



# Predator & Prey

## Pre-Visit Activities



The activities included in your pre-visit packet have been designed to help you and your students prepare for your upcoming program at the St. Joseph County Parks. The purpose of the pre-visit packet is to help students understand the relationships between predators and their prey. By familiarizing your students with these terms and concepts, they will have a better understanding of the activities we will conduct with them at the park. Of course, if you don't have the time to use these as pre-activities, you can also use them as post activities, to measure how much your students learned during the program.

### Definitions:

**Predator:** an animal that hunts other animals. (Example: coyote hunts mice.)

**Prey:** an animal that is killed by another animal for food. (Example: field mouse being eaten by house cat.)

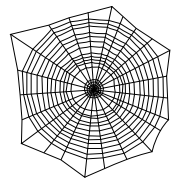
**Carnivore:** an animal whose diet is mostly meat. (Example: red-tailed hawk)

**Herbivore:** an animal whose diet is plants. (Examples: deer and rabbits.)

**Omnivore:** an animal that eats both plants and animals. (Examples: red fox and black bear.)

**Insectivore:** an animal that eats insects. (Examples: bats and frogs.)

## Who Invited Who for Lunch?



**Background:** Students will learn about the kinds of animals found in their own backyards and forests by discussing and identifying which animals fit into the above categories.

**Materials Needed:** Pictures of various animals from Indiana.

**Directions:** Have students cut out various pictures of animals native to Indiana and place each animal into its appropriate category. Who is their favorite predator? Is their favorite animal a predator or prey or sometimes both?

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

## The Often Misunderstood Predator

Not all predators are understood, such as spiders, snakes and coyotes. Each one of these animals plays a critical role in the lives of other animals and the environment. Each sentence below contains an extra letter that does not belong.

With your pencil, cross out the extra letters when they appear in the sentences. Then read the fact about the misunderstood predator.

1. Spiders cann spinn eights differents kinds off silkk.
2. Brats cann weiagh lerss tharn a preenny.
3. Snakers arze nost slimmrey.
4. Skunks gwill spragy gonly to protegct themseglvegs.
5. Powls primcary zdiest is prodents.
6. Zcoyotes likers wolbves ubse theirs keebn sense of rsmell.
7. Daddyz wlonglegs zeat vegetables mxatters asn well as insectds.
8. A redt-foxz needsc 25 acrevs ofb jhabitat.
9. Opossummz ared the onlyg marxsupiald livingv inr Indianam.
10. A fshrewn injectsf itsg victimbd withk vernom.



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

**Practice your writing skills and write out each fact about the Often Misunderstood Predators.**

1. Spiders can spin eight different kinds of silk.

---

2. Bats can weigh less than a penny.

---

3. Snakes are not slimy.

---

4. Skunks will spray only to protect themselves.

---

5. Owls primary diet are rodents.

---

6. Coyotes like wolves use their keen sense of smell.

---

7. Daddy longlegs eat vegetable matter as well as insects.

---



8. A red fox needs 25 acres of habitat.

---

9. Opossum are the only marsupial living in Indiana.

---

10. A shrew injects its victim with venom.

---

**Below, draw a picture of your favorite Misunderstood Predator!**



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



# Let's Compare Predators



**Overview:** Students will apply the systematic method of comparing data for research.

**Background:** Students can compare different animals for size, range, and animal behaviors. Predators may seem similar but their needs for survival may be very different. For example, comparing a fox and a coyote.

**Directions:** Students will collect biological data and fill in the blank spaces in each table.

## Sample

Predator	red fox
Size	head and body 32-40 in.
Range	1 to 2 square miles
Habitat	forest and open fields
Usual prey species	rabbits, mice
Behavior	nocturnal/holds tail straight while running

Predator	coyote
Size	head and body 32-37 in.
Range	10 mile hunting range
Habitat	open woodlands, prairies
Usual prey species	rodents
Behavior	nocturnal/tail held down while running

**For fun, try comparing a grizzly bear to a shrew!**

Predator	
Size	
Range	
Habitat	
Usual prey species	
Behavior	

Predator	
Size	
Range	
Habitat	
Usual prey species	
Behavior	

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



# Predators and Prey



**Below are various predators and their prey. Circle the animals you can find!**

L O U J E O A C U S N U Y Y M  
B Y O M M T E T O X Z S F O O  
J Y W U Q I Q D Q Y V G U A Z  
A F L X Q U R N F Z O S U S E  
I V I F Q Q U O D R E T E J W  
M H Y S N S X H F K E V E H F  
P E L I H O R W Y P L V S B T  
H X Y T I M G S T O Y K Z R B  
K A S X L P F A W S P I D E R  
V V O L E Q K R R A W H N U A  
U I F H S Q X E F D J K M H B  
N I B O R G T E Y F W Y L E B  
X A X A E Z O D V A A Y L M I  
J I H C B W F R H W K B E W T  
Z W K M L W N Y F W K X F G Y



COYOTE  
DEER  
DRAGONFLY  
FISH  
WOLVES

OWL  
RABBIT  
ROBIN  
SPIDER  
VOLE

FOX  
FROGS  
HAWK  
MOSQUITO  
MOUSE

**Bonus: Write a story about your favorite animal and share it with your class.**