

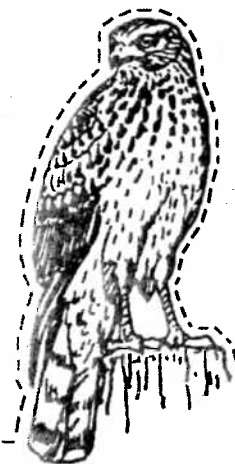
# Boreal Forest Component Cards

(Intermediate/Junior High Level)

The following pages contain over 130 illustrations of some of the most common and easily recognized trees, shrubs, herbs, fungi, insects, birds, mammals, and other components of the NWT's boreal forest. Also included are other probably less known, groups of invertebrates and microscopic organisms. Each illustration is accompanied by text describing the component's traits, habitat, foods, predators, and interesting facts or "treevia."

## How To Use the Boreal Forest Component Cards

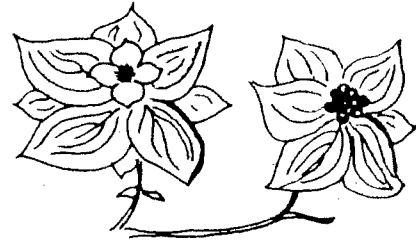
- Copy the cards and put them in a binder. Use them for **handy reference** information on forest plants and animals--what they look like; what they eat; what habitat they occur in; how they are important to people. Students can try to match specimens in the forest with cards in the reference binder.
- Cut up and laminate them for use in many of the specific **activities** in NWT's Focus on Forests manual, such as: *Who am I?*, *Forest Food Webs*, *Tree Snacks*, *Minibeasts in the Forest*, *Nature's Recycling Crew*.
- Photocopy the illustrations and cut them out. Have students colour the photocopies to make **plant** or **wildlife badges**.
- Enlarge the illustrations with a photocopier and use them for **work-sheets, displays, life-size cutouts** or anything else you may invent.
- Photocopy the illustrations and students can colour them, cut them out and make a **forest diorama in a box** (see *Forest Food Webs* in the manual).
- Make **finger puppets**. Copy enough cards so there is one for each student. (If you reduce them to about 70% of their size with a photocopier, they will be a good size for making puppets): Students can construct a finger puppet by drawing an outline around their organism with a wide strip at the base (see diagram). Students can then colour their puppet and cut it out. They can have a partner tape the ends of the strip to fit their finger. Groups of students can do a short play for the rest of the class. Encourage students to be dramatic and creative, but also have them include some of the information about their puppet's home, food, predators and other interesting facts.



## Games to Play!

- Photocopy, cut up and laminate the cards to use as **flashcards for card games or concentration games**. Here are a few game ideas:

**Forest Fish** - The object of this game is to collect the greatest number of Boreal Forest Component Cards. Students will learn to visually identify some of the organisms in NWT's boreal forest.



Materials: Boreal Forest Component Cards (choose 4 pages of the cards and make 4 photocopies of each page for each group).

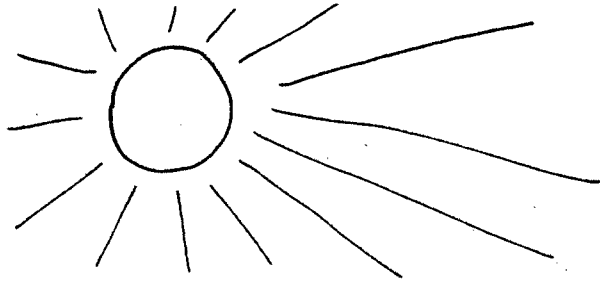
Directions:

1. Divide students into groups of two to four. Each of them should be dealt four cards. The rest of the cards are placed in a pile in the centre of the group.
2. The player on the left of the dealer begins by asking one of the other players if s/he has a particular card (e.g. do you have any carrion beetles?).
3. If the answer is 'yes,' the first player collects the cards from the second player, puts the pair face down, takes a card from the pile, and then takes another turn. If the answer is 'no,' the second player replies, 'go fish' and it becomes the next person's turn.
4. The game continues until all the cards in the middle are taken. The winner is the student with the greatest number of pairs.

Variation: You can use the tree and shrub cards and have students ask for cards by the scientific name, (e.g. Do you have any *Pinus banksiana*?). This will help the students become accustomed to hearing and pronouncing scientific names. This fits well with the Grade 5 Science Unit, 5.2.6 (each organism has scientific names which are the same all over the world).

**Forest Concentration** - Photocopy five or six pages of the Boreal Forest Component Cards. Cut out the cards, separating the illustrations from the name and information about the forest component. All cards are laid face down. Students alternate turning two cards over at a time. When a match is made (card with the correct picture) the student keeps the pair.

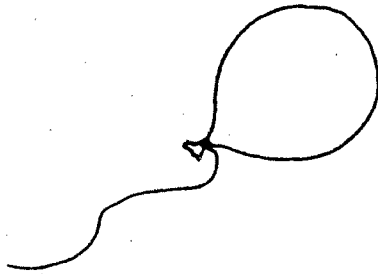
**Food Chain Rummy** - This game has the same rules as rummy, but students must make a food chain of three or four cards - depending on the level of the students - to lay down. (Example: lichen, caribou, and wolf--the wolf eats the caribou, and the caribou eats the lichen). When all the cards are gone, the student with the most sets wins.



**Sun**

**Non-Living**

**TRAITS:** The sun is a yellow dwarf star - a very dense ball of gases and dust. Thermonuclear reactions in the sun release huge amounts of heat and light energy.  
**OCCURRENCES:** The sun is located in the centre of our solar system. Light from the sun takes eight minutes to reach Earth.  
**VALUES:** Plants and other producers capture the energy in sunlight and, through photosynthesis, store it in the form of sugar. Plants, and all other living things, use this stored sunlight energy to grow and reproduce.  
**TREEVIA:** The sun is about 109 times the size of the earth.



**Air**

**Non-Living**

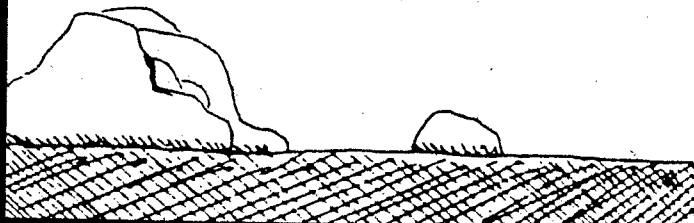
**TRAITS:** Air is made up of several gases, including: nitrogen (78%), oxygen (21%), rare gases (0.9%), carbon dioxide (0.03%).  
**OCCURRENCES:** Air surrounds us, but we rarely notice it.  
**VALUES:** The thin layer of air that blankets the earth makes our planet suitable for life by providing the oxygen and carbon dioxide needed by all living things.  
**TREEVIA:** The sky above us may look endless but the earth's atmosphere is actually very thin. If the earth were the size of an apple, the atmosphere would be the same thickness as the apple skin.



**Water**

**Non-Living**

**TRAITS:** Water molecules are made up of two atoms of hydrogen and one atom of oxygen. Water is solid (ice) at temperatures below freezing (0° C), liquid above this, and gas at temperatures above boiling (100° C).  
**OCCURRENCE:** Water occurs in the air as clouds, rain, and snow. It forms lakes, streams, rivers, and oceans. It also occurs in the soil and deep underground in the water table.  
**VALUES:** All living things need water for most life processes. Most living things are 70% water.  
**TREEVIA:** Water cycles continuously from clouds to rain or snow to rivers, lakes, and oceans, then back to clouds. Trees transpire or sweat water into the atmosphere.



**Soil and Rocks**

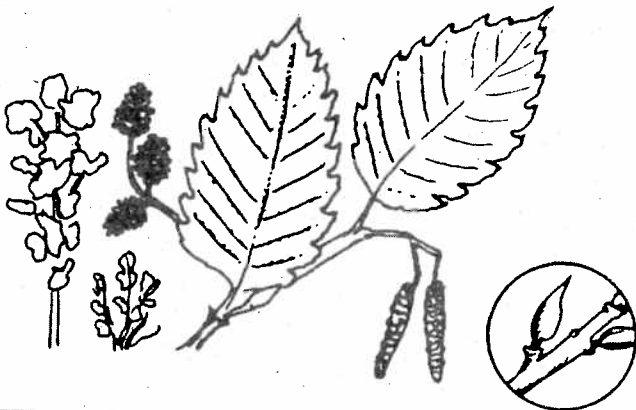
**Non-Living**

**TRAITS:** Rocks are made up of elements and compounds that form solids under most of the conditions on earth. Wind and water erosion change rocks into fine sand and clay particles, the basis of soils. Some soils are enriched by nutrients from decomposed plants, animals and other living things.  
**OCCURRENCE:** Soil and rocks are found everywhere on earth.  
**VALUES:** Soil contains the minerals that plants need to make food. Soil also provides plants with a place to put down their roots in order to hold themselves upright and take up water.  
**TREEVIA:** A teaspoon of forest soil may contain 3-10 billion microscopic organisms, and hundreds of invertebrate animals.



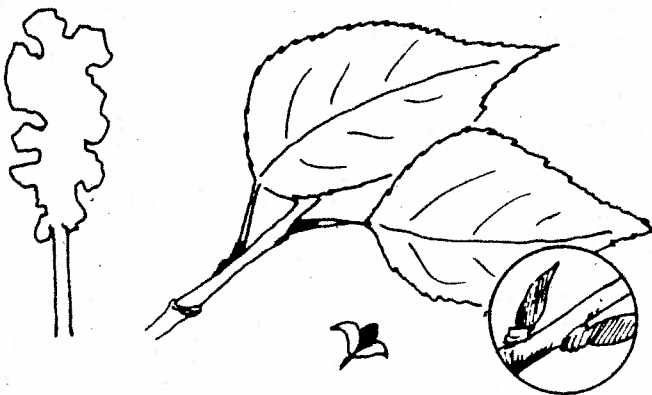
**Trembling Aspen** *Populus tremuloides* Plant

**TRAITS:** broadleaved tree; leaves are rounded with a pointed tip and small teeth along the edge; leaves have a flattened stalk causing them to flutter in the breeze; bark is smooth and greenish-white with waxy appearance, becoming rough with age; flowers form catkins which produce cottony seeds  
**HABITAT:** grows on many soils; best in well-drained loams  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis  
**EATEN BY:** beavers, caterpillars, aphids, moose, snowshoe hares, grouse, ptarmigan, small birds, porcupines  
**TREEVIA:** Aspen is a fast-growing tree which quickly invades open areas caused by fire or logging - by sending up root suckers.



**Green Alder** *Alnus crispa* Plant

**TRAITS:** bushy shrub that forms dense thickets; bark is smooth, reddish-brown or grey; flowers form catkins; fruit consists of small, cone-like catkins which are green but turn brown and woody at maturity  
**HABITAT:** grows well in low moist sites, such as along rivers; may extend along some rivers into treeless tundra  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis  
**EATEN BY:** moth larvae, aphids, redpolls, leaf hoppers, true bugs  
**TREEVIA:** Alder can be used as a fuel for smoking fish and meat.



**Balsam Poplar** *Populus balsamifera* Plant

**TRAITS:** broadleaved tree; buds are sweet-smelling and sticky; bark is smooth and greenish-brown, becoming thick and rough as it ages; flowers form drooping catkins and produce cottony seeds which are carried in the wind; can also reproduce by suckers growing up from the roots  
**HABITAT:** moist, rich, low-lying ground such as river valleys; widely distributed tree, it grows throughout the NWT forests  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis  
**EATEN BY:** caterpillars, aphids, moose, hares, grouse, ptarmigan, porcupines  
**TREEVIA:** Poplar catkins and gum can be used to make medicines for chest pain and other health problems.



**White Birch** *Betula papyrifera* Plant

**TRAITS:** broadleaved tree with white, paper-like bark that peels into sheets; leaves are triangular to egg-shaped with a pointed tip and teeth along edges; flowers form hanging catkins which mature into cone-like catkins  
**HABITAT:** grow in a variety of places, but favour well-drained sandy loams  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis  
**EATEN BY:** moth larvae, aphids, moose, hares, grouse, small birds, voles & other rodents, ptarmigan  
**TREEVIA:** Canoe birch is another name for white birch since the bark was once used by the Dene to make canoes. The bark is still used today for making decorative baskets.



**White Spruce** *Picea glauca* Plant

**TRAITS:** dense evergreen tree with a tapered trunk covered by thin scaly bark; young twigs are shiny and smooth; needles are four-sided, stiff, and prickly; 30-60 mm long cones hang down from the ends of branches

**HABITAT:** throughout forested area; grows best in well-drained, but moist, silty soil

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis

**EATEN BY:** spruce grouse, red squirrels, porcupines, bark beetles, spruce aphids, crossbills.

**TREEVIA:** Spruce is an important tree for lumber; the Dene people had a variety of uses for all parts of the white spruce, from paddles to snowshoe frames to medicine.



**Black Spruce** *Picea mariana* Plant

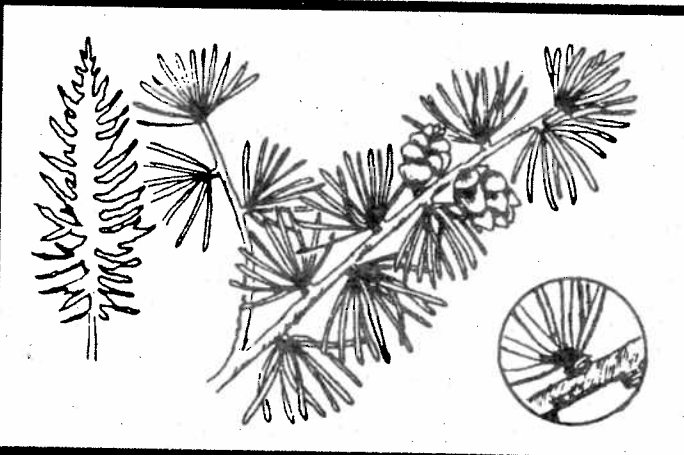
**TRAITS:** slow-growing evergreen with drooping, up-turned branches; young twigs are covered in short, dense hairs; needles are four-sided; egg-shaped cones are 15-30 mm long and can remain on branches for several years; older trees can also reproduce by layering - when drooping branches grow roots.

**HABITAT:** most widespread tree in the NWT; grows well in wet, boggy areas

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis

**EATEN BY:** red squirrels, porcupines, bark beetles, spruce aphids, beaver (starvation food only)

**TREEVIA:** The long fibres in the wood make it a good wood for paper-making; also a good medicine for congestion and colds.



**Tamarack** *Larix laricina* Plant

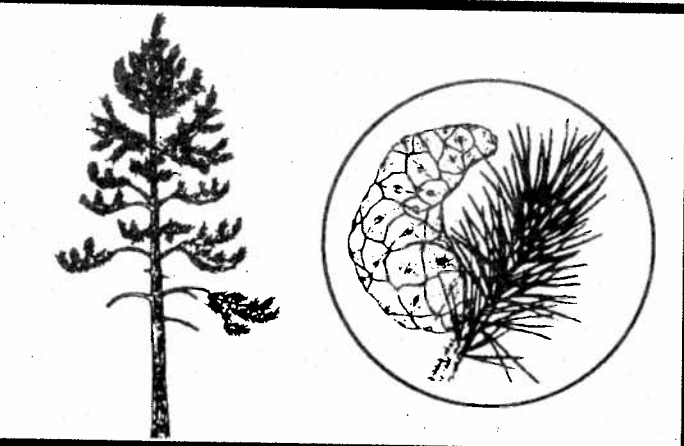
**TRAITS:** the only NWT conifer which loses its needles in winter; the needles are soft and flexible and grow in clusters of 10 to 20; it has small cones which grow upright on the branches

**HABITAT:** grows in wet places, such as sphagnum bogs

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis

**EATEN BY:** squirrels, wood-boring insects, aphids, seed-eating birds, porcupine, snowshoe hare

**TREEVIA:** Tannin for use in tanning leather can be extracted from tamarack bark. The spongy layer beneath the bark of a tamarack tree can be used to stop a wound from bleeding.



