

Name: _____ Date: _____

Baby Love

Have you ever looked into the eyes of a baby deer? They could melt your heart! Baby deer (also known as “fawns”) can walk as soon as they’re born but stay with their mom for up to two years before going out on their own. Young fawns can eat some **vegetation** when they’re born, but their stomachs can’t completely **digest** the food, so they need to drink their mom’s milk for the first eight weeks of their life. They depend on her to nurture and protect them. When mother deer (also called “**does**”) go looking for food, they hide their fawns in secret places to protect them from danger. **Does** are such good moms—they lick their fawns clean from head to toe so that **predators** can’t detect any smell. The number of natural **predators** has decreased, so human hunters are the biggest threat to a deer.

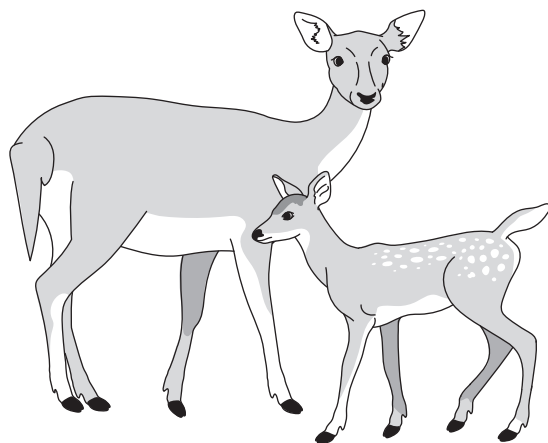
1. Why do fawns stay with their mothers for up to two years before going out on their own?

2. How do does protect their fawns?

3. What do you think happens to a fawn whose mother is killed?

4. How do you think fawns feel in that situation? What makes you think so?

KEY VOCABULARY	
digest	to change the food in the stomach into a form that can be used by the body
doe	a female deer
predator	an animal who lives by killing and eating other animals
vegetation	plants that cover a particular area



Video and Discussion Activity

Fire Department Rescues a Deer From a Frozen Pond

Video Source: [PETA.org/DeerRescueVideo](https://peta.org/deerrescuevideo)

Have students watch the video, which is about two minutes long. Read them the information below about the rescue, then project the award given to the rescuers ([PETA.org/DeerRescueAward](https://peta.org/deerrescueaward)) onto the board. Finally, use the questions to initiate a class discussion.

Oregon's Sunriver Fire and Rescue received an award from PETA for helping a deer who was stuck on a frozen golf course pond on December 8, 2017.

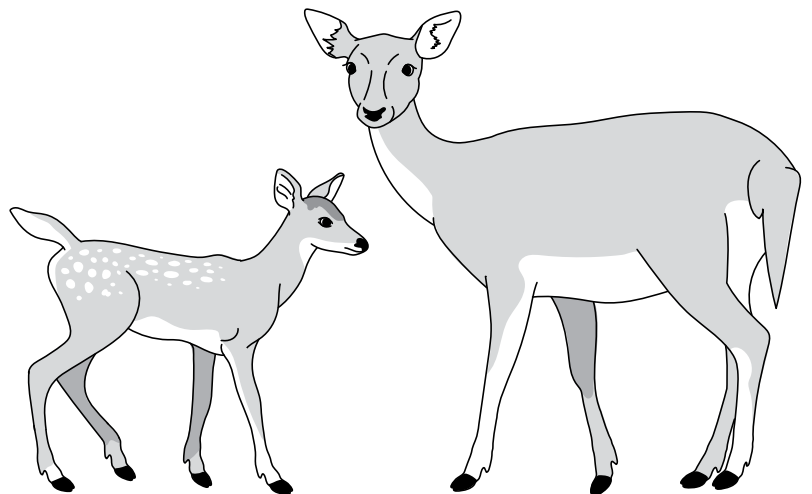
Concerned citizens had spotted the deer struggling to stand on the frozen pond, and they alerted police, who decided that the situation called for the Sunriver Fire and Rescue team. The firefighters arrived on the scene with an ice sled and ice immersion suits, and one proceeded onto the ice in the sled toward the deer. He spoke in a comforting way to the terrified animal and used the front of the sled to slide the deer gently over to the edge of the pond and onto land. The deer finally stood up—to applause from the firefighters—and ran off, unhurt.

"These firefighters wasted no time in getting a defenseless deer out of a scary situation," says PETA Vice President Colleen O'Brien. "PETA encourages people everywhere to follow their big-hearted lead and always come to the aid of animals in need."

PETA sent Sunriver Fire and Rescue its award certificate as well as a box of delicious vegan cookies!

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think people called the police to help this deer?
2. How do you think the deer felt before being rescued and then afterward? What makes you think so?
3. How do you think the rescuers felt after the deer made it off the ice? What makes you think so?
4. Have you ever seen an animal who needed help? Explain what you did or would encourage others to do in the future.



