



Habitat Tracker

Grades 6-8

Name _____ Date _____

Welcome!

Get ready for an adventure! As you follow this guide during your journey, keep your senses sharp!

You will become an animal and habitat tracker today.

To begin, start your tracking at the escalator!

Match the terms below to their correct definition on the right.
You will need to know what they mean during your journey!

- | | |
|------------|---|
| ___Habitat | a. To imitate |
| ___Tracker | b. The place where an animal normally lives |
| ___Diverse | c. One whom follows an animal's path or trail |
| ___Mimic | d. Many different kinds |

As you travel through the aquarium, you may notice some tracks along the way. Every track tells a story. The track could tell you what an animal was hunting; perhaps what an animal had for dinner; or that an animal sunned itself on a rock.

To whom do these track belong? Use the clues to help you.



This animal has a face mask,
and bushy tail.

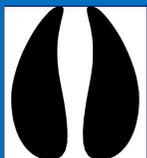


This animal has large ears
and antlers.

This animal travels in a
pack.



This animal loves berries. Keep
an eye out when camping!



This animal is the largest
of the deer family.

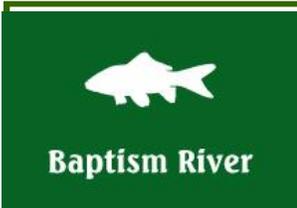


This animal is very playful
and loves to swim.



Do fish trackers exist? Yes! Find the **St. Louis River** exhibit.

The St. Louis River is a wide, slow-moving river with a variety of fish. List signs in this habitat that tell you it is a good place for fish to live.



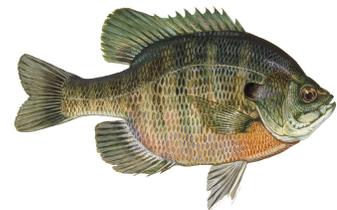
Next, find the **Baptism River**. (You walked by it on the way to the St. Louis River)
This river flows much faster than the St. Louis River!

What do you notice when you compare the fish in the Baptism River to the fish in the St. Louis River? Are the fish in the Baptism River as diverse? (Circle one below)

The Baptism fish look very different.

The Baptism fish look very similar.

Do you think a bluegill (pictured right) could survive in the Baptism River?
Why or why not?





Observe the Aviary (opposite the St. Louis River exhibit) where you will find shore and wading birds. The **Pictured Rocks** and **Kakagon Slough** exhibits represent unique habitats found along the southern shore of Lake Superior. Every living creature requires food, shelter, water, and space in their habitat.

List examples of how these habitat requirements are fulfilled for the birds living in these two locations:

Habitat Requirement	How is it fulfilled in these habitats?
Food	
Shelter	
Water	
Space	

When tracking fish, it is important to know where they like to live. One way you can figure out where they live is by their appearance!

Activity: Using different patterns (like stripes and spots), and colors (like brown and green) to blend in to your surroundings is called... (unscramble the word below)

F G M O C A L E A U

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Test your knowledge! Remember, fish use their patterns to help them hide. Their body type may also hint at their natural habitat. Take a good look at the pictures on the left (look for larger images near the exhibits if necessary). Match the fish on the left with their preferred habitat on the right.



Smallmouth Bass

Deep areas of a lake or river



Brook Trout

Fast-flowing rivers



Lake Sturgeon

Aquatic plants



Next, find the **Freshwater Forest** exhibit. If you look at the mural painted along the wall, you'll notice animals of all varieties survive in our forests. Find an animal belonging to each of the classes below, and list one characteristic that tells you they belong to that class. An example is provided.

Animal Class	Animal	Which characteristics tell you it belongs to this family?
Mammal	Black Bear	Fur, gives birth to live young
Bird		
Amphibian		
Reptile		
Fish		



The **Aquatic Invaders** exhibit displays sea lamprey, goldfish, and round gobies—all invasive species to the Great Lakes region. Take a moment to observe one of the more aggressive species in this exhibit, the round goby. Choose one round goby to observe for the activity below and record your observations.

Amount of time spent observing round goby: _____

Compare the size of your round goby to a #2 pencil. _____

What do you notice about your round goby's interaction with the other gobies in this tank? Does it appear to be a leader among the gobies or a follower? How so



Other observations you made: _____

What do you wonder about invasive species? _____

Shipwrecks Alive!



SCUBA diving is a great way to experience a whole other world under water. Many responsible divers take measures on each dive to ensure their personal safety and work to protect the ecosystems they respectfully explore. In preparation for exploring the three dive sites in **Shipwrecks Alive!** check out the dives notes from the locals to learn great tips.

Name one safety tip for divers: _____

Name one thing to help protect wildlife: _____

Shipwrecks provide a place for many life forms to colonize. Algae is one of the first arrivals, providing a food sources for many other species to follow. Take a look at the reef system in Truck Lagoon.

Find an organism in that would have established within the first 2 years and draw it here:

Find an organism that would have established after 4 years and draw it here: