

# Beaver



GARDEN EARTH  
NATURALIST  

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ECO-SERVICE CARDS

# BEAVER

*Castor canadensis*

## IDENTIFICATION CLUES



- ◆ large rodent (up to 4 feet long) with a heavy body and rounded head; brown fur
- ◆ small ears and eyes
- ◆ flat, scaly, hairless tail
- ◆ webbed hind feet



### Where to Look

Beavers are found in and around water. They live in lakes, ponds, rivers, streams and marshy areas. Though they are active primarily at night.

### Tracks and Other Signs

The teeth marks on downed trees are a good sign of beavers. They also make piles of mud to mark the edges of their territory.



### Predators and Other Dangers

Beavers are preyed upon by fox, owls and red-tailed hawks. Hunting, pollution and loss of habitat also threaten beavers.

### What It Eats.

Beavers are herbivores feeding on trees, herbs, grasses, pondweed and algae.



### Did You Know...

Beaver dams benefit many species of plants and animals. The pools they create provide habitat for fish, frogs, waterfowl, and insects as well as many varieties of water plants which in turn attract many other species of animals.

### Role in the Ecosystem

When beavers dam streams and rivers they create new habitat. They also help trees by thinning out smaller trees and reducing competition.