**Jack Pine** *Pinus banksiana* Plant

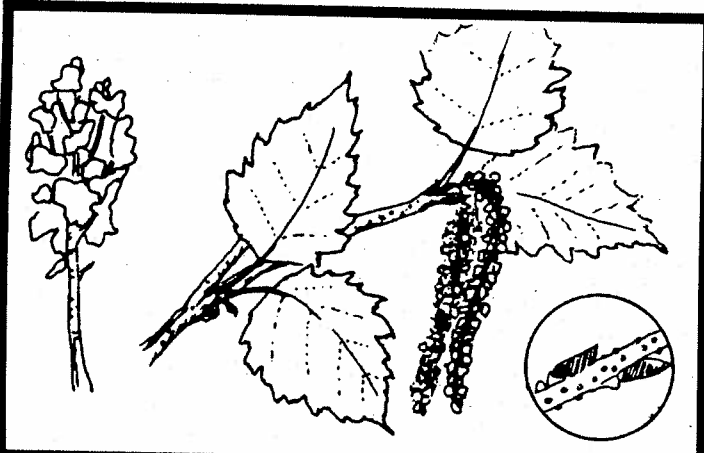
**TRAITS:** ragged-looking evergreen; needles grow in bundles of two; cones curve inwards and usually grow on the branch in pairs

**HABITAT:** grows best on sandy soils

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis

**EATEN BY:** wood-boring insects, aphids, snowshoe hare, porcupine, squirrel, spruce grouse; the bark and branches can be used as a medicine to cure a cold or chest pain

**TREEVIA:** Jack pine is the official tree of the NWT. Cones usually remain closed and stay on the tree until opened by the heat of a forest fire, or sometimes, by the heat of the sun.



**Alaska Birch** *Betula neoalaskana* Plant

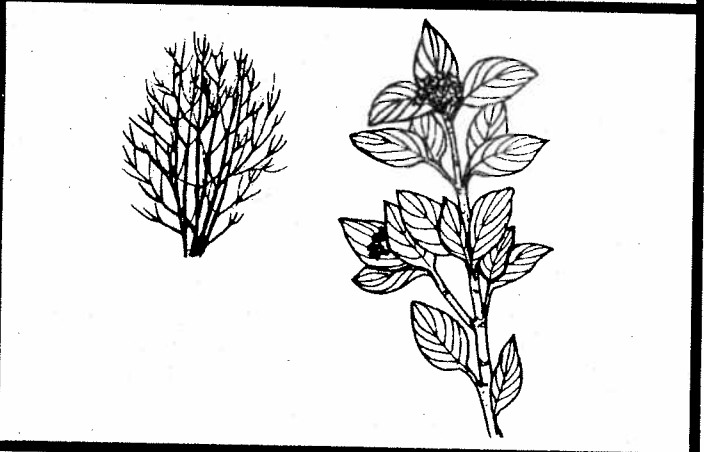
**TRAITS:** broadleaf tree which looks like white birch from a distance; has white paper-like bark which peels off into sheets but not as easily as the bark of white birch; leaves are almost triangle-shaped; twigs are covered with resin glands which makes them feel "bumpy"

**HABITAT:** forested areas of the NWT; grows in bogs and poorly drained soils

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis

**EATEN BY:** moth larvae, aphids, moose, hares, grouse, small birds, voles & other rodents, ptarmigan

**TREEVIA:** Birch wood is used for firewood; bark can be used for baskets or snow goggles.



**Red-Osier Dogwood** *Cornus stolonifera* Plant

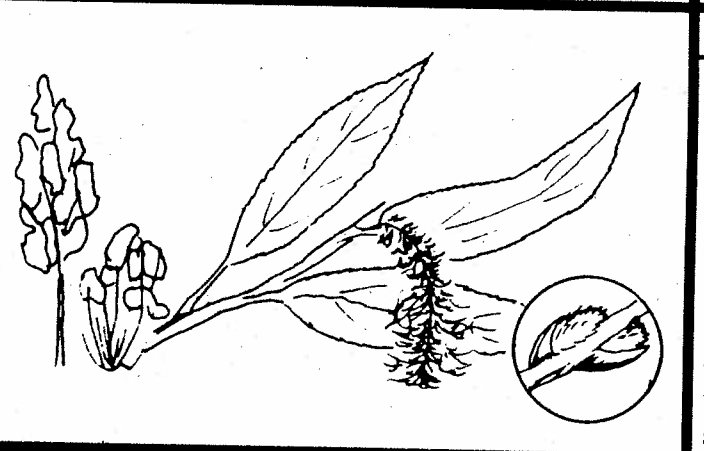
**TRAITS:** shrub is 1-3 m tall and has reddish-brown bark on branches; heavily veined, oval leaves; from May to July, flat-topped clusters of greenish-white flowers form; fruit is white berry

**HABITAT:** moist woods and clearings along Mackenzie River Valley to Delta

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis

**EATEN BY:** moose, hares, aphids, leafhoppers

**NOTES:** Dogwood fruit is not edible, but the dried bark and root has been used as a remedy for colds and fever. This plant is often called "red willow" by local people.



**Willow** *Salix* species Plant

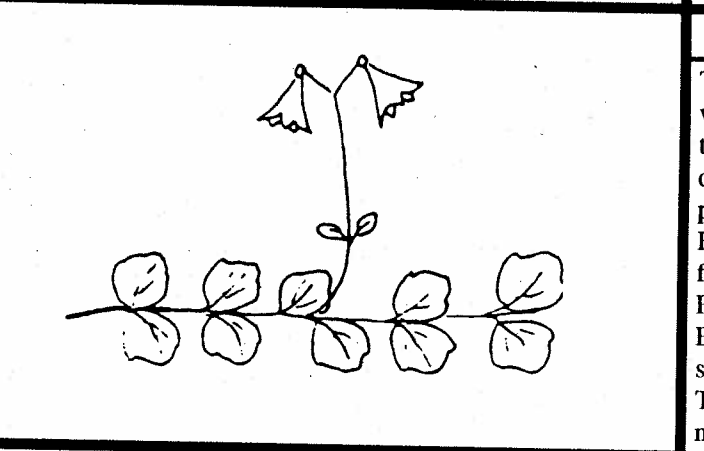
**TRAITS:** broadleaf tree or shrub; leaves are long, narrow and pointed at both ends; they are arranged alternately on branches; flowers form catkins which become cottony seeds

**HABITAT:** most willows grow along streams or in low places where soil is moist; one of few woody plants to survive on the treeless tundra

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis

**EATEN BY:** moth larvae, aphids, muskoxen, caribou, moose, hares, ptarmigan, beaver.

**TREEVIA:** 40 different kinds grow across the NWT. The bark contains salicylic acid which is the active ingredient in aspirin. Twigs of some willow are used to make baskets.



**Twinflower** *Linnaea borealis* Plant

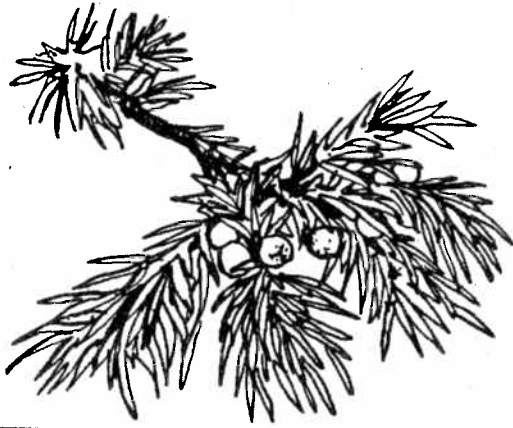
**TRAITS:** a small (less than 10 cm tall), trailing evergreen plant with opposite oval leaves; leaf tips are divided into three parts; twin pink, trumpet-shaped flowers are borne on a tall stalk; the dry fruit has hooked bristles that attaches to fur or feathers of passing animals

**HABITAT:** open forested areas that allow light to reach the forest floor

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis

**EATEN BY:** moth larvae, leaf hoppers, true bugs, voles, sparrows, grouse

**TREEVIA:** The delicate, twinned flowers produces one of the most fragrant perfumes of the boreal forest.



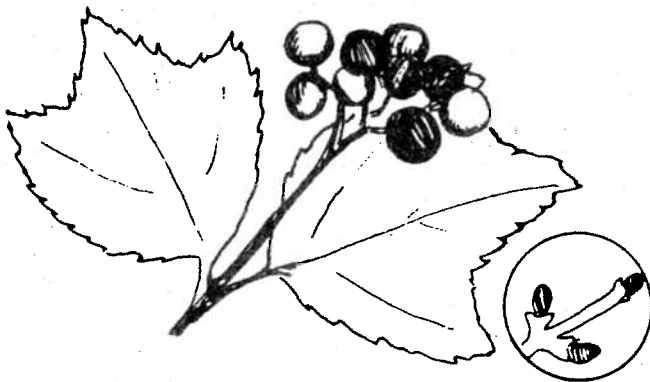
**Juniper** *Juniperus species* Plant

**TRAITS:** low-trailing evergreen shrub with scale or needle-like leaves; fruit is a blue-black juniper berry or cone  
**HABITAT:** dry, rocky or sandy places throughout forests of the NWT and extending into the tundra  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** squirrels  
**TREEVIA:** Juniper branches and berries are used in traditional medicine to help colds, heart trouble and even tuberculosis. The branches can be burned to purify the house - it gives off a cleansing gas against infectious fungi.



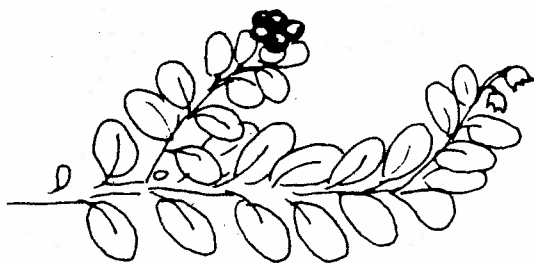
**Fireweed** *Epilobium species* Plant

**TRAITS:** tall plant with long narrow leaves; has many showy rose-pink flowers at top of stem; flowers July to September; seeds are covered in fluffy hair so they are carried easily by the wind  
**HABITAT:** grows throughout the forested area of the NWT; one of first plants to grow on disturbed soils and open areas, such as roadsides, along rivers and in burnt areas  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** moth larvae, aphids, bugs, leafhoppers, redpolls, sparrows, moose, hares, bears, humans  
**TREEVIA:** Fireweed makes good medicine to help a sore stomach, or to speed up the delivery of a baby.



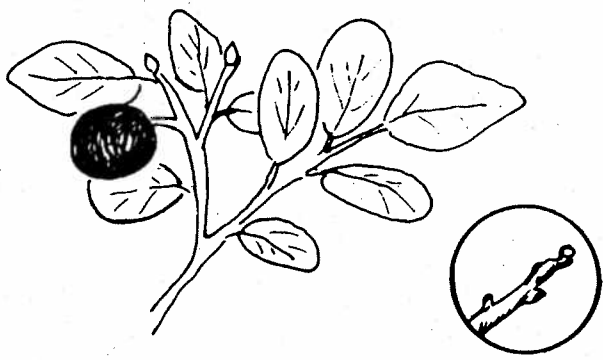
**High-bush Cranberry** *Viburnum edule* Plant

**TRAITS:** shrub which grows to 2 m tall; 3-lobed leaves grow in pairs along stem; white flowers grow in clusters at ends of twigs along stem; bright red berries  
**HABITAT:** cold, damp woods and open woodland margin of lakes and rivers south of the treeline  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** caterpillars, bugs, leafhoppers, sparrows, grouse, voles, moose, hares, bears, humans  
**TREEVIA:** Cranberries are tart but edible, becoming sweeter after a frost.



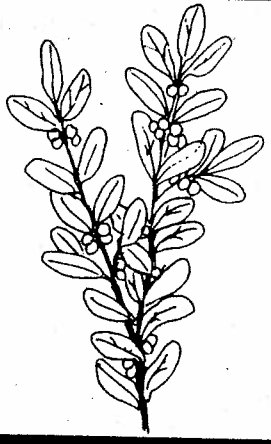
**Low-bush Cranberry** *Vaccinium vitis-idaea* Plant

**TRAITS:** low, evergreen, mat-forming shrub; small, thick, oval, leathery leaves; white or pink bell-shaped flowers; bright red berries  
**HABITAT:** open, acid, turfy and boggy places; throughout the mainland of the NWT  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** caterpillars, aphids, bugs, grouse, pine grosbeaks, thrushes, voles and other rodents, moose, bears, humans.  
**TREEVIA:** Berries can be chewed or boiled to make a medicine for colds and coughing. Other names include: mountain cranberry and lingonberry.



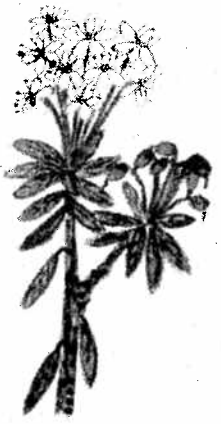
**Blueberry**     *Vaccinium uliginosum*     Plant

**TRAITS:** deciduous shrub up to 50 cm tall; small, oval leaves with smooth edges; pink bell-like flowers; blue-black berry  
**HABITAT:** acid soil in dry or moist areas; throughout the forested area of the NWT and extending into the tundra  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** caterpillars, aphids, jays, thrushes, voles, bears, humans  
**TREEVIA:** Blueberries are sweet and edible. It is also called bilberry and bog huckleberry.



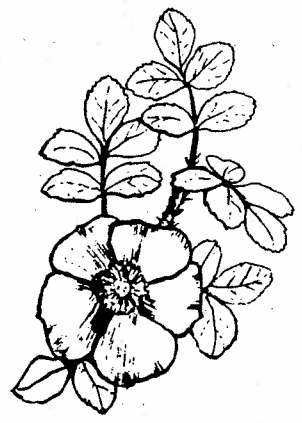
**Soapberry**     *Shepherdia canadensis*     Plant

**TRAITS:** shrub that may reach 3 m in height; oval leaves are smooth and green on top and undersides have whitish hairs and rusty scales; bright, red shiny berries that feel soapy  
**HABITAT:** open woods, gravel soil south of treeline  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** bears, grouse, aphids, caterpillars, humans  
**NOTES:** The berries can be whipped up to make a frothy foam which is edible, but bitter without sugar. Also called buffaloberry.



**Labrador Tea**     *Ledum* species     Plant

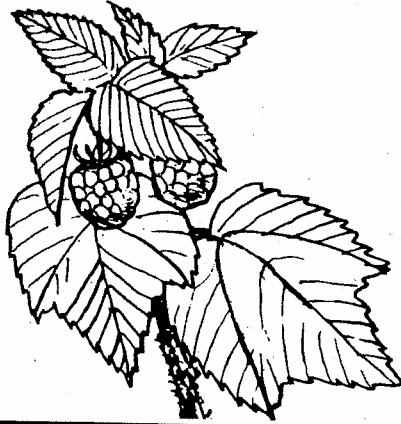
**TRAITS:** shrub about 50 cm high; aromatic; leaves ever-green, thick, with edges rolled under and rusty-woolly underneath; numerous white flowers form showy clusters  
**HABITAT:** poorly drained soils, bogs, muskeg, above and below the treeline in the NWT  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** moth larvae, aphids, snowshoe hares, humans  
**TREEVIA:** A tea can be made from the leaves or flower of this plant and used to cure heartburn, tuberculosis, colds and arthritis.



**Wild Rose**     *Rosa* species     Plant

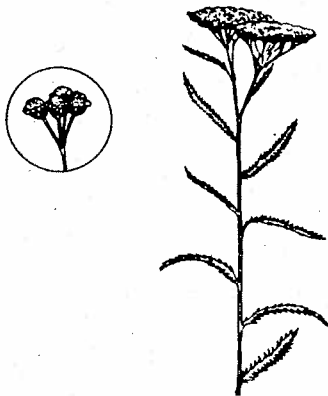
**TRAITS:** small shrub about 1 m high with prickly stem; showy fragrant flowers with 5 pink petals and golden ring of stamens; fruit, or hip, is red to orange and the size of a cherry  
**HABITAT:** river banks, road sides, clearings and burns throughout the forested area of the NWT  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** moth larvae, aphids, pine grosbeaks, grouse, thrushes, humans  
**TREEVIA:** Rose hips are rich in vitamin C and are a good emergency food. A herb juice can be made from wild rose to treat sore eyes and other ailments like a stomach ache.





