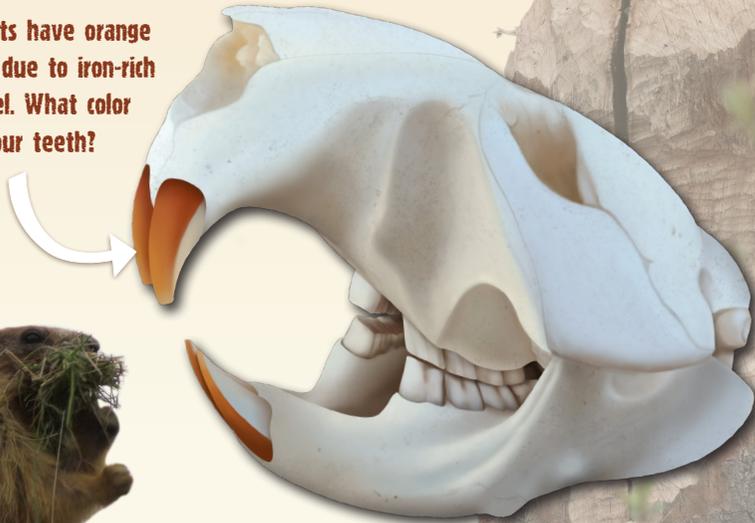


# WHAT IS A RODENT?

Rodents are a type of mammal, meaning they are warm-blooded, have hair, and birth live young. What makes rodents unique are their *teeth!* They have a pair of upper and lower incisors that continuously grow. Combined with their strong jaw muscles, beavers are able to gnaw and chew through hardy plant matter.

Rodents have orange teeth due to iron-rich enamel. What color are your teeth?



HAVE YOU SEEN THESE OTHER RODENTS FOUND ACROSS THE UNITED STATES?



PORCUPINES    MICE    MARMOTS    SQUIRRELS    PRAIRIE DOGS

GOPHERS    CHIPMUNKS    MUSKRATS    VOLES    RATS

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# BUSY BEAVERS



Beavers have the power to alter their entire ecosystem! Use this brochure to discover their unique characteristics and look for beaver activity on your adventure today.



# ECOSYSTEM ENGINEERS

Beavers play a HUGE role in their environment and are often called keystone species or **ecosystem engineers**. Through the construction of dams and rerouting of waterways, beavers change their entire ecosystem, improving water quality and biodiversity.

Check off all the beaver signs you can find!

# AQUATIC ADAPTATIONS

A beaver has many adaptations for aquatic life. These are physical traits that help a species survive better in their environment. Since we humans don't spend the majority of our lives outside and in the water, we don't have these unique body parts. Instead, we rely on objects and tools that serve the same purpose.



MATCH THESE MAN-MADE OBJECTS WITH THE BEAVER ADAPTATIONS BELOW.



GIRDLED & FALLEN LOGS



DEN



SCAT



BEAVER



CHEWED SAPLINGS



TRACKS

PROTECTIVE THIRD EYELID FOR SWIMMING

NOSE AND EAR FLAPS TO KEEP WATER OUT

FLAT, STURDY TAIL

STRONG INCISORS

WEBBED BACK FEET

THICK, DOUBLE-COATED FUR

