

White-tailed Deer



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Chesapeake National
Historic Trail



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The white-tailed deer is a medium sized deer. Larger deer species such as elk once roamed the mid-Atlantic forests too. Deer are hunted for their meat. Deer skin, or hide, is scraped, stretched, and dried to make a strong but smooth leather. This material is used to make clothing, shoes, and blankets. Deer antlers are hard and strong, and make useful tools. For example, antlers are often used to carve stone into arrowheads, spearheads, and knives. Deer sinew (leg or back tendon) can be used as a bowstring. Hide and hoofs can also be melted down to make glue, a useful material for a hunter who needs to make a quick repair to their bow and arrows.