



Data Dashboard Scavenger Hunt:

Student Handout (Deer)

INTRODUCTION

In this activity you and your classmates will explore the Snapshot Wisconsin Data Dashboard and use it to study the detection rates and activity of different Wisconsin animals.

Data Dashboard: datadashboard.snapshotwisconsin.org

You have been assigned the white-tailed deer as your species to study. On the left-hand side of the website you will see an area to “Select species of interest”. Select “Deer” under the species list to begin your investigation!

INVESTIGATION

1. In the blue box at the center top of the page, the number of “*Statewide deer detections*” for the selected species (deer) is reported. Use the slide tool in the lower left corner of the page to “*Select date range of data*”.
 - a. How many statewide detections of deer are there from January 2018 to December 2023? _____
 - b. How many statewide detections of deer are there from January 2018 to December 2018? _____
 - c. How many statewide detections of deer are there from January 2022 to December 2023? _____

2. In the center left of the page you will see a “*Presence Map*” of Wisconsin that displays the percentage of cameras which detected deer by county. Use the key in the upper right corner of the map to determine the different percentages that deer were detected in each county. You can also hover over each county on the map to see the county name and exact percentage.
 - a. **Using the blank map handout provided, shade in the counties where deer are detected on 80% or more of cameras between January 2018 and December 2023.**

For the remainder of the questions, keep the date range at January 2018 to December 2023.

3. On the left-hand side of the page, under the species list, you will see an option to “*Select map mode*”. Select “*Ecological Landscapes*” to explore the different ecological landscapes of Wisconsin where deer are detected. Hover over each landscape on the map to see the names and specific percentages.

- a. **What ecological landscapes detect deer on over 60% of cameras? Check all that apply.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior Coastal Plain | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Lake Michigan Coastal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Lowlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Sand Hills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Sands | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Sand Plains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Transition | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coulees and Ridges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Central Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Prairie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Highland | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Savanna |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Sands | <input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Glacial Plains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Lake Michigan Coastal | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Lake Michigan Coastal |

- b. **What ecological landscapes detect deer on less than 20% of cameras? Check all that apply.**

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Superior Coastal Plain | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Lake Michigan Coastal |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Lowlands | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Sand Hills |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northwest Sands | <input type="checkbox"/> Central Sand Plains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forest Transition | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Coulees and Ridges |
| <input type="checkbox"/> North Central Forest | <input type="checkbox"/> Western Prairie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Highland | <input type="checkbox"/> Southwest Savanna |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northeast Sands | <input type="checkbox"/> Southeast Glacial Plains |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Northern Lake Michigan Coastal | <input type="checkbox"/> Southern Lake Michigan Coastal |

- c. **What are possible reasons that deer are detected in some ecological landscapes more than others? Explain your reasoning.**

- 4. In the center right of the page you will see a line graph that displays "*Animal Activity*". Below the graph are two blue buttons that allow you to view activity "*by Hour*" and "*by Month*".

- a. **What 3 months are deer detected most often?**

- b. **What 3 months are deer detected least often?**

- c. **Why do some months have more deer detections than others? Explain your reasoning.**

- d. **Within a 24-hour period, which two hours of the day show a *peak* in deer activity?** _____

- i. **Based on their peak hours of activity, do you think deer are diurnal, crepuscular, or nocturnal?** _____

- 5. Now navigate to the "*Detection Rates*" tab to view a bar graph of yearly detections, comparing deer to other animals. You can hover over each bar on the graph to see detailed statistics.

- a. **Are deer detected at a higher or lower rate than coyote?**

- b. **Do you think deer and coyote population levels impact one another? Why or why not?**
