CREATURE ATLAS

Animal Fact Sheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Muskrat

Ondatra zibethicus

Ondatra zibethicus is a large vole, not a rat and not a beaver, though it lives a distinctly beaver-like life. It is North America's most important freshwater furbearer by sheer volume — tens of mill…

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.
- Muskrat has an old legal and culinary status as a fish: in parts of the Detroit River region, Catholic dispensations dating to the frontier era still…

What I learned

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