Outdoor Recreation is Outdoor Education

Grade level:

Pre-K to 4th

by Coloring - American

Objective:

Learn about the American beaver in New Mexico by coloring the following illustration while reading about its importance. Beavers are the largest members of the rodent family in North America. Adults weigh an average of 44 pounds and measure approximately 42 inches. Noted for prominent chisel-shaped front teeth (incisors) and large paddleshaped tails (a third of the body's length), beavers are notorious woodcutters and industrious dam builders



American Beaver

Once almost extinct in North America, the American beaver has made a dramatic comeback and now is found frequently throughout forested streams, rivers and *wetlands* of New Mexico. The largest rodent in North America, it is well known for its dams which can be over 6 feet high and hundreds of feet long. Dams provide protection and access to their food supply of leaves, twigs, buds, sedges and bark. Dams also assure that any winter ice will not reach all the way to the bottom. Since beaver do not hibernate, they have to collect enough food to eat during the winter. They may build a lodge but can also dig a den into the side of the riverbank. Beaver have a thick waterproof coat and oversized lungs allowing them to remain underwater for up to 15 minutes. Beavers mate for life, which can be as long as 20 years.





New Mexico Department of Game and Fish www.wildlife.state.nm.us 888-248-6866

