

# Conservation

## Fun Outdoors!

Is there a lake, pond or creek nearby? If so, you can have plenty of fun when you “explore the shore.” Make sure to get permission from your parents first, or ask them to join you. Slowly walk along the water just to see what you might find. Look for signs of animal life, like tracks or burrows. See if you can spot any fish in the water. Collect cool rocks, and watch all the birds. Maybe even find something valuable!

## Hunting Tip

Part of being an ethical hunter is making sure your firearm is in good condition. Regular gun cleaning ensures reliability and accuracy. Experts recommend cleaning your shotgun or rifle after every hunt, whether you took a shot or not. The more you shoot a firearm, the more often it should be cleaned and oiled. Even guns kept in a gun safe all year should be cleaned and oiled once a year at minimum to guard against rust and corrosion.

## Fishing Tip

Most anglers put away the topwater lures during the winter months. But during the right conditions, tossing a topwater can bring success when it starts getting cold, as long as the water temperature is above 50 degrees. Try it on one of those sunny afternoons when the water has been warming all day but the breeze is a bit chilly.

# for Kids!

## Word Search: Winter Hunting Seasons

T	I	L	M	M	I	E	U	Y	A	I	U	L	G	S	P
S	I	C	X	A	D	W	S	M	S	S	N	M	G	Y	A
K	Q	B	S	J	U	A	V	Q	U	J	K	A	D	T	W
C	M	T	B	I	V	F	U	X	I	H	T	J	J	B	W
U	H	F	A	A	X	I	X	E	V	B	R	Y	T	Q	G
D	Q	Q	F	O	R	O	W	B	Y	Q	S	E	U	P	J
R	K	E	N	R	G	O	O	S	E	W	H	A	E	B	X
Z	P	H	E	A	S	A	N	T	K	S	I	L	R	D	P
P	K	L	G	X	Y	O	U	K	R	L	C	L	E	H	H
C	Z	J	Y	U	W	X	B	R	U	A	V	C	U	L	G
C	A	Z	T	P	C	O	Y	O	T	E	L	K	C	K	X
D	B	R	M	X	O	F	A	I	P	B	Z	E	Z	K	X
Q	R	L	N	E	S	Y	I	C	T	E	F	V	G	S	X
L	X	E	X	B	I	A	B	A	R	A	C	C	O	O	N
V	L	E	Z	Z	B	R	P	O	V	E	E	Z	H	K	A
C	J	D	D	J	X	G	L	O	P	P	G	I	P	V	T

Find and circle the names of these things commonly seen at deer camp.

Rabbit

Coyote

Elk

Squirrel

Duck

Quail

Turkey

Gray Fox

Goose

Deer

Pheasant

Raccoon

## COOL FACTS About Eastern Cottontail Rabbits:

- They can run as fast as 18 mph to escape from predators.
- They can be seen anytime year-round day or night, but they usually keep hidden during the day.
- They often run in a zig-zag pattern to avoid being caught.
- Cottontails have a brown and white color that helps them blend in with their environment.
- Cottontails' front teeth, or incisors, never stop growing, allowing them to gnaw on plants and tree bark.



## Color a Critter: Eastern Cottontail Rabbit



- Cottontails have a great sense of smell, with about 100 million scent receptors in their noses. They can twitch their noses between 20 and 120 times per minute to sniff out danger.
- Cottontails eat a variety of plants, including buds, sprouts, shoots, clover, peas, beans, grass, dandelions, and garden plants. In winter, they eat tender parts of trees like apple, birch, maple, and willow.
- Cottontail babies are born deaf and blind, with flattened ears and little fur. Their proper name is kittens or kits.
- Oklahoma's current hunting season for cottontails opened Oct. 1, 2024, and will close March 15, 2025. The daily bag limit is 10.

