

A Caribou Year: Questions to Stimulate Further Inquiry

- Were there caribou in your area during the ice ages?
 - If so, what happened to them? (Are they still found nearby today or are they no longer nearby?) Why?
 - If not, why didn't your area support caribou during the ice ages?
- Caribou are members of the deer family. Does any type of deer live in your area now?
 - If so, what species?
 - Are their populations growing or declining? Why?
 - If not, what deer species, if any, used to live in your area? Why are they no longer found there?
- What foods do (or did) the deer in your area eat in the winter?
 - Do you think there are more or less of these foods available now than there were 300 years ago?
- What else that local deer need might have changed in the past 300 years?
- Are there scientists studying local or nearby deer populations?
 - If so, what questions would you like to ask these scientists about the deer?
 - How could you ask your questions to the scientists?
- How do scientists count the nearby deer population?
 - How can the scientists determine whether the population is increasing or decreasing?
- Is hunting allowed for the deer nearest your area?
 - If so, what motivates hunters to hunt these deer? (What are they hoping to get or to accomplish?)
- What are some of the positive and the negative impacts that deer hunters might have on a deer population and on a local community.
- What predators, diseases and types of accidents have the most impact on nearby deer populations?

- Do the deer living near you move to different locations or habitats throughout the year?
 - o If so, where do they move and why?
 - o How far apart are these seasonal areas?
 - o Are there obstacles that the deer have to overcome when they are moving between these seasonal areas?
- When are new deer born near you?
 - o What habitats are especially important for these newborn deer?
 - o What are newborn deer able to do within a few hours of birth?
- Does a newborn deer have the same color fur as its mother? If not, how does its fur differ?
- Explain three different ways that deer protect themselves from predators.
- What do deer use their antlers for?
- When do deer antlers grow and when do they fall off?
- In what ways are the antlers of deer different from the horns of cattle?
- What impacts do insects or ticks have on the deer living near you?
- What steps can be taken to protect yard and garden plants from local deer?
- Are there more than one species of deer living in your area?
 - o If so, do they use different habitats or eat different foods?
 - o Draw a map showing the extent of the deer populations that live closest to you.