Teacher's Guide

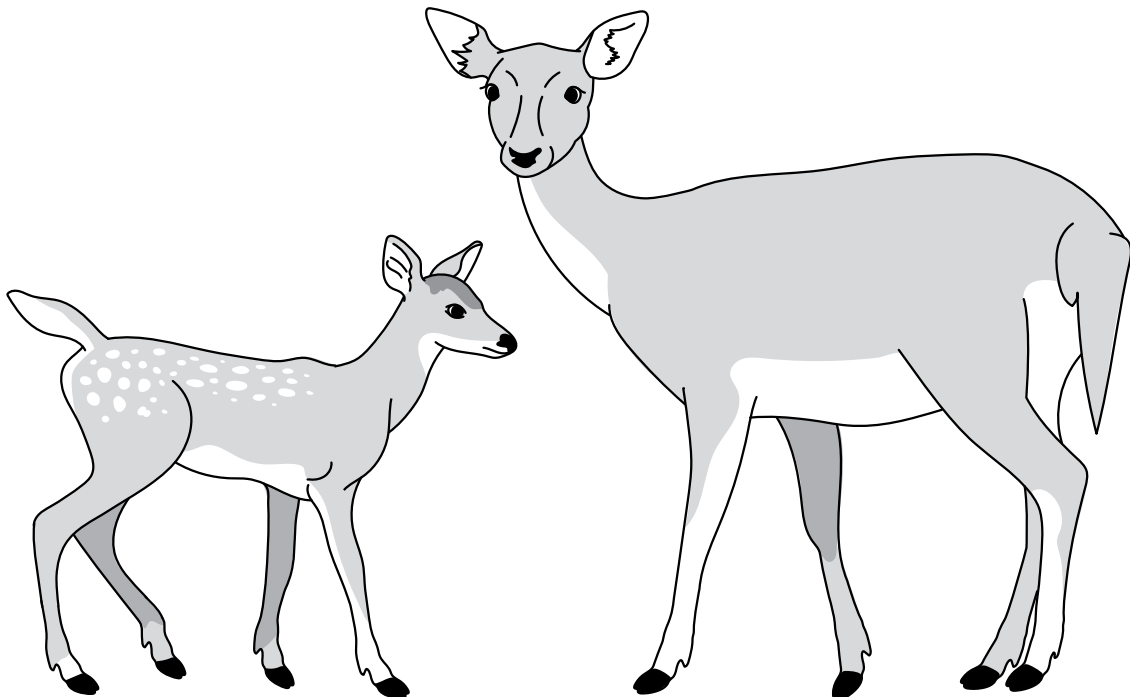
'The Private Life of Deer': Video and Discussion Activity

Video Source: [PETA.org/PrivateLifeDeer](https://peta.org/PrivateLifeDeer)

Note: The suggested video segments align with PETA's mission, and this resource is presented in good faith to ensure that educators have humane, animal-friendly activities to integrate into a 2nd-grade unit on the white-tailed deer. The documentary "The Private Life of Deer" is not affiliated with PETA, and PETA makes no guarantee that its content, in its entirety, aligns with the organization's mission statement: "Animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, use for entertainment, or abuse in any other way."

Video Segments

Begin	End	Description
1:32	14:59	Part A: Introduction to the Daily Life of Deer, Sharing the World With Deer (13 minutes, 27 seconds)
28:00	29:10	Part B: How Deer Interact With Each Other (1 minute, 10 seconds)
50:40	52:11	Part C: Knowledge Gained From the Film (1 minute, 31 seconds)



Discussion Guide for Student Worksheet

Part A

1. Why does the filmmaker go alone to record deer?

He respects deer and their habitat and does not want to disrupt them; a group of humans might scare them, and then he wouldn't be able to film their activities and share them with other people.

2. What kinds of danger do you think deer might notice through their sense of smell?

Humans and natural predators

3. Why do deer sometimes eat plants in humans' yards?

Deer need to eat about 7 pounds of food each day, and they like to eat all kinds of plants—even poison ivy. Many people's yards are in deer habitat, and some have plants that don't grow there naturally—deer love them the most.

4. Deer stay away when there are no non-native plants (ones that don't naturally grow there) to attract them. Why do you think humans keep putting non-native plants in their yards?

They don't realize that deer love to eat these plants.

5. What can humans do in order to share the world with deer?

We can learn about deer's needs, enjoy watching them go about their activities, and plant flowers and shrubs that they don't like to eat.

Part B

1. How are deer similar to you in the ways that they interact with their family and friends?

They greet each other, they take care of and love each other, and they communicate through body language.

Part C

1. How did watching deer for just a few months affect humans' feelings about them?

It helped them understand deer better and see them as more than just animals who eat all their plants.

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‘The Private Life of Deer’

Directions: Answer the following questions based on what you learned from the video.

Part A

1. Why does the filmmaker go alone to record deer?

2. What kinds of danger do you think deer might notice through their sense of smell?

3. Why do deer sometimes eat plants in humans’ yards?

4. Deer stay away when there are no non-native plants (ones that don’t naturally grow there to attract them. Why do you think humans keep putting non-native plants in their yards?

5. What can humans do in order to share the world with deer?

Part B

1. How are deer similar to you in the ways that they interact with their family and friends?

Part C

1. How did watching deer for just a few months affect humans' feelings about them?

