

# Animal Fact Sheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Muskrat

*Ondatra zibethicus*

The muskrat is a medium-sized, semi-aquatic rodent native to North America, known for its dense, waterproof fur and laterally flattened tail. Muskrats are highly adapted to life in wetlands, construc...

### Quick facts

**Classification:** Mammal

**Family:** Cricetidae

**Habitat:** Freshwater wetlands

**Diet:** Omnivore

**Conservation status:** Least Concern

**Lifespan:** 3-4 years in the wild

**Weight:** 0.7–2 kg (1.5–4.4 lbs)

**Scientific name:** *Ondatra zibethicus*

### Did you know?

- Muskrats can swim underwater for up to 15 minutes by slowing their heart rate, allowing them to evade predators and find food.
- Muskrats build complex lodges with underwater entrances for protection. Their name comes from the musky scent they produce to mark territory. Unlike ...

### What I learned

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