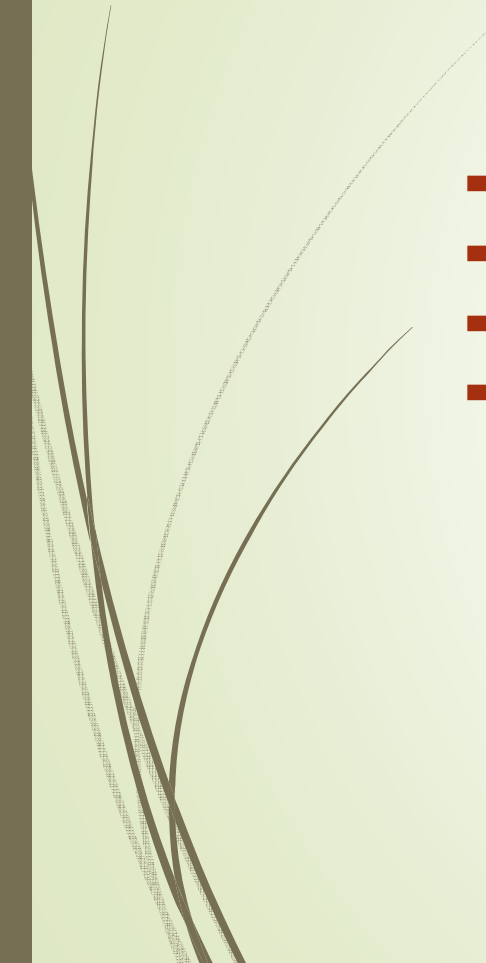




Mammal Champions of Kansas



What is a mammal?

- ▶ Have fur/hair
 - ▶ Live birth (don't lay eggs)
 - ▶ Feed young with milk from mother
 - ▶ Breath air (no gills)
- 

Fastest

- ▶ Pronghorn Antelope
 - ▶ Runs up to 60 mph for 3-4 minutes
 - ▶ Can hold 30-40 mph for much longer distances
 - ▶ Not a deer, though looks similar
 - ▶ Most closely related to giraffes
 - ▶ Have true horns



Smallest Mammal

- ▶ Lest Shrew
 - ▶ 3.5 inches long
 - ▶ Weighs about 1/10th of an ounce (about the weight of a penny)
 - ▶ Eat their body weight in food every day
 - ▶ Insects, snails and worms
 - ▶ Has poison in saliva that paralyzes the prey to keep it fresh
 - ▶ Will even go after animals bigger than it such as small lizards and snakes



Largest Mammal

- ▶ American Bison
 - ▶ Largest in North America
 - ▶ Can weigh between 900 and 2,000 pounds
 - ▶ Also have true horns



Smallest Carnivore

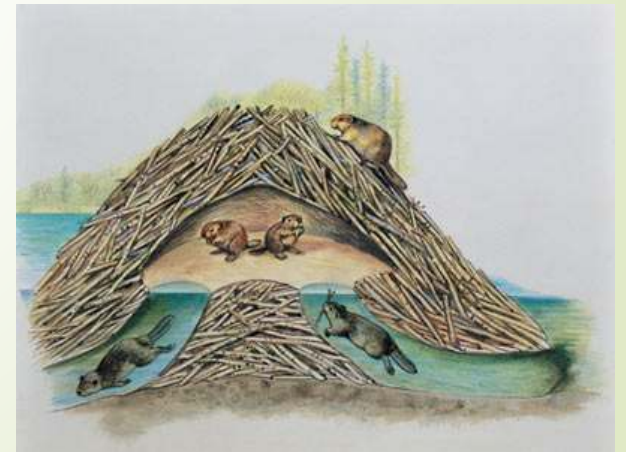
- ▶ Least Weasel
 - ▶ Smallest in all of North America
 - ▶ About the size of a large mouse
 - ▶ 10 inches
 - ▶ About 2 ounces
 - ▶ Can have a reddish coat in the summer and a white coat in the winter



Largest Rodent



- ▶ American Beaver
 - ▶ Second largest rodent in the world!!
 - ▶ Capybara is the largest
 - ▶ Typically 30-60 pounds but could get as big as 90 pounds
 - ▶ 4.5 feet long
 - ▶ Eat plants – Not wood
 - ▶ Used wood to make dams