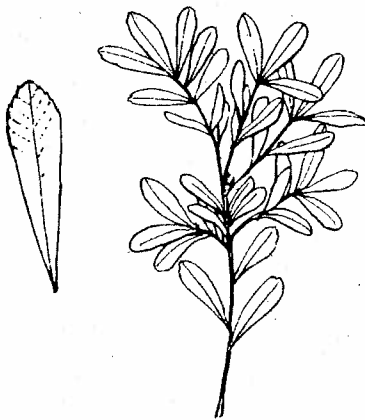
**Raspberry** *Rubus strigosus* Plant

**TRAITS:** shrub with bristly stem; 3-5 leaflets; white flowers; fruit is red and juicy when ripe  
**HABITAT:** often found growing on rock outcrops in the boreal forest  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** aphids, bugs, leafhoppers, grouse, jays, thrushes, sparrows, voles, moose, bears, humans  
**TREEVIA:** Raspberries are edible and are a good source of vitamins B and C. A tea can be made with fresh or dried leaves.



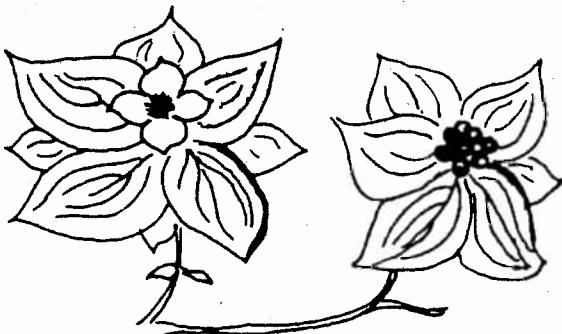
**Yarrow** *Achillea* species Plant

**TRAITS:** strong-smelling herb; 50 to 100 cm high; white umbrella-like flowers that bloom until late summer; leaves either doubly compound, having a ferny appearance, or long and toothed  
**HABITAT:** meadows, sandy places, roadsides, rocky lake shores south of the treeline  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** unknown  
**TREEVIA:** A medicinal tea can be made from yarrow flowers. The flowers can also be sniffed to stop a nose bleed. Rubbing clothes with yarrow or burning the stalks will repel mosquitoes.



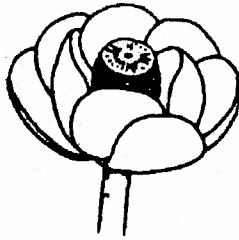
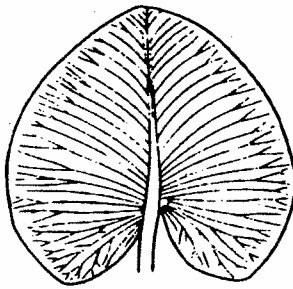
**Sweet Gale** *Myrica gale* Plant

**TRAITS:** shrub about 1 m high; leaves are greyish-green, toothed only at tip and produce a strong aroma  
**HABITAT:** wet areas, muskeg and bogs south of treeline  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis  
**EATEN BY:** leafhoppers, aphids, humans  
**TREEVIA:** A tea can be made from sweet gale leaves. Sweet gale is also a component of yellow to green dyes. The plant can also be used to treat skin rashes and sores.



**Bunchberry** *Cornus canadensis* Plant

**TRAITS:** low, trailing evergreen plant; stems 8-15 cm tall; 4-6 oval-shaped veined leaves; has 4 cream-coloured, petal-like leaves; clusters of red berries appear in late summer  
**HABITAT:** grows best in mature boreal forests  
**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.  
**EATEN BY:** aphids, moth larvae, tree bugs, leafhoppers, thrushes, sparrows, red squirrels, voles, humans  
**TREEVIA:** Bunchberries are high in pectin, which helps to thicken jams or berry cakes.



**Yellow Pond Lily**     *Nuphar variegatum*     Plant

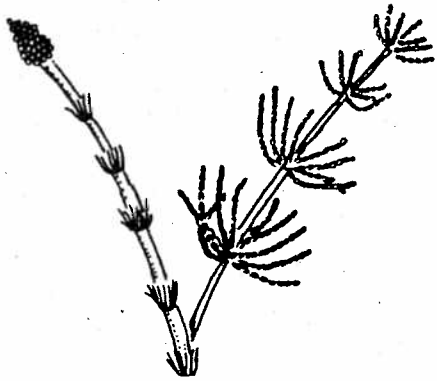
**TRAITS:** large, heart-shaped leaves which float on the water and are attached to the root by a long stalk; flower has up to 6 bright yellow, petal-like sepals

**HABITAT:** shallow, still waters in ponds and rivers in forested part of the NWT; south of Great Bear Lake

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.

**EATEN BY:** beavers, moose, muskrats

**TREEVIA:** Pond lily is also called spatterdock or cow lily. The seeds are edible, they can be cooked on the fire to make a "wilderness popcorn".



**Horsetails**     *Equisetum* species     Plant

**TRAITS:** ground cover plant with jointed, hollow stems that grow from an underground rhizome; reproduce by spores on a cone-like structure at tops of some stems

**HABITAT:** wet or moist soils; different species found throughout the NWT

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.

**EATEN BY:** bears, grouse, moose

**TREEVIA:** Some members of this group are called scouring rush because their stems can be used to clean pots when camping.



**Sedges**     family *Cyperaceae*     Plant

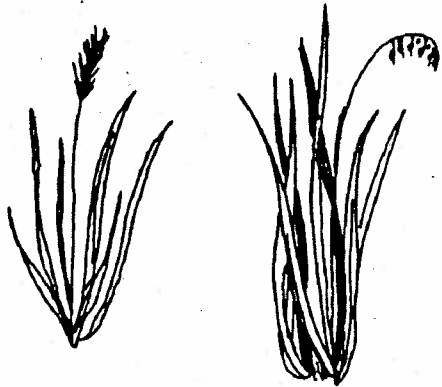
**TRAITS:** grass-like herbs with long, narrow leaves and solid, usually triangular stems; 2-100 cm high; tiny flowers grow in clusters

**HABITAT:** forest bogs, moist meadows, tundra

**FOODS:** make their own by photosynthesis.

**EATEN BY:** moose, caribou, wood bison, voles, geese, bears, hares

**TREEVIA:** Sedges look quite a bit like rushes, but remember: "sedges have edges and rushes are round."



**Grasses**     family *Poaceae*     Plant

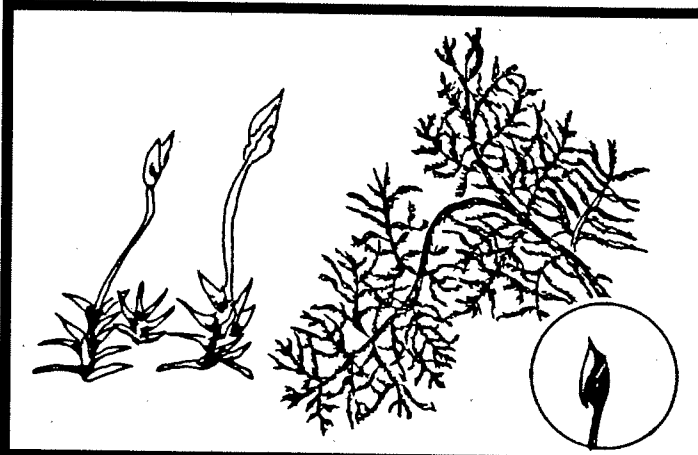
**TRAITS:** herbs with long, narrow leaves and hollow stems; flowers are tiny

**HABITAT:** dry to moist forests, meadows and wetlands

**FOOD:** make their own by photosynthesis.

**EATEN BY:** bears, caribou, wood bison, ducks, humans, geese

**TREEVIA:** People world-wide depend on grasses. They supply sugar from sugarcane and cereal from grains such as wheat, barley, oats, corn and rice. Grasses also supply many cultures with materials for weaving.



**Mosses & Liverworts** Bryophytes Plant

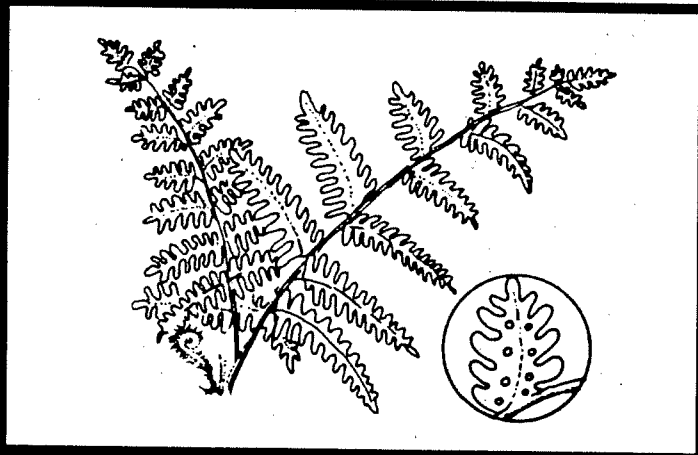
**TRAITS:** small ground cover plants, either flat and scale-like or with stems and leaves; they do not have true roots or tubes in their stems for moving food and water; they reproduce by spores that are borne in cap-like structures, or capsules, at the tips of long stalks

**HABITAT:** soil, tree branches, and rocks in forested areas, and other moist habitats

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.

**EATEN BY:** springtails, mites

**TREEVIA:** Spagnum moss was used by Dene people for bedding and baby diapers. When dry, it can absorb large amounts of liquids.



**Ferns** family *Polypodiaceae* Plant

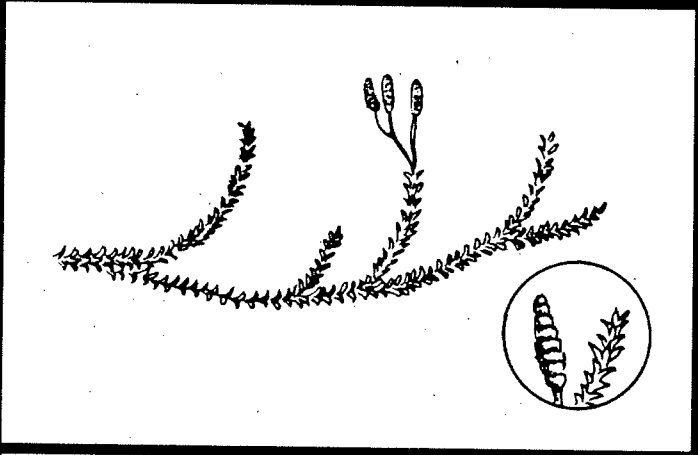
**TRAITS:** plants with stems, leaves, and roots; most have stems that grow underground; leaves, called fronds, are usually divided into very fine parts; reproduce by spores borne on the undersides of the leaves or on special fronds

**HABITAT:** moist habitats; most species occur in forests and on the tundra of the NWT

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.

**EATEN BY:** grouse, hares, springtails

**TREEVIA:** Some types of ferns can be cooked and eaten. The fiddleheads of ostrich ferns are very good to eat.



**Club Mosses** *Lycopodium* species Plant

**TRAITS:** ground cover plant; moss-like herb; stems may grow upward or along the ground; tiny, one-veined leaves grow in pairs, or spirals around the stem; the spores are usually found in structures that look like cones on the ends of the stalks

**HABITAT:** moist to dry forests and edges of bogs

**FOODS:** makes its own by photosynthesis.

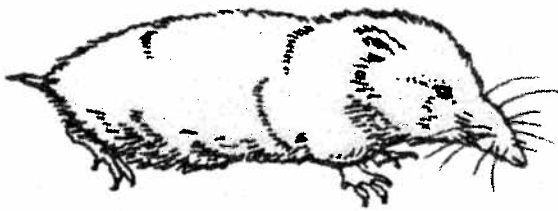
**EATEN BY:** springtails, mites

**TREEVIA:** Some club mosses look like tiny coniferous trees.



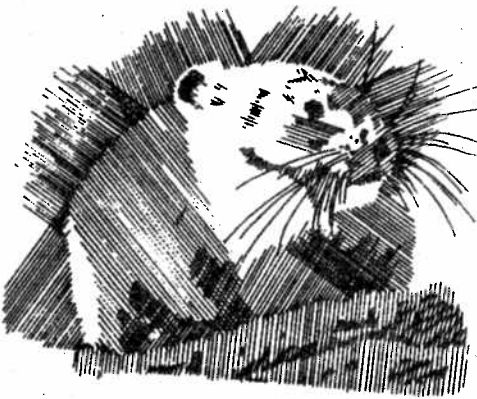
**Wood Frog**      *Rana sylvatica*      Animal

**TRAITS:** small amphibian (about 7 cm) with moist brown or grey skin; long hind legs, short forelegs, and a large mouth; dark mask over the eyes  
**HABITAT:** eggs and larvae live only in water; adults inhabit moist areas such as ponds, bogs, marshes, throughout forested areas and adjacent tundra.  
**FOODS:** adults eat insects including flies, bugs, dragonflies; larvae feed on algae and small animals  
**EATEN BY:** diving beetles, pike, mink, grebes, loons  
**TREEVIA:** The wood frog is active even at temperatures slightly above freezing because it has chemicals similiar to antifreeze in its blood.



**Shrew**      *Sorex species*      Animal

**TRAITS:** small mammal with long, pointed nose, sharp teeth, short legs, short velvety fur, fairly long tail, and tiny black bead-like eyes  
**HABITAT:** forests, wetlands, and tundra  
**FOODS:** eats insects such as beetles and fly larvae, also worms, spiders and the eggs and young of small ground-nesting birds  
**EATEN BY:** owls, ermine, marten, foxes, falcons  
**TREEVIA:** Shrews are balls of nervous energy. They are constantly active, either hunting, grooming or building a nest. Four different kinds of shrews live in the NWT.



**Voles & Lemmings**      family Muridae      Animal

**TRAITS:** small mouse-like mammals with rounded nose, short tail and legs and long front teeth for gnawing  
**HABITAT:** forest, wetlands, tundra  
**FOODS:** grasses, sedges, seeds, roots, berries, mushrooms  
**EATEN BY:** important prey species for a variety of carnivorous animals: hawks, owls, gulls, foxes, marten, mink, ermine, black bears  
**TREEVIA:** This group of rodents help scatter seeds of plants and spores of fungi. There are about five different kinds of voles and three species of lemmings that live in the NWT.



**Deer Mouse**      *Peromyscus maniculatus*      Animal

**TRAITS:** small mammal with fairly long tail and large beady eyes; gets its name from its coloration which is similar to a deer - light brown above and white underneath  
**HABITAT:** likes dry habitats; lives in most parts of the NWT below the treeline  
**FOODS:** mostly seeds but also: mushrooms, berries, insects, caterpillars, spiders.  
**EATEN BY:** owls, foxes, and ermines  
**TREEVIA:** Deer mouse nests are balls of grass with a hole in the centre. The deer mouse is an important link in many food chains.



**Red Squirrel** *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus* Animal

**TRAITS:** lively tree-living rodent with bushy tail; in summer, coat is brownish-white; in winter it is brighter and more reddish

**HABITAT:** coniferous forests; throughout the NWT below the treeline

**FOODS:** mainly seeds of spruce and other conifers; sometimes mushrooms and bird's eggs and young

**EATEN BY:** hawks, owls, marten, fishers, lynx, ermine, wolves

**TREEVIA:** This squirrel cuts cones off the tops of conifers and caches them for winter. It makes its home in tree cavities, leafy



**Northern Flying Squirrel** *Glaucomys sabrinus* Animal

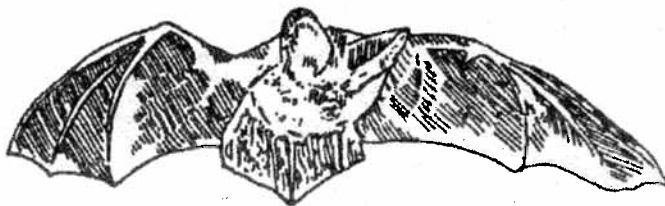
**TRAITS:** bushy tail; large eyes; brown above and grey below; folds of skin along its sides between the front and back legs which allows the squirrel to glide.

**HABITAT:** boreal forests; along Mackenzie River valley

**FOODS:** lichens, buds, seeds, leaves, fruits, nuts, mushrooms; also eggs of insects and birds.

**EATEN BY:** owls, marten

**TREEVIA:** This squirrel is nocturnal - gathers food at night and very sociable. It lives in tree cavities and nests of twigs.



**Little Brown Bat** *Myotis lucifugus* Animal

**TRAITS:** small mammal with a layer of skin stretched between its long fingers of the hand to form wings; long, silky brown fur on body; small eyes; large ears; weighs about 8 grams

**HABITAT:** forested areas with caves; in the NWT, west of Slave River and Great Slave Lake

**FOODS:** flies, mosquitoes, moths, beetles

**EATEN BY:** owls

**TREEVIA:** Bats seek roosts for the day such as caves, hollow trees and attics. They hibernate in caves during winter, lowering their body temperatures to that of the environment.



