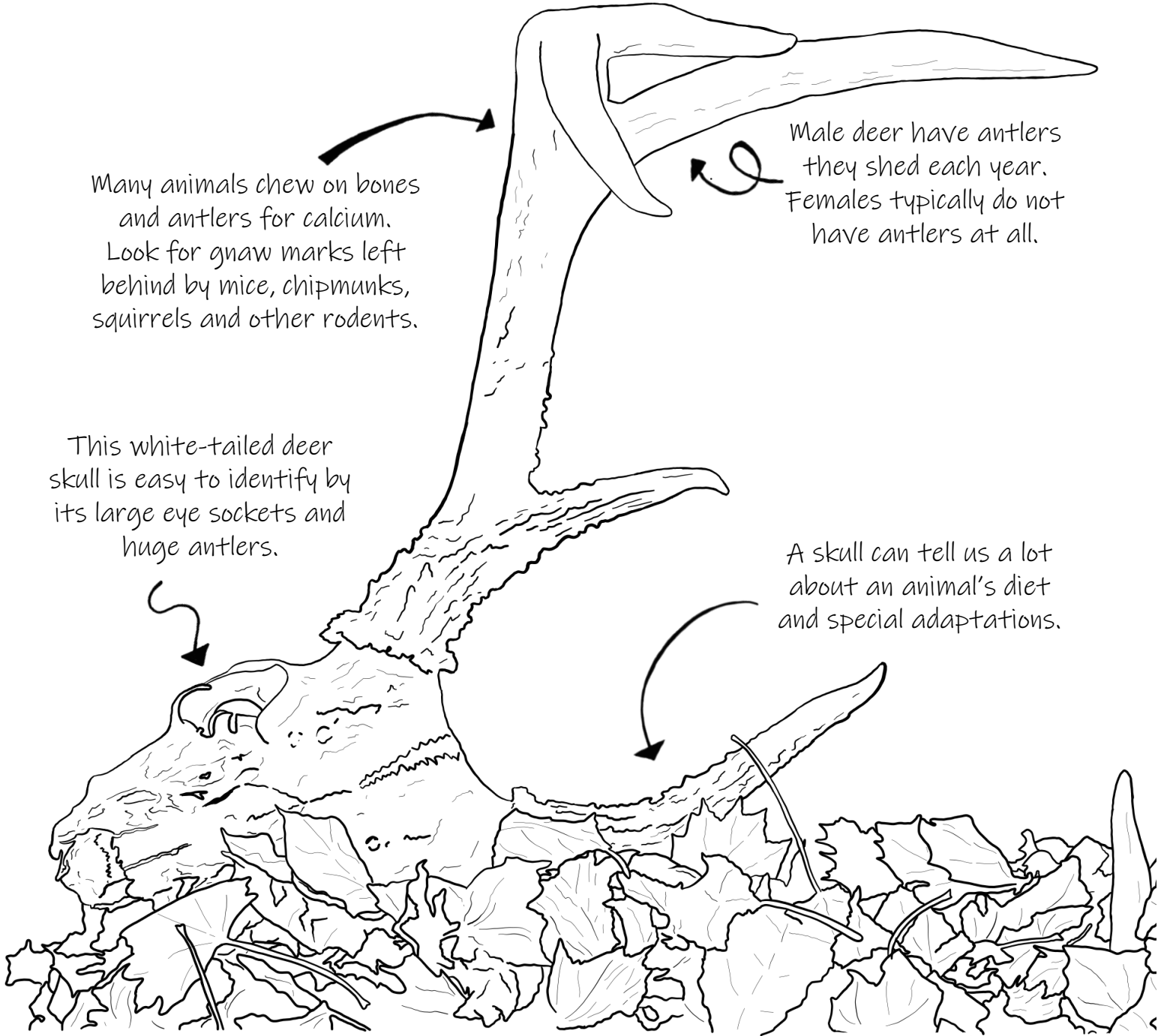


Get to Know: Common Mammal Skulls

Have you ever stumbled upon an animal skull on one of your adventures and wondered what kind of creature it once belonged to? Use this guide to help you learn about and identify some of the most common animal skulls found throughout Ohio.



Many animals chew on bones and antlers for calcium. Look for gnaw marks left behind by mice, chipmunks, squirrels and other rodents.

Male deer have antlers they shed each year. Females typically do not have antlers at all.

This white-tailed deer skull is easy to identify by its large eye sockets and huge antlers.

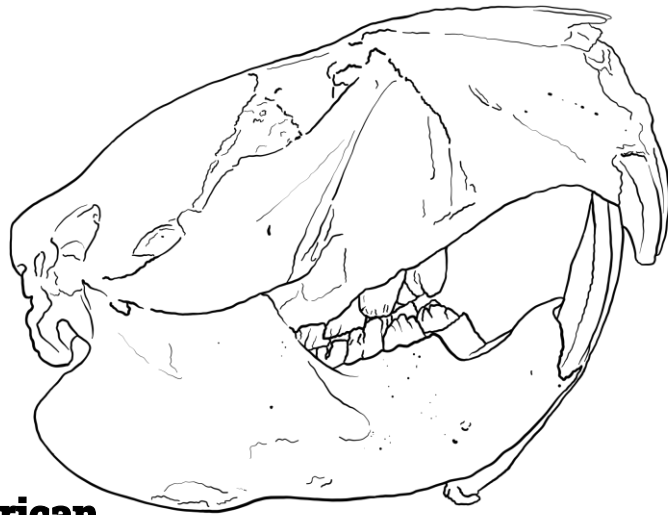
A skull can tell us a lot about an animal's diet and special adaptations.

