

Illinois Wild Mammals Trunk

Suggestions for Use

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources' (IDNR) *Illinois Wild Mammals Trunk* can assist you in teaching about mammals and other topics. Below you will find some suggestions for using the items in the trunk. Please do not be limited by this short list of ideas!

- Lessons have been developed to help you use the *Illinois Wild Mammals* trunk to meet some of the Performance Expectations of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). Visit <https://www.dnr.illinois.gov/education/Pages/IllinoisWildMammals.aspx> or scan the QR code to access the information, images and lessons.



- *The Prying into Prions: Investigating Chronic Wasting Disease* DVD from the IDNR includes six lessons, a video and other supplemental resources to help you and your students explore prion diseases, including chronic wasting disease. Students learn about transmissible spongiform encephalopathies by examining the role of proteins in organisms, the chemistry and properties of proteins, the genetic processes that create proteins, and how proteins can become pathogenic. Students also study how chronic wasting disease is affecting Illinois' white-tailed deer herd and what control measures are being taken. The lessons are suitable for helping you to meet several of the NGSS Performance Expectations at the middle school and high school levels.
- Science lessons can include using the *Trunk* items to teach about adaptations, structure and related functions, classifications and relationships between organisms.
- Social science? Yes! Use the items to show environmental factors that brought people to Illinois, influencing the development of transportation and trade. Fur trappers and traders were drawn to the area that is now Illinois due to the abundance of many of the species represented in the *Trunk*. Discuss how settlers depended on and used these animals. Talk about human impacts on them.

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