**Snowshoe Hare** *Lepus americanus* Animal

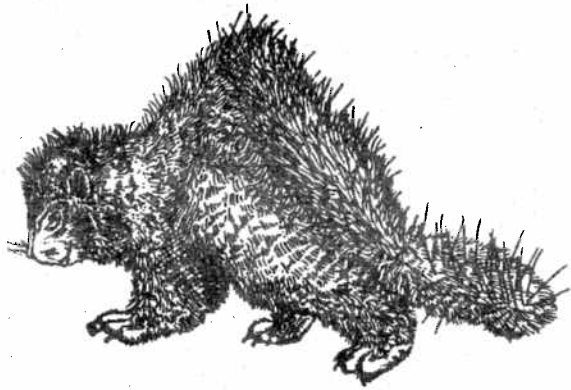
**TRAITS:** mammal with long front teeth, long ears, and a short tail; its large hind feet are padded with thick stiff hairs which give its common name; hare populations follow a 10-year cycle

**HABITAT:** needs deciduous forests for food and coniferous trees for shelter; lives south of the treeline

**FOODS:** grasses, flowers, buds, twigs and bark of birch, willow, aspen, spruce

**EATEN BY:** owls, hawks, red fox, wolf, lynx, humans

**TREEVIA:** Hares are usually called rabbits by local people. Another name, the varying hare, refers to its brown summer fur which turns white during the winter.



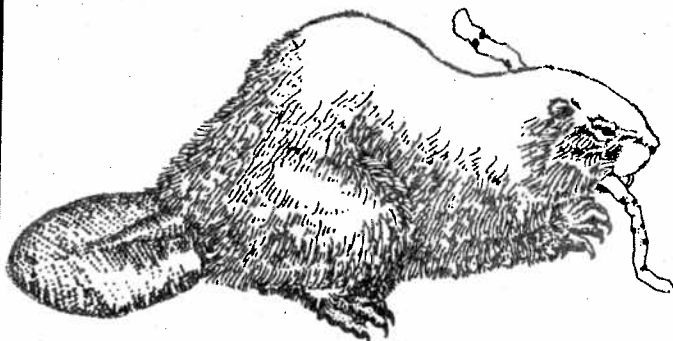
**Porcupine** *Erethizon dorsatum* Animal

**TRAITS:** sluggish rodent; back and tail are covered with quills; large front teeth for gnawing  
**HABITAT:** forested areas that include large, hollow trees or caves it can use for its den; they live below the treeline  
**FOODS:** green vegetation in summer, inner bark of trees in winter; chew bones & antlers because of high mineral content  
**EATEN BY:** in spite of its defences, wolverines, fishers and lynx know how to kill a porcupine without getting full of quills  
**TREEVIA:** Porcupines have about 30,000 quills which can be raised in defence. These quills are soaked and dyed and used to decorate birch baskets.



**Muskrat** *Ondatra zibethicus* Animal

**TRAITS:** large, aquatic brown rodent with a long scaly tail; has partially webbed hind feet; lips close behind the incisors allowing the muskrat to gnaw underwater without getting water in its mouth  
**HABITAT:** shallow water bodies; in the NWT, occurs below the treeline  
**FOODS:** water lilies, bulrushes; sometimes mussels, frogs & fish  
**EATEN BY:** owls, eagles, coyotes, mink, pike, humans  
**TREEVIA:** Muskrats are an important NWT furbearer. In winter they build push-ups, or domes, of frozen plants covering a hole in ice where they feed; muskrat meat is very nutritional.



**Beaver** *Castor canadensis* Animal

**TRAITS:** large rodent with webbed feet, a long, flat tail and long front incisors  
**HABITAT:** slow moving waters in forested regions; live below the treeline  
**FOODS:** mainly trembling aspen, also willow, birch and balsam poplar; also aquatic plants such as water-lilies and cat tails  
**EATEN BY:** wolves, lynx, wolverines, otters, bears, humans  
**TREEVIA:** The beaver is valued by the Dene people for its gift of intelligence



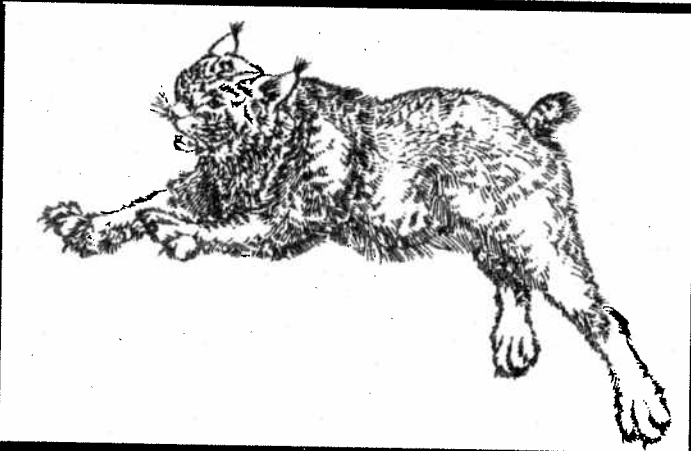
**Ermine** *Mustela erminea* Animal

**TRAITS:** small ferocious carnivore with a slender body; in summer, underside is creamy white and the back and sides are chocolate brown; in winter, all white except black tip of tail; anal scent glands produce a musky odour  
**HABITAT:** lives in a wide range of habitats throughout the NWT; boreal forest, tundra, mountains; stay close to cover of rocks and logs  
**FOODS:** voles, mice, shrews, hares, birds, squirrels  
**EATEN BY:** foxes, owls, hawks, marten, wolverines, coyotes  
**TREEVIA:** Ermine is harvested for its fur. It is also called the short-tailed weasel.



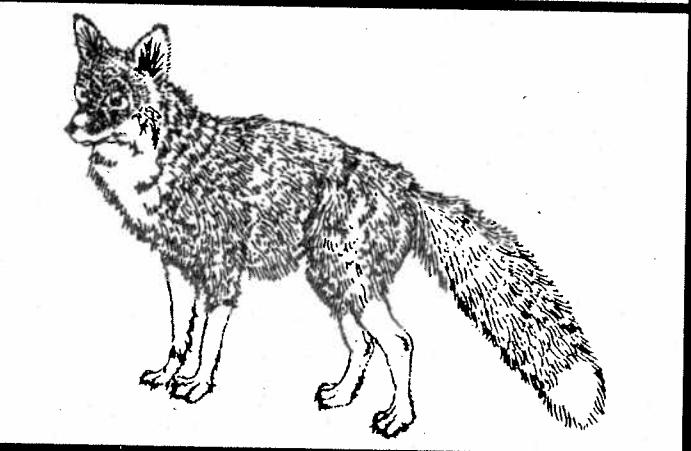
**Wolverine** *Gulo gulo* Animal

**TRAITS:** solitary member of the weasel family about the size of a bear cub; stout, muscular body; short, bushy tail; large, bear-like claws suitable for climbing; dark brown fur with a buff coloured stripe along each side  
**HABITAT:** forest and tundra; throughout most of the NWT, but less abundant in the forests  
**FOODS:** berries, mice, arctic ground squirrels, bird's eggs, fish, calves of moose and caribou, dead animals  
**EATEN BY:** rarely by wolves  
**TREEVIA:** Wolverine fur is good for parka hoods because it does not frost up. This animal is also known as the stealer because it raids food caches and steals bait from traps.



**Lynx** *Lynx canadensis* Animal

**TRAITS:** large cat with a short body, long legs, very large padded feet and a stubby tail; its long, thick fur is light brown and grey in colour; ears are tipped with long, black hairs  
**HABITAT:** dense boreal forest; may hunt short distances beyond the treeline of the NWT  
**FOODS:** chiefly snowshoe hare, but also ducks, ptarmigan, voles, and sometimes moose or caribou  
**EATEN BY:** large owls and eagles will prey on young  
**TREEVIA:** Lynx is an important furbearer in the NWT. Lynx populations rise and fall in cycles of about 10 years (as does the snowshoe hare, its main food supply).



**Red Fox** *Vulpes vulpes* Animal

**TRAITS:** looks like a slender, small dog with a pointed face, long fur and a bushy tail; there are three colour phases: red is the most common with red-brown fur; the cross fox has more black hairs across its shoulders and on its back forming a cross; and the silver fox is black with white frosting on the guard hairs  
**HABITAT:** semi-open country-around lakes and rivers, in forested areas as well as tundra; lives throughout most of the mainland of the NWT and some Arctic Islands  
**FOODS:** voles, lemmings, muskrats, squirrels, eggs, birds, hares, insects, berries, dead animals  
**EATEN BY:** coyotes, lynx, wolves, wolverine and bears  
**TREEVIA:** Red fox fur is used for crafts and for clothing trim.



**Mink** *Mustela vison* Animal

**TRAITS:** mammal with a long, slender body covered in thick, dark brown fur with white under the throat and on chest; short legs; long neck; pointed face; long tail  
**HABITATS:** streams, lakes and marshes in the forested areas of the NWT  
**FOODS:** voles, muskrats, fish, eggs and young of ducks, geese, and shorebirds, frogs, aquatic insects  
**EATEN BY:** owls, lynx, wolves, foxes, hawks, coyotes  
**TREEVIA:** Mink is trapped for its fur..





**Wolf** *Canis lupus* Animal

**TRAITS:** looks like a large, lanky husky dog; has a long, straight, bushy, black-tipped tail; most common colour is gray, but it can vary from white to black, with white wolves living in the tundra

**HABITAT:** forests, tundra, plains, mountains throughout NWT

**FOODS:** caribou, moose, bison, Dall's sheep, muskoxen, small mammals

**EATEN BY:** no natural predators

**TREEVIA:** Wolves usually hunt in packs since prey is often larger and faster. Wolf fur is valued for clothing - the long hair is good around the face as trim to break the wind.



**Marten** *Martes americana* Animal

**TRAITS:** tree-dwelling member of the weasel family with a slender body, short limbs and claws suited for climbing; it has a long bushy tail, broad head, relatively large ears and abdominal scent glands; its colour varies from light to dark brown

**HABITAT:** mature coniferous forests

**FOODS:** voles, mice, squirrels, hares, birds, berries

**EATEN BY:** little natural predation, but it is reported to be preyed upon by lynx, owls, eagles, and coyotes

**TREEVIA:** Marten is trapped for its fur in the NWT. This animal tunnels under the snow in winter to find prey such as voles and mice.



**River Otter** *Lutra canadensis* Animal

**TRAITS:** mammal with a long and streamlined body, short legs and a long tail; its head is flattened with small ears and its toes are webbed; the fur is thick, shiny and dark brown in colour

**HABITAT:** the otter is amphibious and lives on the shores of deep, clear waters such as lakes, rivers, marshes and ocean bays; mainly south of the treeline in the NWT.

**FOODS:** fish, aquatic invertebrates, birds and small mammals, such as muskrats and voles

**EATEN BY:** sometimes eaten by coyotes, wolves and lynx

**TREEVIA:** The otter is trapped for its pelt in the NWT.



**Moose** *Alces alces* Animal

**TRAITS:** large mammal which is part of the deer family; has very long legs, high humped shoulders, a drooping nose and a "bell" hanging from its throat; males have large antlers in fall

**HABITAT:** prefers thickets; also seeks shelter in forests; found throughout forests of the NWT and may extend into the tundra along rivers

**FOODS:** browses on woody vegetation, especially willow, birch and aspen; also, in summer, eats grasses, sedges and aquatic plants such as yellow pond lily

**EATEN BY:** wolves, bears, humans

**TREEVIA:** Moose meat is an important country food and moose hides are used for making clothing and crafts.





**Black Bear**     *Ursus americanus*     Animal

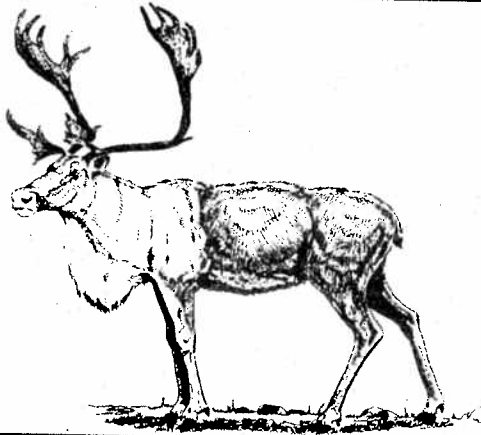
**TRAITS:** mammal with a broad head, short neck, stubby tail and long, coarse hair; most common colour is black with a tan muzzle, but can be blond or brown

**HABITAT:** forested areas throughout the NWT

**FOODS:** grasses, sedges, fish, bird's eggs, roots, berries, voles, insects, and sometimes a calf of moose or caribou, also eats garbage left by humans

**EATEN BY:** grizzly bears, humans

**TREEVIA:** To the Dene people, the bear is the most respected of animals in the animal world.



**Caribou**     *Rangifer tarandus*     Animal

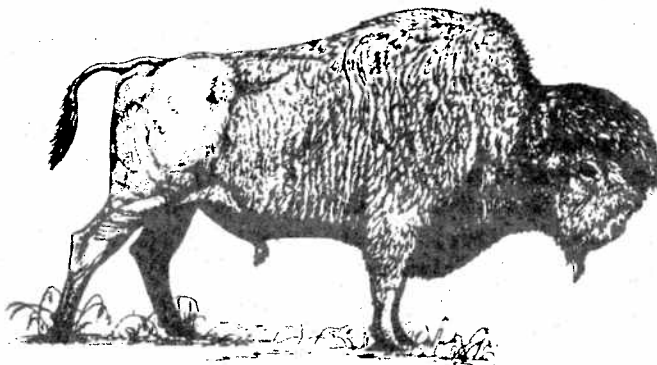
**TRAITS:** belongs to deer family, but both male and female have antlers; short tail is well furred; large, wide hooves; basic colour is brown, but may be lighter in colour, almost white

**HABITAT:** arctic and alpine tundra and coniferous forests; inhabits mainland of the NWT and some of the arctic islands

**FOODS:** mainly lichens, but also grasses, sedges, forbs, willow, and birch

**EATEN BY:** mainly wolves and humans, but also grizzly bears, wolverine and lynx

**TREEVIA:** Woodland caribou stay in the forested area all year round; some herds of barren-ground caribou spend the winter south of the treeline.



**Wood Bison**     *Bison bison*     Animal

**TRAITS:** largest land mammal in the NWT; huge head is low-slung and its shoulders have a massive hump; tail has a tassel of long hair on the end; it has short, black horns, its head, shoulders and front legs are covered by a woolly dark brown mane while the coat on the hindquarters is short and coppery brown

**HABITAT:** aspen parklands, meadows, coniferous forest; with ranges in the Liard River Valley, Mackenzie Bison Range, Slave River Lowlands and Wood Buffalo National Park.

**FOODS:** grasses, willow leaves and twigs, forbs and sedges

**EATEN BY:** grizzly bears, wolves, humans

**TREEVIA:** To improve bison grazing areas, planned burns are used to imitate the natural process of rejuvenating the meadows.



**Human**     *Homo sapien*     Animal

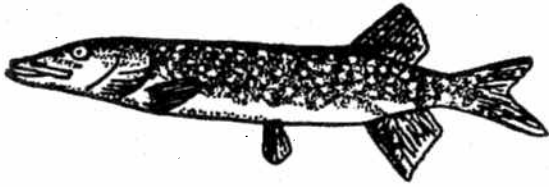
**TRAITS:** large mammals that walk erect on two legs; hands with opposable thumbs; have little hair compared to most other mammals

**HABITAT:** humans use tools to make clothing, build shelters, catch or grow food; able to live in a wide variety of habitats around the world

**FOODS:** caribou, moose, fish, ducks, geese, bison, sheep, seals, many plants, domesticated animals

**EATEN BY:** people have no known predators

**TREEVIA:** Humans change the environment more than any other species; can conserve wildlife and protect the environment.