White-tailed Deer Skull



For more visit:
FairfieldCountyParks.org

Common Mammal Skulls



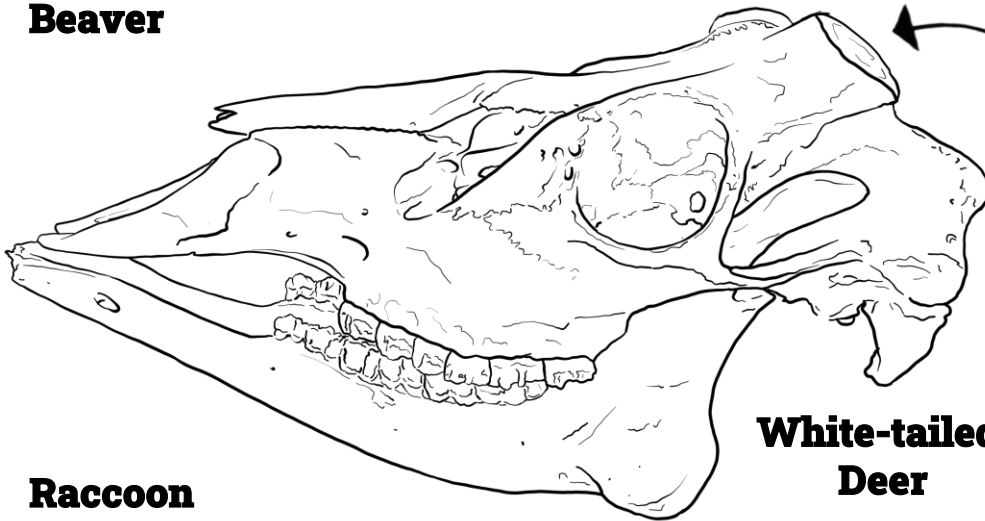
**American
Beaver**

Large, orange front teeth
(incisors)



**Eastern Cottontail
Rabbit**

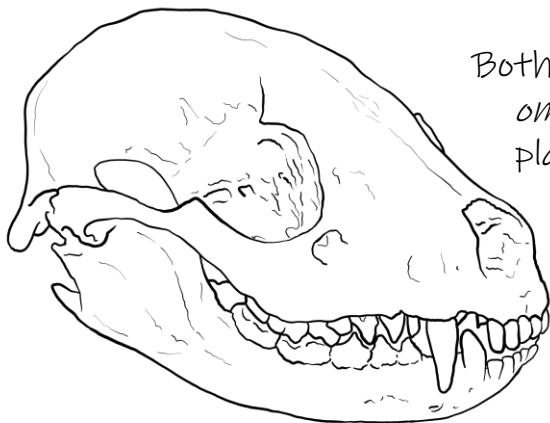
Two sets of front
teeth, one set is
much smaller than
the other!



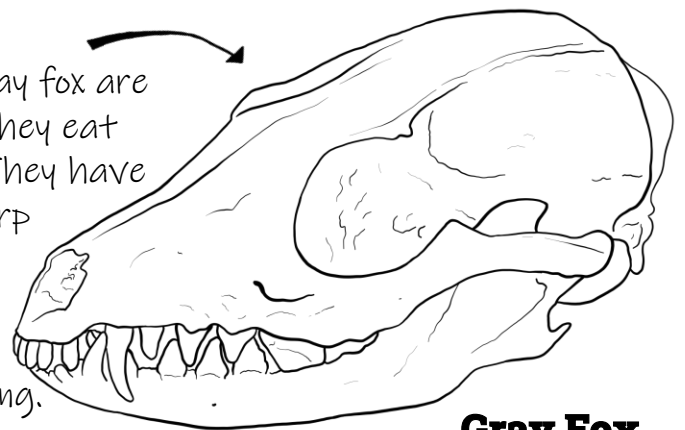
Raccoon

**White-tailed
Deer**

Male white-tailed deer grow
new antlers every year.
Female deer do not normally
have these bumps on their
skull, while males usually do.



Both the raccoon and gray fox are
omnivores, meaning they eat
plants and animals. They have
a mix of both sharp
teeth for killing
and cutting, and
flat teeth for
chewing and grinding.



