

A Fawn in the Forest



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White-tailed deer live in forests.

Most white-tailed deer live in forests. **Fawns**¹ are born in forests during the springtime. A fawn is a baby deer.

A Baby Deer Grows Up

Follow the first few months of a fawn's life.

Springtime Babies

White-tailed deer live in wooded areas such as forests. Mother deer give birth to one to three fawns in the spring. Many deer stay in the same area during most of their lives.

Hidden from View

Mother deer leave their fawns to look for food. The fawn stays very still in a hidden spot. Fawns have white spots for **camouflage**.² That helps the fawn hide.

Forest Family

Later, the mother deer returns to feed her baby. She licks its fur to keep it clean. Then the mother deer takes the fawn to a new spot while she looks for more food.



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The fawn stays very still while its mother goes to look for food.

¹ **fawn**: baby deer

² **camouflage**: the hiding or disguising of something by covering it up or changing the way it looks

Forest Adventures

Eventually, the fawn goes with its mother to look for food such as grass and leaves. The fawn learns about the forest and meets other animals too!

Forest Friends

Spring is a wonderful time in the forest! Many forest animals are born in the spring.

Cardinals

Mother **cardinals**³ lay their eggs in a nest. After about 12 days, the eggs hatch. The baby birds eat insects and worms.

Raccoons

Mother raccoons make their **dens**⁴ in a tree. Raccoons learn to find food when they are still little.



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Raccoons learn to find food when they are still little.

Squirrels

Mother squirrels make their nests in trees. Baby squirrels drink their mother's milk. When they are older, they will eat nuts.

³ **cardinals**: a commonly found bird that is bright red with a black face and a pointed bunch of feathers on its head

⁴ **dens**: shelters or resting places of wild animals

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: Answer the following four questions based on the information in the passage.

1. How is a baby deer's, or fawn's, appearance different from an adult deer's appearance?

2. How do the passage AND illustration help the reader understand what happens to the fawn when the mother deer must look for food?

3. Compare and contrast the cardinals and the squirrels. How are they alike, and how are they different?

4. What is this passage mostly about?

Directions: Please read the sentence below and then write the word or phrase that best answers the questions. The first answer has been provided for you.

In the springtime, many different types of animals are born in the forest.

What? many different types of animals

5. (did) What?

6. Where?

7. When?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Fawns have white spots on their fur, _____ other animals cannot see them easily.

- A but
- B because
- C so

Directions: Read the vocabulary word and definition below. Then answer questions 9 and 10.

Vocabulary Word: **hidden** (hid · den): when something cannot be seen easily or seen at all.

9. Read the sentences below and underline all forms of the word **hidden**.

- a. Jack made sure his favorite toy was hidden under his bed so that his baby brother could not find it.
- b. There is a hidden prize inside the cereal box, but I will have to eat all of the cereal to find it.
- c. Bob buried the treasure in the sand to make sure it would be hidden from other pirates.
- d. Camouflage is a way that many animals stay hidden from predators.
- e. I could not wait to open my birthday gift to see what was hidden inside!

10. Which picture shows something that can be easily hidden?