**Northern Pike** *Esox lucius* Animal

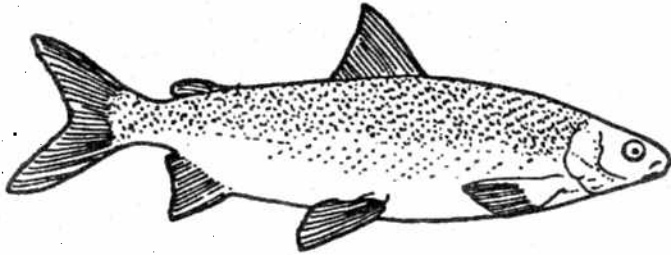
**TRAITS:** fish with a long body that is dark green to brown in colour along the back, with lighter sides and yellow spots; it has a long snout with large mouth and sharp teeth; generally weighs 2.3 to 6.8 kg ; spawns in spring

**HABITAT:** prefers warm, slow, heavily vegetated rivers or warm, weedy bays of lakes throughout most of the NWT

**FOODS:** sticklebacks, young pike and other fish; may also eat mice, muskrats and ducklings

**EATEN BY:** young are eaten by adult pike and other fish; adults are eaten by humans and eagles

**TREEVIA:** Pike are also called Jackfish.



**Lake Whitefish** *Coregonus clupeaformis* Animal

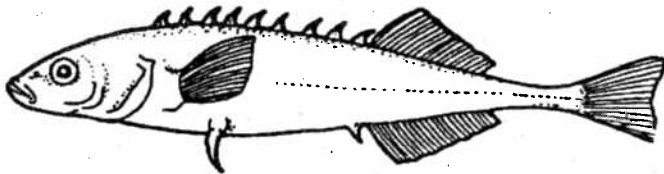
**TRAITS:** fish with slender, round bodies and large scales; average length is about 38 cm; silver in colour; upper jaw overlaps lower jaw and has two flaps between openings of each nostril; spawning occurs in autumn

**HABITAT:** fresh water throughout the mainland of the NWT

**FOODS:** mainly a bottom feeder, eating small clams, dragonfly and mosquito larvae, also eggs of other fish

**EATEN BY:** northern pike and other large fish; humans; fry are eaten by fish-eating birds, such as loons, mergansers and grebes

**TREEVIA:** Whitefish is the most common commercially sold freshwater fish in the NWT.



**Nine-spine Stickleback** *Pungitius pungitius* Animal

**TRAITS:** nine spines make up dorsal fin; small, slender, compressed body about 6.5 cm in length; large eyes; pale green, grey or olive above with irregular dark bars or blotches

**HABITAT:** lakes and rivers throughout most of the NWT

**FOODS:** aquatic insects such as water fleas, crustaceans, fish eggs

**EATEN BY:** fish, loons, gulls, mink, herons

**TREEVIA:** The spines of the stickleback can be locked in an upright position to discourage predators.



**Common Loon** *Gravia immer* Animal

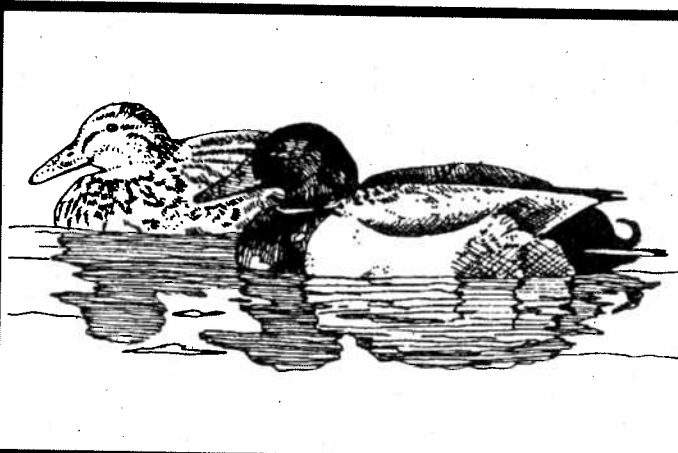
**TRAITS:** large black and white bird with a black, straight, tapered bill; total length, 71-89 cm

**HABITAT:** inhabits freshwater lakes below treeline and onto mainland tundra in the NWT

**FOODS:** sticklebacks, young fish; also leeches, snails, frogs and aquatic insects

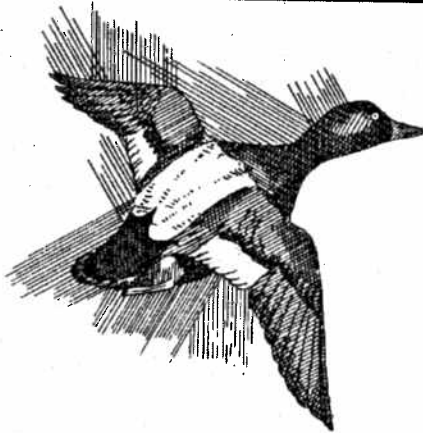
**EATEN BY:** eggs and young may be eaten by foxes, coyotes, and mink

**TREEVIA:** The loon is known for its lonely and laughing calls. It is an excellent swimmer but moves awkwardly on land.



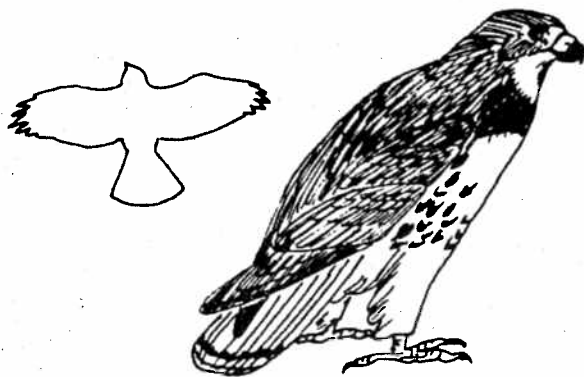
**Mallard**      *Anas platyrhynchos*      Animal

**TRAITS:** large dabbling duck; male: green head, white collar, chestnut breast; female: brown; total length: 50-69 cm; legs are orange; bill is greenish-yellow  
**HABITAT:** very adaptable, lives in marshes, ponds, lakes, and rivers of the NWT south of the treeline; forages on land, especially in grain fields in southern Canada.  
**FOODS:** aquatic vegetation, grasses, seeds, insects, grain, corn  
**EATEN BY:** foxes, pike, mink  
**TREEVIA:** Mallards are found throughout North America, Europe and Asia.



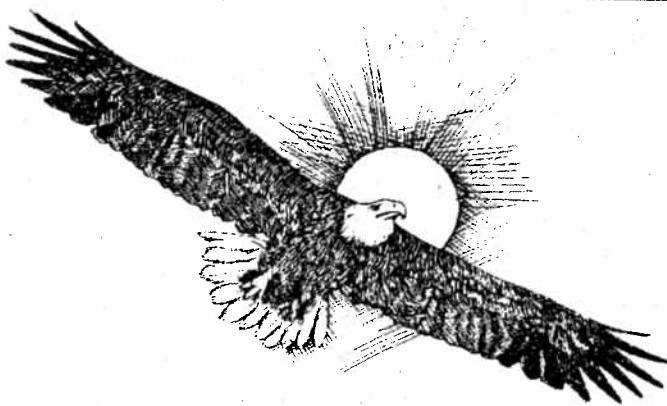
**Greater Scaup**      *Aythya marila*      Animal

**TRAITS:** diving duck; male: head, breast, and rump are black, head with a greenish gloss; mid-back and belly are white; female: brown; total length: 43-53 cm; yellow eyes; bill and legs are greyish blue  
**HABITAT:** lakes, ponds, sluggish rivers in most of the NWT south of the treeline  
**FOODS:** sticklebacks, young fish, molluscs and aquatic plants  
**EATEN BY:** foxes, pike, mink  
**TREEVIA:** This bird winters along the Pacific coast to California and the Atlantic coast to Mexico.



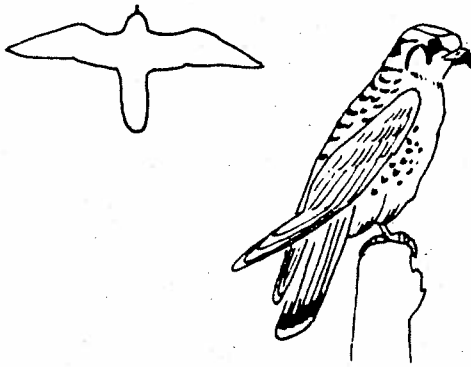
**Red-tailed Hawk**      *Buteo jamaicensis*      Animal

**TRAITS:** large brown and white bird of prey with broad, rounded wings and tail; upper surface of tail is reddish; has sharp talons and a hooked bill  
**HABITAT:** usually nests in old trees, but sometimes on cliff ledges; feed in open areas south of the treeline in the NWT  
**FOODS:** voles, shrews, snowshoe hares, squirrels, mice and other small mammals  
**EATEN BY:** eggs may be taken by ravens  
**TREEVIA:** All birds are parasitized by certain microscopic organisms, feather lice and some other invertebrate animals.



**Bald Eagle**      *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*      Animal

**TRAITS:** large dark brown bird of prey with rounded tail and wings, sharp talons and a hooked bill; adults have a white head and tail  
**HABITAT:** old forests along rivers, lakes and ocean; usually nests in large old trees, but also nest on cliff ledges below the treeline in the NWT  
**FOODS:** mostly fish; also dead animals such as caribou and birds  
**EATEN BY:** no predators known; gulls and ravens may eat its eggs  
**TREEVIA:** Bald Eagles are endangered or threatened species in many parts of North



**American Kestrel** *Falco sparverius* Animal

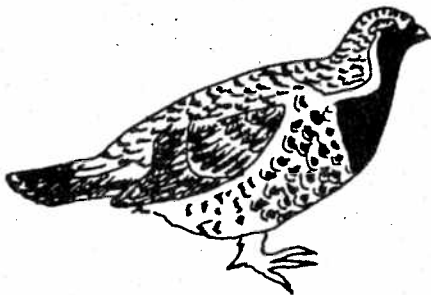
**TRAITS:** medium-sized bird marked with blue, reddish-brown, white and black; has a long tail, pointed wings and a sharply hooked bill

**HABITAT:** forest edges and openings; likes to nest in holes in dead trees

**FOODS:** large flying insects such as grasshoppers, dragonflies; also small mammals and birds, such as voles and sparrows

**EATEN BY:** no predators known

**TREEVIA:** The kestrel uses vacant woodpecker holes for nesting.



**Spruce Grouse** *Dendragapus canadensis* Animal

**TRAITS:** chicken-like bird with a rusty band at the tip of its black tail; male has black chest, while female is mottled brown and white

**HABITAT:** coniferous and spruce-hardwood forests throughout forested areas of the NWT

**FOODS:** needles and buds of coniferous trees; berries, leaves, shoots of ground cover plants; needs sand to help digest foods

**EATEN BY:** hawks, owls, foxes, lynx, weasels, humans

**TREEVIA:** Grouse are also called fool hen since they are very tame, allowing humans to approach closely.



**Willow Ptarmigan** *Lagopus lagopus* Animal

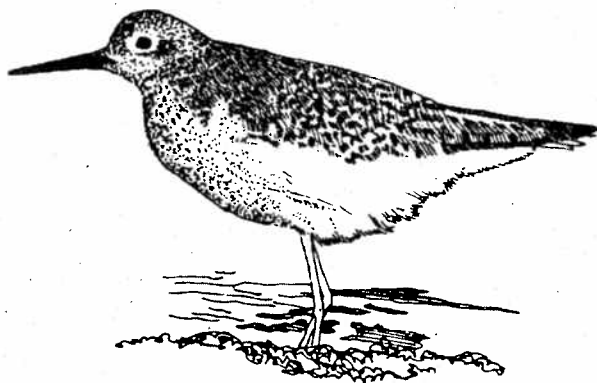
**TRAITS:** in winter, all white except most of tail feathers; in summer, mottled brown except wings, belly and legs which remain white; feathered legs and toes; total length: 35-43 cm

**HABITAT:** low arctic tundra and taiga areas in winter

**FOODS:** willow, birch, berries of groundcover plants, insects

**EATEN BY:** hawks, owls, foxes, humans

**TREEVIA:** Ptarmigan burrow down in snow drifts when the air temperature is cold.



**Lesser Yellowlegs** *Tringa flavipes* Animal

**TRAITS:** shorebird with long, bright yellow legs; long bill; grey and white coloration with whitish rump and tail; total length: 23-28 cm

**HABITAT:** for nesting, open woodland with marshes, mud flats ponds, and lakes south of the treeline

**FOODS:** crustaceans and insects found in shallow waters; berries

**EATEN BY:** hawks, owls, foxes, mink

**TREEVIA:** This bird winters from South Carolina and Mexico to Chile and Argentina. The male yellowlegs plays a large part in caring for the young.



**Pine Grosbeak** *Pinicola enucleator* Animal

**TRAITS:** medium-sized bird with a long tail; stout, cone-shaped bill; males are red, females are grey with gold markings  
**HABITAT:** young to old coniferous and mixed broadleaf-conifer forests; nests in conifer trees.  
**FOODS:** buds, seeds and berries of trees and shrubs.  
**EATEN BY:** kestrel, goshawk, other birds of prey  
**TREEVIA:** Helps to carry and spread seeds of some berry-producing plants.



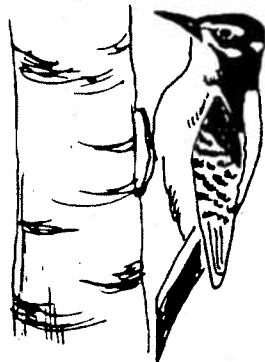
**Great Horned Owl** *Bubo virginianus* Animal

**TRAITS:** large, brown owl with large ear tufts; large yellow eyes; sharp talons and hooked bill; total length: 46-59 cm  
**HABITAT:** mature forests throughout the NWT  
**FOODS:** small mammals and birds, including: hares, squirrels, voles, grouse, ducks  
**EATEN BY:** no known predators  
**TREEVIA:** Owls are nocturnal - hunt at night. They are skilled hunters because they are silent when they fly and have excellent hearing.



**Northern Flicker** *Colaptes auratus* Animal

**TRAITS:** large, brown woodpecker with white rump patch and black-spotted underparts; black crescent on its breast, yellow under the wings and tail, and a red nape patch  
**HABITAT:** open ground to feed, beneath evergreen trees; along streams; in burnt areas; throughout forests of the NWT  
**FOODS:** mainly ants, other insects, fruits, berries  
**EATEN BY:** hawks  
**TREEVIA:** Flickers have strong skulls which allow them to bore into trees; chisel-like bills with long tongues aid in reaching insects in wood.



**Hairy Woodpecker** *Picoides villosus* Animal

**TRAITS:** black and white with broad white stripe down back; adult males have red patch at back of head; chisel-shaped bill; total length: 21-27 cm  
**HABITAT:** forests of the NWT south of Great Bear Lake  
**FOODS:** bark beetles, ants, other invertebrates living under tree bark  
**EATEN BY:** falcons, hawks  
**TREEVIA:** Like all woodpeckers, the hairy woodpecker has a stiff tail which acts as a brace while drumming on a tree.



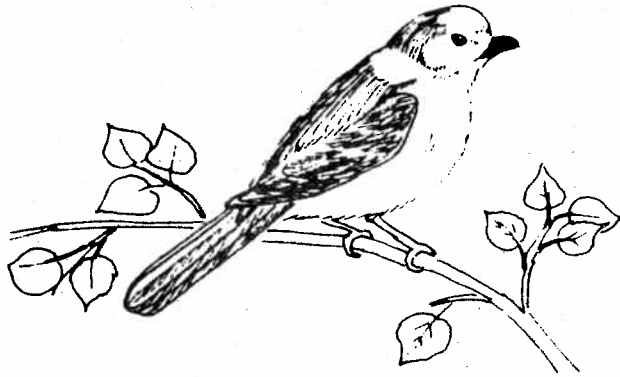
**Tree Swallow** *Tachycineta bicolor* Animal

**TRAITS:** small bird with long, pointed wings, slightly forked tail; colour is white with steel blue markings; 12-16 cm long.  
**HABITAT:** needs holes in dead trees for nesting, but feeds in forest openings and over water; found in forested areas of the NWT

**FOODS:** flying insects, such as moths, beetles, flies, bees and dragonflies

**EATEN BY:** squirrels may eat eggs, falcons, hawks,

**TREEVIA:** The tree swallow has a wide mouth for capturing insects in the air.



**Gray Jay** *Perisoreus canadensis* Animal

**TRAITS:** medium-sized grey bird with a long tail and rounded wings; short, slightly hooked bill; total length is 27-31 cm

**HABITAT:** coniferous and mixed-wood forests and forest openings; throughout most of the NWT, extending into tundra

**FOODS:** eggs and young of other birds, small mammals, insects, invertebrates, berries, dead animals, garbage

**EATEN BY:** hawks, falcons

**TREEVIA:** The Gray Jay is also known as the Canada Jay or Whiskey Jack. It is tame, bold and curious, often visiting campsites for scraps.