Gray Fox



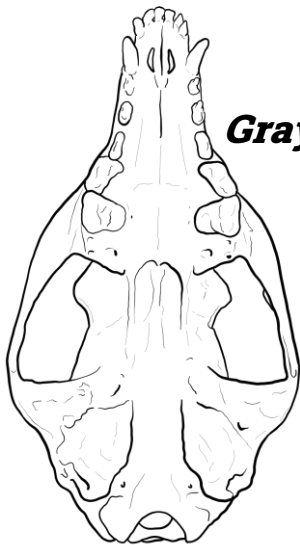
**Big
Brown Bat**

Very tiny skull with sharp,
pointed teeth

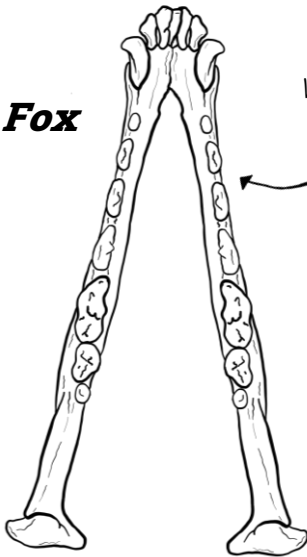
A Closer Look at Teeth



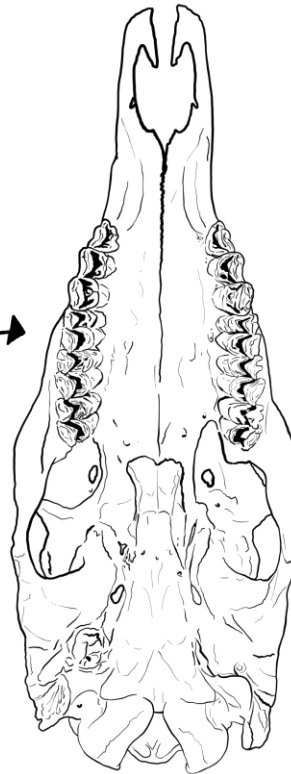
Teeth in a skull can tell you a lot about an animal's diet. Knowing what an animal ate while it was living can help you with its identification.



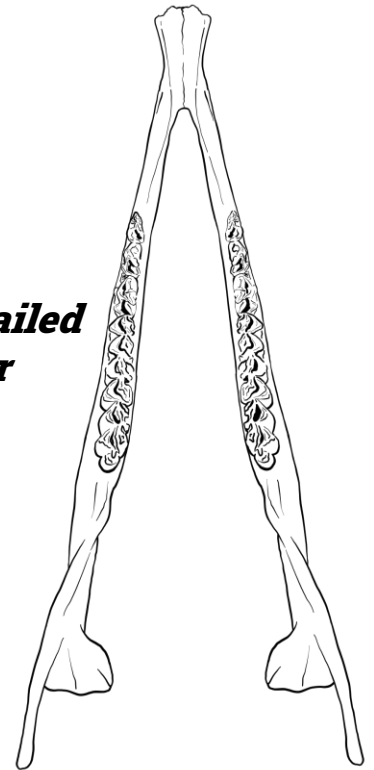
Gray Fox



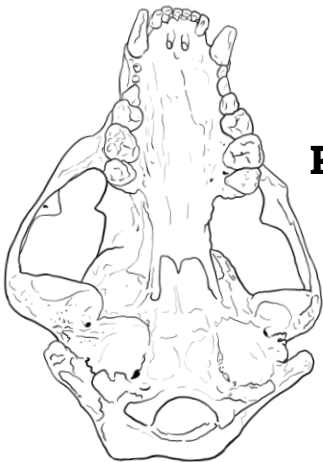
The Gray Fox's diet includes small mammals, birds, insects and plants. These sharp teeth are used for cutting and ripping.



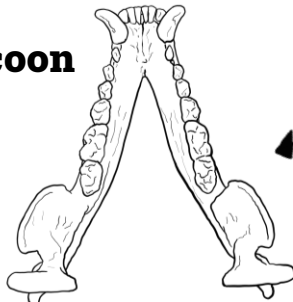
White-tailed Deer



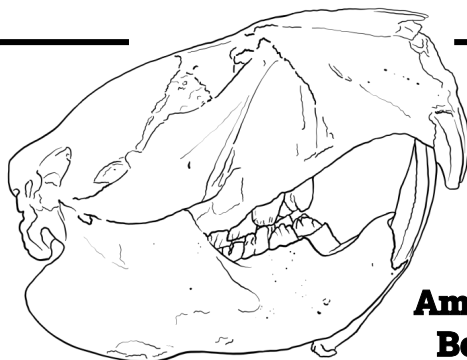
These deer eat a lot of plants. They use these flat teeth for chewing, grinding and snapping twigs.



Raccoon



Raccoons eat both plants and animals including fruit, nuts, berries, insects, rodents, crayfish and frogs. Can you find both sharp and flat teeth on this skull?



American Beaver

Specialized Teeth

Some herbivores, animals that eat only plants, have large, sharp teeth. The Beaver uses its huge, orange incisors (front teeth) to cut down plants, including trees. These teeth are orange because they have a strong iron-rich coating to protect the teeth from breaking.

Skull Matching



These skulls are all mixed up! Can you find which skull belongs to the correct animal? Draw a line from the mammal to its matching skull.

