



AMERICAN BEAVER

Castor canadensis.



The American beaver lives around slow moving streams with softwood trees such as aspen nearby. In addition to using the bark of these trees as food, the wood is used to make the den. The den usually has three openings. One is above water level and two are below. Dens are either built as mounds or buried into banks at the edge of the water. American beavers have specialized valves in their nose and ears to help them swim more efficiently. They also have large tails, which they use to slap the water as a warning signal. This species spends a lot of time preparing for winter by storing food underwater.



SPECIES QUICK FACTS

SIZE

The American beaver will typically grow to be three to four feet in length.

WEIGHT

An average adult American beaver can weigh anywhere from 20 to 60 pounds.

FOOD HABITS

American beavers are herbivores. They mostly eat soft bark, aquatic plants, and leaves.

HABITAT

American beavers are always found near a source of water such as rivers, streams, and floodings.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

American beavers are found throughout most of the United States and Canada.

FUN FACT

Beavers are second only to humans in their ability to modify their surrounding environments.