**Common Raven** *Corvus corax* Animal

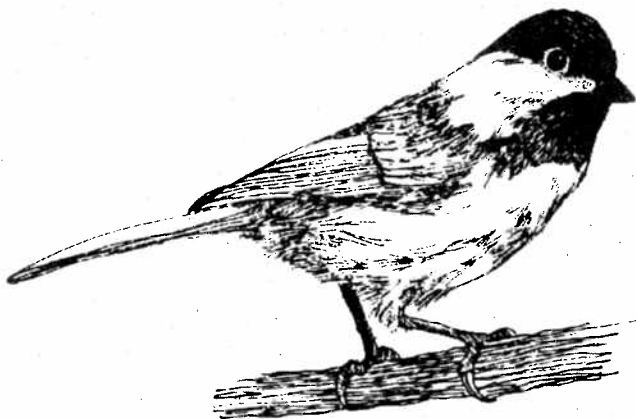
**TRAITS:** large, black bird with a wedge-shaped tail, broad wings, sharp talons and a heavy bill. Its total length is 56 - 67 cm

**HABITAT:** forests, tundra, wetlands, mountains; frequents shores of lakes, rivers and seas; garbage dumps; throughout all of the NWT

**FOODS:** garbage, dead animals, eggs and young of other birds, small mammals, berries

**EATEN BY:** eggs taken by marten, jays and other predators

**TREEVIA:** In Dene legends, the raven is an animal with special powers and should be treated with great respect.



**Boreal Chickadee** *Parus hudsonicus* Animal

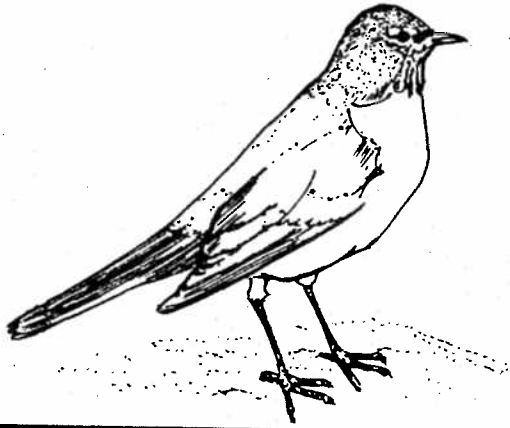
**TRAITS:** small bird with a thin bill, long tail and brown cap; total length is 12-14 cm

**HABITAT:** mature to old boreal forest

**FOODS:** mainly insects - thrips, moths, flies, wasps, spiders

**EATEN BY:** small hawks or owls

**TREEVIA:** Chickadees need dead trees with holes for nesting. The holes are made by woodpeckers and fungi.



**American Robin** *Turdus migratorius* Animal

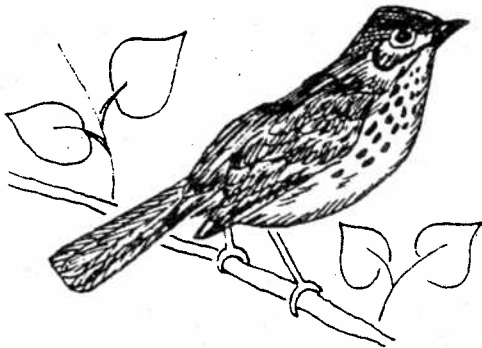
**TRAITS:** medium-sized bird with long tail and a short, thin bill. Colouring is grey on back with a reddish breast; total length 23-28 cm

**HABITAT:** open places with many groundcover plants; uses tall shrubs and trees for songposts or nest sites. Found in boreal forest and some tundra areas

**FOODS:** beetles, grasshoppers, ants, worms, grubs; also berries and seeds

**EATEN BY:** hawks, falcons

**TREEVIA:** Robins may help to transport seeds of berry-producing plants.



**Thrushes** *Catharus* species Animal

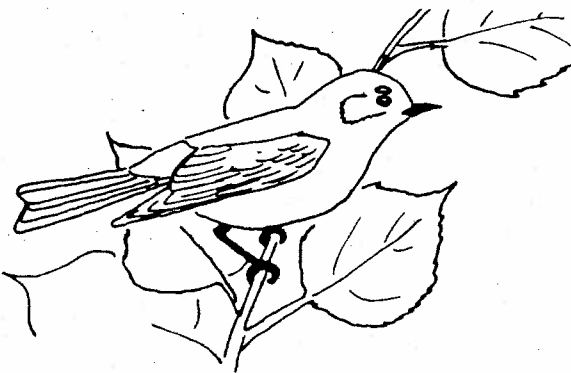
**TRAITS:** medium-sized bird with brown colouring on its upper parts and white with dark spots on its breast; total length 16-20 cm

**HABITAT:** Gray-Checked Thrush prefers coniferous forest across most of the forested NWT and extends north and east onto the tundra; Swainson's Thrushes inhabit tall deciduous shrubbery and coniferous woods south of the treeline; Hermit Thrushes occur in mixed and coniferous woods in the southern Mackenzie area.

**FOODS:** insects, spiders, grubs, berries, seeds

**EATEN BY:** squirrels eat eggs, hawks, falcons

**TREEVIA:** Thrushes are noted for their flute-like songs.



**Warblers** Animal

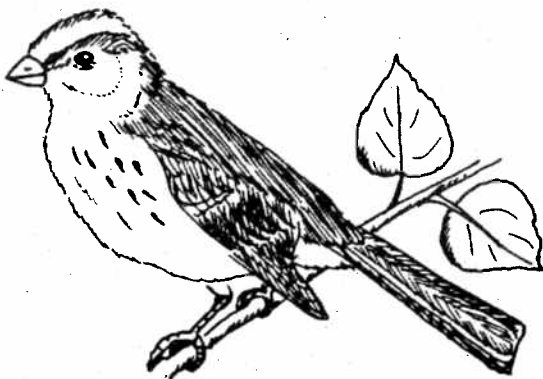
**TRAITS:** very small birds with thin bills; brightly coloured; most have yellow markings; total length: 11-15 cm

**HABITAT:** coniferous, mixed, deciduous forests; bogs; alder and willow thickets; burnt areas; occur in forests of the NWT; Yellow and Blackpoll Warbler extend into the tundra

**FOODS:** true bugs, leafhoppers, moth and butterfly larvae, flies, aphids, beetles, sawflies, spiders; also some seeds and fruits

**EATEN BY:** falcons, hawks

**TREEVIA:** Warblers are very active birds. In summer, you may see them constantly flitting about branches in search of insects. Different kinds of warblers feed in different heights of trees.



**Sparrows** Animal

**TRAITS:** small birds with stout, cone-shaped bills. Most are brown on back, paler underneath; some have streaks on the breast; total length: 10-16 cm

**HABITAT:** open shrubby areas; along streams; in bogs; openings and at edges of woodlands, burned areas; occur in forests of the NWT, some extending into the tundra

**FOODS:** mainly seeds of groundcover plants and some insects

**EATEN BY:** hawks, falcons, shrikes; shrews, squirrels and ermine eat eggs and young

**TREEVIA:** Sparrows often use hair from moose, or feathers from other birds to line their nests.





**Common Redpoll** *Carduelis flammea* Animal

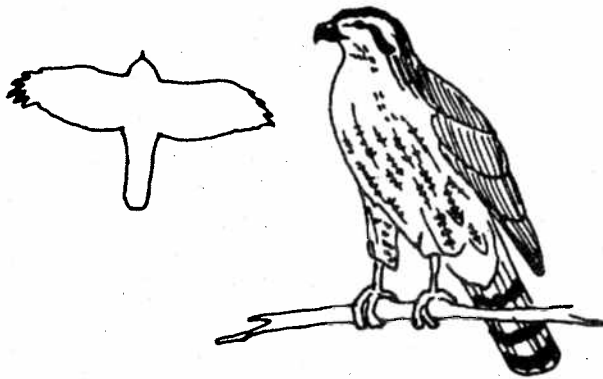
**TRAITS:** small bird with a red cap and a stout, cone-shaped bill; total length 11-15 cm

**HABITAT:** shrubby areas of alder, willow, dwarf birch and stunted spruce; occurs through most of mainland NWT and part of Baffin Island

**FOODS:** mainly seeds and buds of willow, aspen, birch and alder

**EATEN BY:** falcons, hawks; weasels and squirrels may eat eggs

**TREEVIA:** Can be found as far north as Clyde Inlet and Cumberland Peninsula on Baffin Island.



**Goshawk** *Accipiter gentilis* Animal

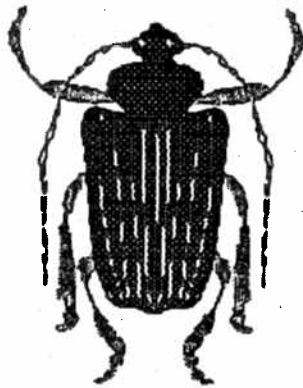
**TRAITS:** large gray bird with a long tail and rounded wings, sharp talons and a hooked beak

**HABITAT:** mixed conifer-broadleaf forests with large, old trees for nest sites

**FOODS:** squirrels, grouse, large songbirds, ducks, hares, ermine

**EATEN BY:** no known predators

**TREEVIA:** Goshawks are often confused with gyrfalcons which live in tundra areas near rocky outcrops and cliffs.



**Longhorned Beetles** Animal

**TRAITS:** large insects with thick, dark front wings, antenna half as long as body or more

**HABITAT:** weakened, dying, dead or freshly cut or fallen trees; recent burns contain many dead trees, so longhorns are attracted to these sites; they are able to smell smoke and detect fires from 25 miles away

**FOOD:** adults eat leaves and flowers; larvae eat wood

**EATEN BY:** woodpeckers, ichneumon wasp larvae

**TREEVIA:** In the stomach of this group of beetles, microscopic bacteria play a role in assisting in the digestion of the plant materials eaten. The bacteria breaks down the plants and releases valuable minerals and nutrients.



**Bark Beetles** Animal

**TRAITS:** small, round-bodied insects with thickened front wings; small antennae with clubs on the tips


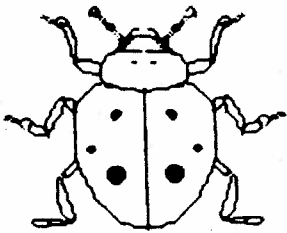
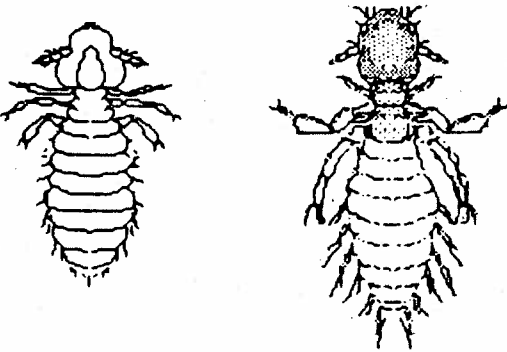
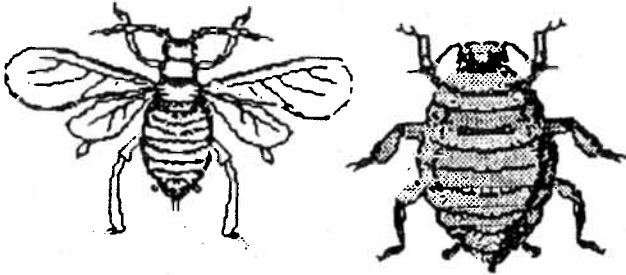
**HABITAT:** under tree bark in cut, dying or dead trees

**FOOD:** varies by species; most eat the underside of tree bark or wood; others (ambrosia bark beetles) feed on fungi that grows in the tunnels they bore into wood

**EATEN BY:** woodpeckers, brown creepers, ichneumon wasp larvae

**TREEVIA:** Most bark beetles need bacteria to break down and digest the wood they consume; some species have these microscopic organisms living in their stomachs.



	<p><b>Carrion Beetles</b> <span style="float: right;">Animal</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> large, round-bodied insect with thickened front wings, black with red, orange, or yellow markings, clubbed antennae  <b>HABITAT:</b> soil and litter of forests  <b>FOOD:</b> they feed on dead animals, such as voles, and prey on other insects that feed on dead animals, such as fly larvae; the adult female lays her eggs and buries them with a dead animal  <b>EATEN BY:</b> thrushes, shrews, mice, voles  <b>TREEVIA:</b> Most carrion beetles have mites riding on their backs. These mites get a free ride to new food sources, but do not affect the beetle.</p>
	<p><b>Lady Beetles</b> <span style="float: right;">Animal</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> red, orange or yellow insects with very round bodies, thickened front wings, usually with spots on them; larvae are usually dark with bands of colour and covered with spines  <b>HABITAT:</b> on leaves and stems of plants in forests, shrub thickets, and meadows  <b>FOOD:</b> most adults and larvae prey on aphids and other small insects, and mites; a few species eat plant leaves  <b>EATEN BY:</b> warblers, chickadees, thrushes  <b>TREEVIA:</b> Sometimes used to control aphids in gardens or greenhouses.</p>
	<p><b>Lice</b> <span style="float: right;">Animal</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> small, wingless insects with sucking or chewing mouthparts  <b>HABITAT:</b> found on the skin, fur, or feathers of birds or mammals  <b>FOODS:</b> varies by species; some suck blood of mammals or birds; others eat dead skin, feathers, or fur  <b>EATEN BY:</b> unknown  <b>TREEVIA:</b> All lice are parasites of birds or mammals; some blood-sucking lice carry microscopic organisms that cause diseases of mammals and birds.</p>
	<p><b>Aphids or Plant Lice</b> <span style="float: right;">Animal</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> pear-shaped insects; winged and wingless forms in the same species; most have 2 tubes, cornicles, on the top of their abdomen  <b>HABITAT:</b> leaves and stems of plants  <b>FOODS:</b> sap of plants; they cause plant leaves to wilt, curl, and turn yellow  <b>EATEN BY:</b> ants, wasps, warblers, chickadees, kinglets, wrens, sparrows  <b>TREEVIA:</b> Aphids produce a secretion, called honeydew. In order to obtain this honeydew, certain ants protect and tend aphids. Some aphids cause plants to form irregular swellings called galls.</p>



### Ground Beetles

Animal

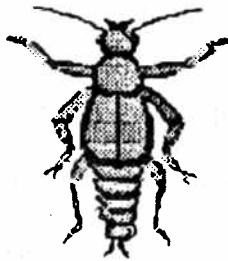
**TRAITS:** dark, flattened insects with front wings thickened and shiny with grooves running from front to back; long legs, large mouthparts

**HABITAT:** in most habitats on land; most are active only at night and hide during the day under logs, rocks, or leaf litter

**FOODS:** varies by species; some adults feed on dead animal remains; others prey on insects, such as caterpillars, or on slugs and snails

**EATEN BY:** jays, thrushes, wrens, sparrows, centipedes

**TREEVIA:** This large beetle family has over 3,000 species in North America.



### Rove Beetles

Animal

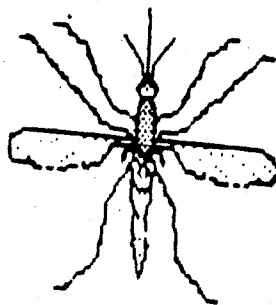
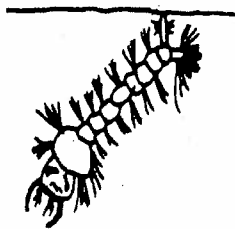
**TRAITS:** dark, flattened insects with short, thick front wings, long slender body, and a habit of holding their abdomen up over their back when running away; some have large mouthparts that cross at the tips; may be covered by hairs

**HABITAT:** soil in forests and other habitats

**FOODS:** varies by species; most adults feed on dead animal or plant remains; others prey on insects, such as ants

**EATEN BY:** thrushes, jays, wrens, sparrows, centipedes, ground beetles, mice, shrews

**TREEVIA:** There are almost 2,900 different species of Rove beetles in North America.



### Mosquitos

Animal

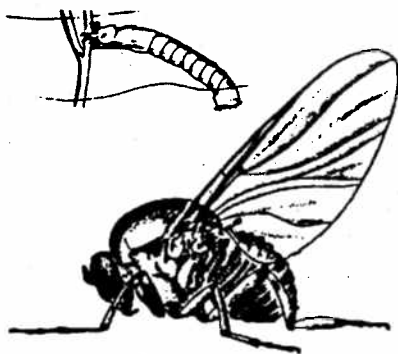
**TRAITS:** small insects with long legs, one pair of clear wings and a pair of knobs, called halteres, on the back, piercing and sucking mouthparts from a tube; males have feather-like antennae

