

Deer's Ears

White-tailed deer call this forest and most of Shenandoah home. Deer find many types of food in the forest and use the trees to hide from predators. A deer's big ears catch sound like a baseball glove catches a ball.

Find a spot to sit and make deer ears by cupping your hands behind your ears. Listen for sounds from birds, animals, people, and the wind. When you hear a sound around you, make a symbol on the sound map that represents the sound you heard and where it came from. Don't forget to listen for sounds up high and down low!

Sound Map

	X (You are here.)		

How do large ears and good hearing help a deer survive?

Designed by Elise A. Kahl

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Thanks for joining us on the trail today! Visit our website to find more TRACK Trail™ adventures near you!

The next generation of stewards will help preserve the world's plants, animals, natural lands, and our heritage. What will you do to make a difference?




Your TRACK Trail activity guide can be used as part of the Park's Junior Ranger Program. Check at a visitor center for details!



This TRACK Trail is supported by a donation from the Shenandoah National Park Trust




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Senses & Sensitivity

in Shenandoah National Park



Just like the animals that live in this forest, people can use their senses to learn about their environment. Humans have five major senses that we depend on – sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste. Use your senses and sensitivity to discover what this forest is like for the plants and animals that live here.

Some animals, plants, and mushrooms have adaptations that help them survive but can be harmful to you. If you can't identify it, DO NOT touch it.

Explore Your Senses

Make your way through the forest relying on your senses of sight, smell, hearing, and touch to learn what life is like for the animals who live here. Discover how animals use their senses to find food, avoid predators, and navigate through the woods. The activities can be done anywhere on the trail except the two that are labeled on the map.

Life On A Rock

Rock surfaces can be mini-worlds unto themselves! Check out the rock outcrop at the trail intersection near the bridge. How many living things do you see? Look for colors, shapes, forms, and growth patterns to help identify the differences. Gently touch the lichens and feel the mosses. Circle the words that describe how the rock habitat feels.

- warm cool dry moist soft hard

Describe what it would be like to be a small insect that lives on this rock. _____



Box Turtle View

Imagine what it would be like to live an inch off the ground! Box turtles are omnivorous, meaning they will eat just about anything – from fruits to mushrooms to bugs. Get down on all fours, and with your chin almost touching the ground, look around. List three things that you see, smell, or feel that you didn't notice before.



- _____
- _____
- _____

Bear's Nose

Black bears have a strong sense of smell. A bear's sense of smell is seven times better than a dog's. What can you smell around you?

- Smell the air
- Smell a leaf
- Smell a tree trunk

If you were a bear, what would you use your sense of smell to do? _____



A Changing Forest

Nature is constantly changing. Decades ago this forest was shady, moist, and cool year-round because it was filled with giant eastern hemlock trees. An insect, called the woolly adelgid, was accidentally brought to North America and has killed most of the old hemlocks in Shenandoah. Look for snags and stumps of dead hemlock trees along the trail. There are still some young hemlocks growing, so one day the hemlock forest might return. Can you find a young hemlock tree?

Eastern Hemlock



Look for rounded needles and cones the size of nickels.

Squirrel Climb

With small sharp claws, squirrels are excellent at climbing trees. Find a tree you can walk up to without trampling any plants on the ground. Look at the tree – its bark, limbs, leaves, and color. Touch the tree and circle the words that describe its trunk.

Note: Poison ivy can climb up the trunks of trees... so if you see a hairy vine, don't hug that tree!

- soft slick smooth
hard coarse rough

Find a second tree that looks completely different. As a squirrel, which tree would be easier to climb to escape a predator? Why? _____

- _____
- _____

