



Waawaashkeshi (deer)

Waawaashkeshi (deer) is the smallest member of the deer family that also includes omashkooz (elk), mooz (moose), and adik (caribou), all of which lived in the Grand Portage area at one time. When caribou still lived in northern Minnesota, deer were uncommon. Changes from farming and less snow in winter make this area better for deer now. All members of the deer family eat plants (herbivores).

White-tailed deer have a long tail that they wave like a flag to signal danger to the herd. Male deer (bucks) grow antlers beginning in spring and shed them at the end of winter. Baby deer (fawns) are born in spring and have white spots on their fur for their first three to four months.

Many animals prey on deer. Ma'iinganag (wolves), coyotes, makwag (black bears), and gidagaa-bizhiwag (bobcats) hunt and eat waawaashkeshi (deer), often when they are young fawns and easier to catch.

When you color this doe, think about where she lives and draw a background for her home.