**HABITAT:** larvae live in the water; adults are found in most habitats including forests; males are often found in or near flowers

**FOODS:** larvae feed on algae, protozoa, and dead plants; adult males feed on flower nectar, while adult females suck the blood of animals

**EATEN BY:** bats, swallows, warblers, dragonflies

**TREEVIA:** Males pollinate flowers; females carry microscopic organisms that cause diseases.



### Blackflies

Animal

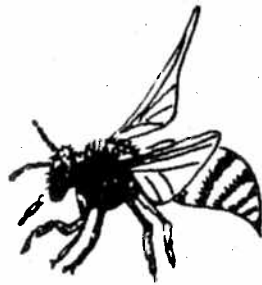
**TRAITS:** small dark insects with a humped back, one pair of clear wings, and a pair of knobs, halteres, on the back; short legs and broad wings

**HABITAT:** wetlands, forests, tundra

**FOODS:** larvae live in the water and feed on algae, protozoans, and dead plant material; adults feed on flower nectar; female adults also suck blood from vertebrate animals

**EATEN BY:** bats, warblers, chickadees, flycatchers, swallows, mice, dragonflies

**TREEVIA:** Some blackflies pollinate flowers; females carry microscopic, disease-causing organisms.



### Yellowjackets and Hornets

Animal

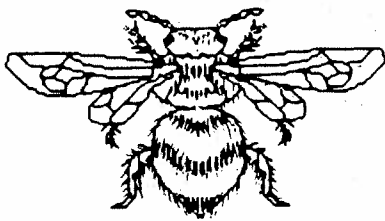
**TRAITS:** insects with bright black and yellow or white markings; the third body segment is separated from the middle one by a narrow waist; the tip of the abdomen is pointed and has a stinger

**HABITAT:** hornets build paper nests in the ground and in or on trees

**FOODS:** adults feed on flower nectar, ripe fruit, and other insects; they feed on larvae insects, such as caterpillars and flies, meat from dead animals, and nectar

**EATEN BY:** insect-eating birds such as flycatchers and swallows

**TREEVIA:** Some hornets pollinate flowers.



### Bumblebees

Animal

**TRAITS:** insects with 4 wings, hind wings much smaller than front ones; hairy body covered with black, and yellow or orange markings

**HABITAT:** any habitat with a variety of nectar-producing flowers; includes pioneer, tall shrub, and old forest habitats; nests in the ground

**FOODS:** nectar and pollen of flowering plants

**EATEN BY:** flycatchers, swallows, warblers

**TREEVIA:** Bees are among the most important plant pollinators; some species eat the nectar and pollen, and pollinate, only one species of plant; mites often hitch rides on bees to reach new areas.



### Sawflies

Animal

**TRAITS:** insects with 4 clear wings, hind wings smaller than forewings; long antennae, pointed abdomen

**HABITAT:** adults use a variety of habitats, but larvae usually live only on a particular species of plant; larvae overwinter in leaf litter

**FOODS:** mainly leaves of conifers, hardwoods and other plants; larvae of some species are leaf miners. Some species eat nectar or pollen and some eat other small insects

**EATEN BY:** flycatchers, swallows, certain wasps

**TREEVIA:** Some sawflies cause willows to form galls.



### Horntails

Animal

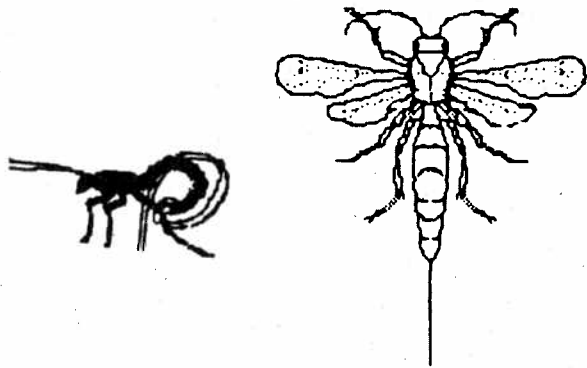
**TRAITS:** insect with 4 clear wings, hind wings smaller than forewings; long cylinder-shaped abdomen with a spine-like projection at the tail end which is used for egg-laying; this insect does not sting

**HABITAT:** forests; larvae live in wood of living or dead trees

**FOODS:** larvae eat wood of both deciduous and coniferous trees

**EATEN BY:** woodpeckers, creepers, nuthatches, ichneumon wasps

**TREEVIA:** Some horntails are parasitized by ichneumon wasps.



### Ichneumon Wasps

Animal

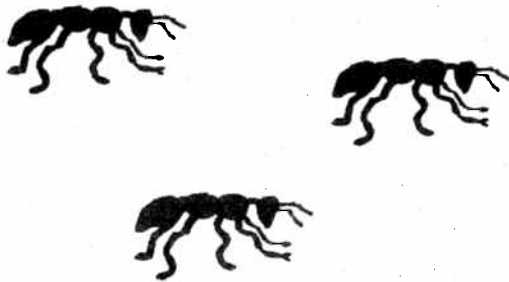
**TRAITS:** insects with long narrow bodies, 4 clear wings, of which the hind pair is smaller; antenna that are at least half as long as the body; some have a long, narrow, tail-like structure for egg-laying

**HABITAT:** any habitat where there are host insects available

**FOODS:** these wasps lay their eggs inside larval sawflies, horntails, butterflies, moths, and spiders; when the eggs hatch, the larvae eat the host

**EATEN BY:** flycatchers, swallows, thrushes, warblers, chickadees

**TREEVIA:** These wasps are important parasites of immature insects.



### Ants

Animal

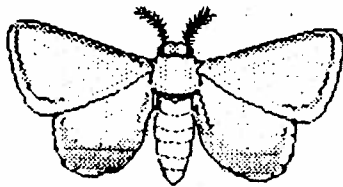
**TRAITS:** body clearly divided into 3 segments by narrow constrictions; last segment forms a pointed end; many secrete formic acid as a defence; only certain kinds of adults have wings

**HABITAT:** in colonies in the ground or wood

**FOODS:** varies between species. Some feed on flower nectar, plant juices, or aphid honeydew. Others feed on seeds, leaves, or dead organisms, and some are predators on other insects

**EATEN BY:** flickers, wrens, thrushes, sparrows

**TREEVIA:** Some protect aphids from predators, then feed on the sugary secretion, "honeydew", produced by the aphids. Some carry pollen between plants.



### Moths

Animal

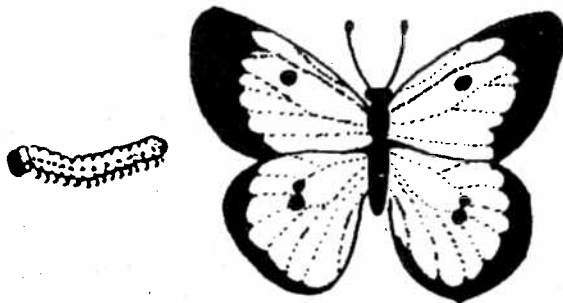
**TRAITS:** insects with 4 large wings with powder-like scales; large eyes, long antennae that are either feather-like or tapered at ends; most have tube-like mouths that coil up when not in use, Larvae spin cocoons; some larvae make tents of silk threads

**HABITAT:** adults use a variety of habitats; most larvae can only live on a particular species of plant

**FOODS:** adults feed mainly on flower nectar; most larvae feed on plant leaves, fruit, stems and roots

**EATEN BY:** bats, shrews, ground beetles, warblers, swallows, flycatchers, chickadees, kinglets

**TREEVIA:** Adults pollinate flowers; larvae are parasitized by ichneumon wasps.



### Butterflies

Animal

**TRAITS:** adults have 4 large wings with powder-like scales, large compound eyes, long antennae that have clubs at the tips, and tube-like mouths that coil up when not in use. Adults are active in the daytime; larvae form a chrysalis for pupation

**HABITAT:** adults use a variety of habitats; most larvae can live only on a particular species of plant

**FOODS:** adults feed mainly on flower nectar; most larvae feed on plant leaves, fruit, stems, or roots

**EATEN BY:** insect-eating birds such as warblers, and flycatchers; ground beetles, wasps, dragonflies

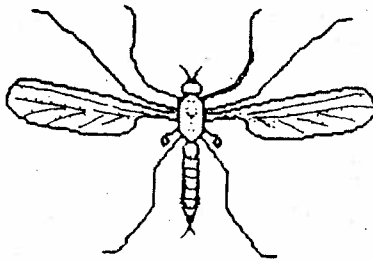
**TREEVIA:** Adults pollinate flowers. Larvae are often parasitized by ichneumon wasps.



**Blowflies**

Animal

**TRAITS:** insects with one pair of clear wings and a pair of small knobs (called halteres), large eyes, metallic blue or green backs  
**HABITAT:** varies; mainly in the soil or on and in dead animals  
**FOODS:** varies; liquids from decaying plants and animals, animal wastes or blood  
**EATEN BY:** warblers, flycatchers, chickadees, and thrushes; shrews, carrion beetles, dragonflies, hornets, centipedes  
**TREEVIA:** Some blowflies are important as plant pollinators. Many flies transport microscopic organisms that cause disease in animals.



**Craneflies**

Animal

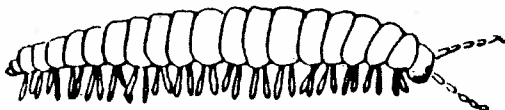
**TRAITS:** very long-legged insects that resemble huge mosquitos; they have one pair of clear wings and a small pair of knobs (called halteres) on the back  
**HABITAT:** varies; larvae live in moist soil and decaying plants in forests; a few live in the water  
**FOODS:** algae  
**EATEN BY:** warblers, flycatchers, swallows, chickadees, thrushes, sparrows, shrews, carrion beetles, centipedes, hornets, dragonflies  
**TREEVIA:** Some craneflies pollinate flowers.



**Centipedes**

Animal

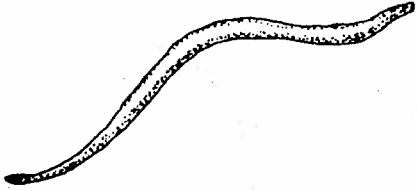
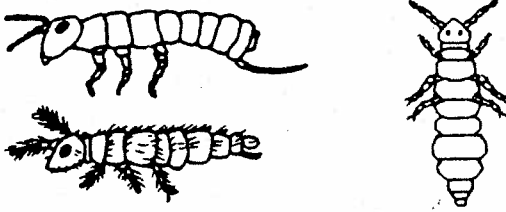
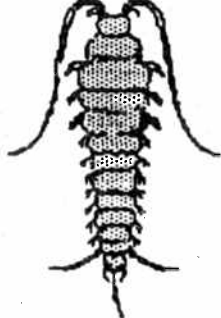
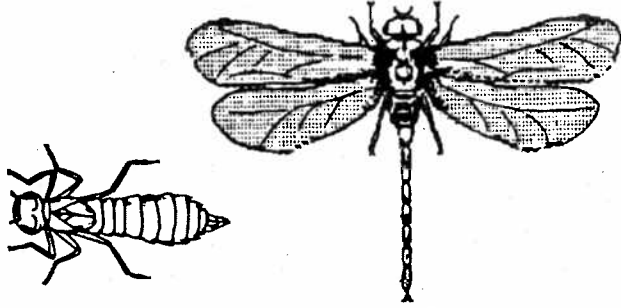
**TRAITS:** a small worm-like animal with only one pair of legs on each of its body segments  
**HABITAT:** in soil and humus, or beneath stones, bark, or logs  
**FOODS:** invertebrates that live in the soil, including springtails, bristletails, ground beetles, fly larvae, flea larvae, mites, worms, snails  
**EATEN BY:** thrushes, winter wrens  
**TREEVIA:** Capture their prey by using their poisonous claws.

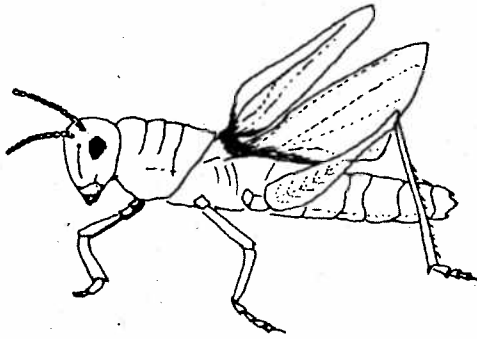


**Millipedes**

Animal

**TRAITS:** slender-bodied worm-like animals with distinct segments along the body, with two leg-like structures on each segment  
**HABITAT:** under rocks, logs, and in rotten leaves, wood or soil.  
**FOODS:** varies by species; most eat decaying plants and fungi; a few eat centipedes, worms, or insects  
**EATEN BY:** thrushes, sparrows, wrens, ground beetles  
**TREEVIA:** Some species have glands that secrete a poison called hydrogen cyanide when disturbed or threatened.

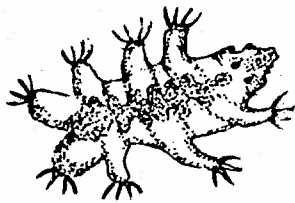
	<p><b>Roundworms</b> <span style="float: right;">Animal</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> slender worms tapered at both ends and without any segments</p> <p><b>HABITAT:</b> various species live in the soil, on mosses, lichens, or leaves, or on waste materials; many live in water</p> <p><b>FOODS:</b> varies by species; some feed on algae and fungi or suck out fluids from plants; others prey on tiny animals; some eat waste materials</p> <p><b>EATEN BY:</b> centipedes</p> <p><b>TREEVIA:</b> These worms often hitch rides to new areas on the legs of flies, beetles, birds, or mammals; many nematodes are parasites of plants or animals.</p>
	<p><b>Springtails</b> <span style="float: right;">Animal</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> small wingless insects with chewing mouthparts, a tube-like part on its front underside, collophore, and a forked spring-like part, furcula, on its rear underside</p> <p><b>HABITAT:</b> lives in soil, litter, decaying logs, and moss; a few species live in trees</p> <p><b>FOODS:</b> decaying materials, algae, lichens, pollen, and fungal spores</p> <p><b>EATEN BY:</b> centipedes, ground beetles, shrews, thrushes</p> <p><b>TREEVIA:</b> Are able to spring up to 100 mm by using its furcula.</p>
	<p><b>Bristletails</b> <span style="float: right;">Animal</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> wingless insects with 3 tail-like parts and long antennae; often covered with scales; chewing mouthparts; may run quickly or jump</p> <p><b>HABITAT:</b> damp, moist litter and soil of forests and meadows; under bark of logs or under rocks</p> <p><b>FOODS:</b> decaying leaves</p> <p><b>EATEN BY:</b> centipedes, shrews, thrushes, ground beetles</p> <p><b>TREEVIA:</b> Their bodies are often covered with scales.</p>
	<p><b>Dragonflies</b> <span style="float: right;">Animal</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> insects with large eyes, long narrow abdomen, and 2 pairs of large wings; their wings are held out at right angles to their body; hind wings broader at the base than forewings</p> <p><b>HABITAT:</b> larvae live on aquatic plants or on the bottom of streams or ponds; adults live near water in many habitats, including forests</p> <p><b>FOODS:</b> larvae prey on aquatic insects, tadpoles, and small fish; adults eat small flying insects including: mosquitos, moths, lacewings, beetles, and others</p> <p><b>EATEN BY:</b> insect-eating birds such as swallows</p> <p><b>TREEVIA:</b> Adult dragonflies have brightly coloured bodies.</p>



**Grasshoppers**

**Animal**

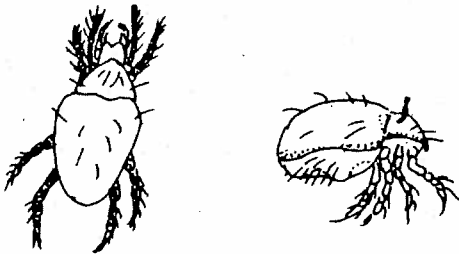
**TRAITS:** insects with large hind legs for jumping; most have thickened and narrow front wings and hind wings that are clear and large; all have chewing mouthparts  
**HABITAT:** most habitats with herbaceous plants and grasses  
**FOODS:** leaves, stems, and other parts of plants  
**EATEN BY:** American kestrels and other insect-eating birds  
**TREEVIA:** Grasshoppers have hind legs that are useful for jumping.