Tallest

- ▶ Elk
 - ▶ Adult bull elk can be up to 5 feet tall at the shoulders and the antlers can be another 4 feet above that
 - ▶ Second largest in the deer family in north America only to the moose
 - ▶ Are also very good talkers
 - ▶ Bugle video



Best Defenses

- ▶ Porcupine
 - ▶ Second largest rodent in Kansas
 - ▶ As many as 30,000 sharp quills
 - ▶ Cannot throw them, uses it's tail and hind end to slap the attacker
- ▶ Skunk
 - ▶ Two kinds – striped and spotted
 - ▶ Sprays a very potent smelling musk at attacker
 - ▶ Can be accurate up to 12 feet
 - ▶ Can spray 5-6 times then takes about a week to refill glands



Videos

Flying Mammals



▶ Bats

▶ Most Common

- ▶ Big Brown Bat

▶ Smallest

- ▶ Eastern Pipstrelle

- ▶ Weighs about 1/10th to 1/5th of an ounce
- ▶ 3.5 inches long

▶ Largest

- ▶ Hoary Bat

- ▶ Weighs 1.5 ounces
- ▶ About 6 inches long
- ▶ "tree" bat – prefers to roost up-side down on a tree branch



Flying Mammals

- ▶ Southern Flying Squirrel
 - ▶ Does not actually fly!!
 - ▶ Glides – potentially as far as 150 feet



Best talkers

- ▶ Prairie Dog

- ▶ Rodent

- ▶ Very social

- ▶ Live in colonies (called towns)

- ▶ Largest known town was about 25,000 square miles and had about 400 million prairie dogs

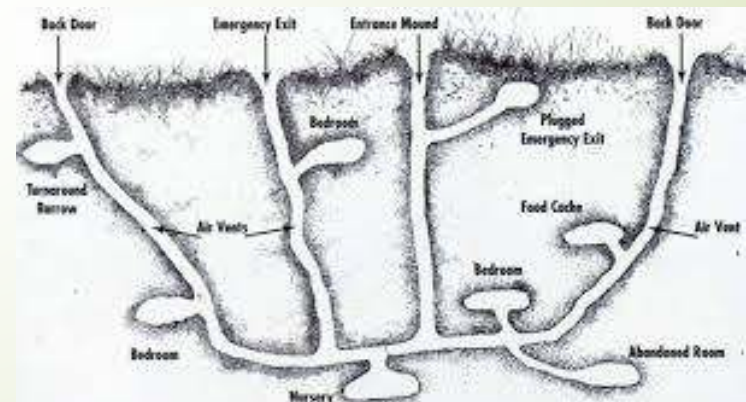
- ▶ Can communicate to each other in detail

- ▶ Flying vs ground predator

- ▶ Colors

- ▶ Visitors from other towns

- ▶ video



Best talkers

- ▶ Grasshopper Mouse
 - ▶ Most carnivorous mouse in North America
 - ▶ Over 90% of it's diet is insects and small rodents
 - ▶ Have a wolf-like howl to show their territory
 - ▶ Video



Never needs a drink

- ▶ Kangaroo Rat
 - ▶ Can survive several months without drinking water
 - ▶ Have long legs and move in hopping manner similar to Kangaroos
 - ▶ Can leap a distance of 6-9 feet and speed up to 6 miles per hour
 - ▶ Leap 15 times their body length



Most number of babies

- ▶ Deer mouse
 - ▶ Females can have up to 10 litters a year with 4-5 babies each
 - ▶ Total of 40-50 babies a year
 - ▶ Can be found all over North America – most wide spread rodent



Odd babies

- ▶ Opossum

- ▶ Marsupial

- ▶ Babies are born very underdeveloped then live in a pouch on the mother stomach and live on milk until big enough to come out on their own
 - ▶ Only marsupial in North America

- ▶ Nine-banded Armadillo

- ▶ Always has a set of identical quadruplets (4 babies)
 - ▶ Babies have same genetics
 - ▶ Clones!

