

# Kids' Page

The river is home for many animals. Some live in the water. Some live along the shore, in bogs or in swamp areas. Some creatures make their home in the woods and meadows along the river. There are fish, birds, amphibians, mammals, mollusks and reptiles who live here. Who are they?

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**Mammals** are the animals that have fur or body hair. They are warm-blooded and may live on land or in the water. Baby mammals are born live, not hatched from eggs. They feed on their mother's milk. Mammals breathe through lungs just like you. Deer, beaver, raccoons, otters and people are mammals. Can you name others?



**Fish** live in the water all of their life. They do not have lungs like mammals, but breathe through gills. They are cold-blooded and lay eggs called spawn. There are lots of fish in the St. Croix and Namekagon Rivers! Watch for trout, musky, walleye, northern pike, bass and perch.

**Birds** are the only animals covered with feathers. They are warm-blooded and have lungs for breathing. Birds lay eggs and their babies are hatched. Some birds you may see during your visit are eagles, great blue heron, ducks, and king fishers. (If you are really lucky you may even spot a loon.) If you canoe in the autumn, you may see geese as they migrate south for the winter.

**Amphibians** spend their early years in the water breathing through gills like fish. When they grow up, they develop lungs and spend much of their lives on land and near the water. Amphibians are cold-blooded. The babies of some amphibians are born live and some are hatched from eggs. Frogs and salamanders are amphibians that live here.

Mussels, clams and snails are **mollusks** that live in the river. You may see them in the shallow water near shore. They crawl very slowly, having only one foot. Mollusks have a shell to protect their soft body. When in danger they crawl inside their shell. Mussels and clams live in the water; snails can live in or out of the water.

Most **reptiles** spend all of their life on land. They breathe through lungs. Turtles and snakes belong to this group. Turtles lay eggs in the sand in the banks along the river. Some snakes lay eggs, too, but some have their babies live



## Search for the Wildlife

M A M M A L O T T E R B L O O N  
G M O U S E E L G A E A E E M N  
O P L X N M U S S E L S R B O O  
R H Z B Z R A B B I T S R E L R  
F I S H I S D E E R I B I A L A  
E B N K L A C L A M L E U V U C  
S I A R C C O Y O T E A Q E S C  
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G R E A T V B L U E T H E R O N  
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Clam  
Bear  
Loon  
Deer  
Otter  
Mammal  
Fish  
Bird  
Turtle  
Mussel  
Ducks  
Eagle  
Bass

Snail  
Beaver  
Snake  
Reptile  
Salamander  
Great Blue Heron  
Amphibian  
Coyote  
Squirrel  
Mouse  
Raccoon  
Geese Rabbit  
King Fisher