**Tardigrades**

**Animal**

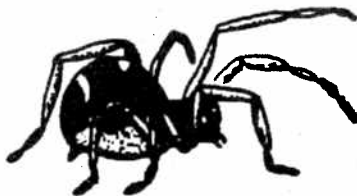
**TRAITS:** tiny to microscopic in size; chubby with 4 pairs of short legs with 4 to 8 claws on each leg  
**HABITAT:** lives in the water film around mosses and lichens  
**FOODS:** fluids from inside the cells of mosses and lichens  
**EATEN BY:** roundworms, centipedes  
**TREEVIA:** Can survive for years in an inactive state when conditions are adverse.



**Mites**

**Animal**

**TRAITS:** tiny to microscopic animals, with 8 legs and a pear-shaped body  
**HABITAT:** extremely abundant in moss, rotten leaves, humus, and soil of forests  
**FOODS:** varies by species; many prey on roundworms, other mites, and insect larvae such as: springtails, bristletails, rove beetles, flies; others feed on plants, or on dead plants and animals  
**EATEN BY:** centipedes, some ground beetles, lady beetles, winter wrens, thrushes, sparrows  
**TREEVIA:** Some detritivore mites ride on the backs of carrion beetles; some mites parasitize other animals.



**Spiders**

**Animal**

**TRAITS:** small animals with 8 legs, body appears divided into a large abdomen and a small head with large fangs  
**HABITAT:** in and on soil or leaf litter; on plants; in rotten logs  
**FOODS:** all spiders are predators that feed on small animals, mainly insects such as aphids, flies, rove beetles, springtails, bristletails, and others  
**EATEN BY:** insect-eating birds, such as thrushes, winter wrens  
**TREEVIA:** Most spiders spin webs that have a variety of uses that include capturing prey, securing an egg sac to a surface, and transportation from one spot to another.



### True Bugs

Animal

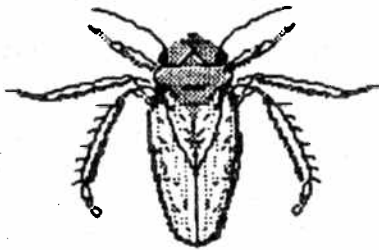
**TRAITS:** front wings thick, colored, and hardened near body, but thin and often clear at the tips; held flat over body; beak-like mouthparts at front of head

**HABITAT:** varies by species; some live only on the species of plant they eat, others are predatory and use various habitats

**FOODS:** varies by species; plant sap or fruit juices; juice from fungi; fluids from insects or other animals, or juices from both plants and animals

**EATEN BY:** insect-eating animals, such as chickadees, thrushes, warblers, shrews, wasps, ground beetles

**TREEVIA:** Many true bugs give off odours to repel their predators.



### Leafhoppers

Animal

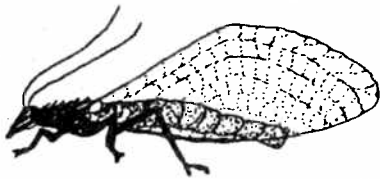
**TRAITS:** front pair of wings thin and clear, or only slightly coloured, held roof-like over body; beak-like mouth comes out of the rear underside side of the head; one or more rows of spines on the hindlegs

**HABITAT:** found on plants in forests and other habitats

**FOODS:** sap of plants

**EATEN BY:** warblers, thrushes, chickadees, shrews, ground beetles, centipedes

**TREEVIA:** Many leaf hoppers carry microscopic parasitic organisms from one plant to another.



### Lacewings

Animal

**TRAITS:** green or brown insects with large, clear wings with net-like veins; held tent-like over their body; small head with large eyes and chewing mouthparts, long antennae

**HABITAT:** on leaves of trees and shrubs; eggs are attached to a leaf by a thread the female forms; larvae spin a cocoon

**FOODS:** Adults eat pollen, nectar and aphid honey-dew; larvae prey on mites, aphids and other insects

**EATEN BY:** thrushes, warblers, chickadees, kinglets, hornets, dragonflies, bats, shrews

**TREEVIA:** Some lacewings give off an unpleasant odour when handled.



### Thrips

Animal

**TRAITS:** tiny winged, or wingless, long-bodied insects; if winged, they have four narrow wings with fringes of long hairs; antennae, and tube-like mouthparts

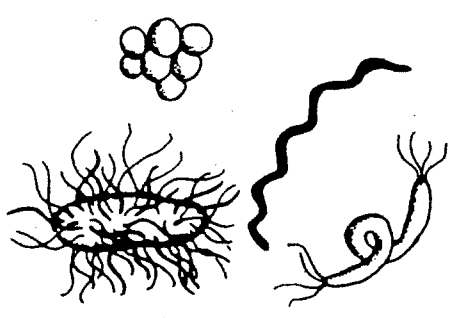
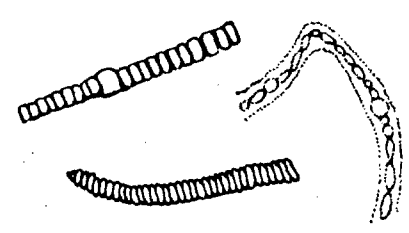
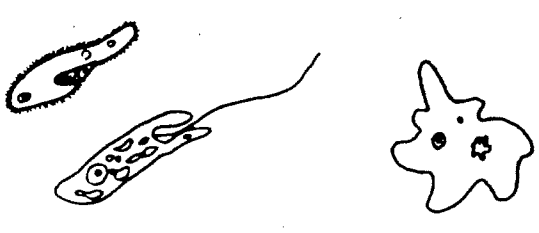
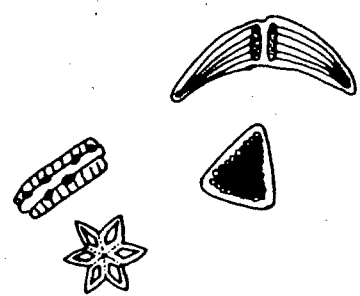
**HABITAT:** flowers, leaves of plants


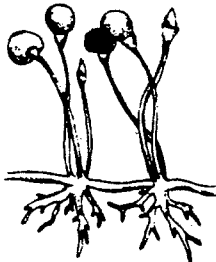


**FOODS:** most eat flowers, leaves, buds, and fruits; a few eat fungal spores or mites and small insects

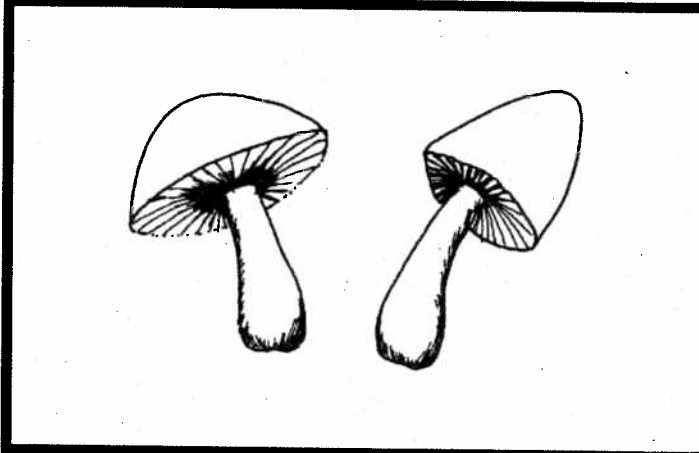
**EATEN BY:** warblers, chickadees, creepers, wrens, ants, hornets, ground beetles, lacewings

**TREEVIA:** Some carry microscopic organisms that cause plant diseases.



	<p><b>Bacteria</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Monera</b></span></p> <p>TRAITS: microscopic; lack a cell nucleus  HABITAT: different species have different requirements, but some types of bacteria are found in any moist environment; a tablespoon of forest soil may contain 3-10 billion bacteria  FOODS: mainly dead plant, fungi, and animal material; some kinds of bacteria live as parasites of living things, and some are able to make their own food  EATEN BY: protozoans, some fungi  TREEVIA: Some bacteria live as parasites of plants, animals, or fungi and cause diseases of these organisms; other kinds live in the digestive tracts of animals and aid in digestion of their foods.</p>
	<p><b>Cyanobacteria</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Monera</b></span></p> <p>TRAITS: microscopic; lack a cell nucleus; containing chlorophyll, often visible as a scum on the surface of water, wet rocks, or logs  HABITAT: standing water, wet rocks, logs, moss  FOODS: most are able to make their own food through photosynthesis  EATEN BY: protozoans, springtails  TREEVIA: Some cyanobacteria join with fungi to form lichens; fungi provides shelter.</p>
	<p><b>Protozoans</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Protista</b></span></p> <p>TRAITS: microscopic organisms with a cell nucleus; most are able to move around using flagella, cilia, or in an amoeboid fashion  HABITAT: in water, or droplets of water on leaf surfaces, forest litter, under rocks, or in soil  FOODS: varies by species; many eat dead plant material and animal wastes; others feed on bacteria, cyanobacteria, algae, or other protozoans  EATEN BY: protozoans, roundworms, segmented worms  TREEVIA: Some live in a symbiotic relationship in the intestines of certain animals and aid them in digestion of their foods.</p>
	<p><b>Algae</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>Monera and Protista</b></span></p> <p>TRAITS: microscopic organisms with a cell nuclei, most contain chlorophyll  HABITAT: in water or films of water on soil, rocks, tree branches, or logs  FOODS: most algae are able to make their own food through photosynthesis  EATEN BY: protozoans, roundworms, segmented worms, springtails, mites  TREEVIA: Some algae join with certain fungi to form lichens; examples of algae: diatoms, spirogyra, dinoflagellates (red tides).</p>

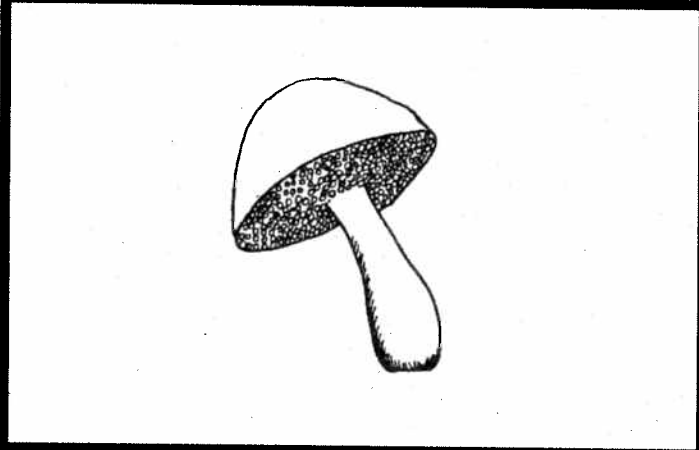
	<p><b>Slime Molds</b> <span style="float: right;">*Fungi or Protista</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> appearing as a slime-like covering on logs, trees, or moist soil; sometimes covered with small, flag-like, fruiting bodies</p> <p><b>HABITAT:</b> wet, shaded locations in forests</p> <p><b>FOODS:</b> engulfs bacteria and other microscopic organisms</p> <p><b>EATEN BY:</b> unknown</p> <p><b>TREEVIA:</b> During part of its life it slowly rolls along like an amoeba and leaves a trail of slime.</p> <p>* The classification of slime molds is still being debated; some scientists consider them fungi, others consider them better classified as protists.</p>
	<p><b>Molds, Mildews, and Rusts</b> <span style="float: right;">Fungi</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> apparent as a fine powder, fuzz, or furry coating on leaves or other plant parts or animal droppings; or as an abnormal growth</p> <p><b>HABITAT:</b> dead plants or waste materials; though, certain kinds occur on living plants or insects</p> <p><b>FOODS:</b> feed on dead plant materials, but rarely on wood; some species live as parasites on plants or insects</p> <p><b>EATEN BY:</b> springtails, bacteria</p> <p><b>TREEVIA:</b> Some of these fungi, particularly rusts, are parasites of plants and cause abnormal growths such as galls or witches brooms.</p>
	<p><b>Morels</b> <span style="float: right;">Fungi</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> mushroom-like fungi; the top of the fruiting body or mushroom is ridged and pitted</p> <p><b>HABITAT:</b> varies by species; spruce forests, old burns</p> <p><b>FOODS:</b> dead plant material and animal wastes</p> <p><b>EATEN BY:</b> squirrels, voles, humans</p> <p><b>TREEVIA:</b> This mushroom is valued as a specialty food. Some commercial harvest of morels has taken place in the NWT in one-year old burns.</p>
	<p><b>Truffles</b> <span style="float: right;">Fungi</span></p> <p><b>TRAITS:</b> a type of fungi that produce underground fruiting bodies that look like spongy balls</p> <p><b>HABITAT:</b> underground in forests; most species associate with a specific kind of plant</p> <p><b>FOODS:</b> lives on the sugar supplied by the plant it associates with and on minerals absorbed from the soil</p> <p><b>EATEN BY:</b> flying squirrels, voles</p> <p><b>TREEVIA:</b> These fungi are very important due to the mycorrhizal associations they form with trees and other forest plants; these fungi depend upon the organisms that eat them to spread their spores throughout the forest.</p>



**Gilled Mushrooms**

Fungi

**TRAITS:** fungi with fruiting bodies that consist of a stalk and cap; the underside of the cap is divided by slits and projections called gills  
**HABITAT:** soil and rotting logs in forested areas; some kinds also occur in other habitats  
**FOODS:** mainly dead plant material and animal wastes  
**EATEN BY:** red and flying squirrels, voles, deer, mice, moose, caribou, humans, millipedes, flies  
**TREEVIA:** Some of the gilled mushrooms form mycorrhizal associations with certain plants; they receive sugar from the plant and help it obtain nutrients from the soil.



**Bolete Mushrooms**

Fungi

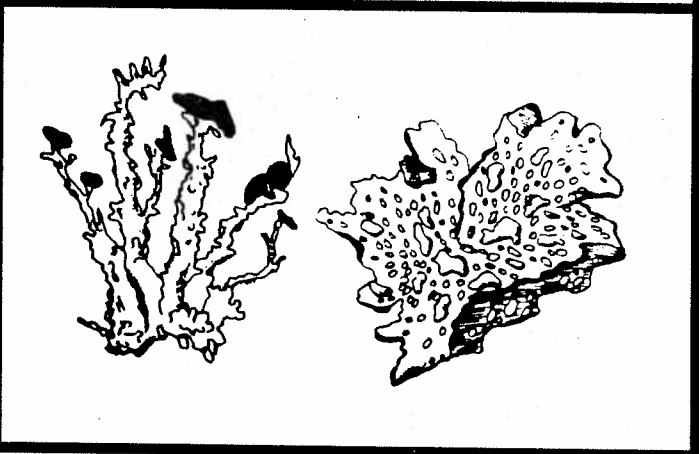
**TRAITS:** fungi with fruiting bodies that consist of a stalk and cap; the underside of the cap is made up of many tubes; it looks like a dense honeycomb or sponge  
**HABITAT:** soil, litter, or rotting logs in forests; some species live in other habitats  
**FOODS:** rotting leaves or other plant material, and animal droppings  
**EATEN BY:** squirrels, voles, flies, beetles, moose, caribou, and humans  
**TREEVIA:** Some of the bolete mushrooms form mycorrhizal associations with certain plants; they receive sugar from the plant and help it obtain nutrients from the soil.



**Shelf Fungi or Polypores**

Fungi

**TRAITS:** fungi with a fruiting body, conk, which emerges from trees or logs and forms a shelf-like structure; the conks grow and produce spores each year  
**HABITAT:** old trees, logs, or other wood  
**FOODS:** dead wood  
**EATEN BY:** millipedes, and a wide variety of insects  
**TREEVIA:** Some species of shelf fungi are parasites on living trees; the hyphae slowly decay the dead heartwood of the tree and may attack living parts of the tree as well; eventually the tree may be weakened and killed.



**Lichens**

Lichen

**TRAITS:** visible as a crust, or a leaflike structure, or as a flat, hair-like strands, or branched structure depending on the species; crumbles when dry; soft when wet  
**HABITAT:** rocks, logs, tree branches, soil  
**FOODS:** makes its own food  
**EATEN BY:** caribou, voles, springtails  
**TREEVIA:** Made up of two separate organisms living together; an algae and a fungi. The algae produces food through photosynthesis while the fungi provides a moist, protective environment to live in.