Just for Kids

Radio Telemetry

Radio telemetry is used by wildlife biologists to study animal movements. Animals are fitted with a radio transmitter that gives off a silent signal which can be received by using a special antenna. By reading the signal, wildlife biologists can pinpoint which animal is emitting the signal, determine its exact location and follow its movements.

Home Sweet Home

An animal's home range is the area an animal normally travels in to find food, water, shelter and a mate.

Match the animal to the size of its home range.

Coyote	**A: 100 to 300 acres (2 to 3 football fields)**
White-tailed deer	**B: 13 to 65 square miles (up to the size of two cities)**
Raccoon	**C: 2.5 to 26 square miles (up to the size of a small town)**
Black bear male	**D: up to 1 square mile (about the size of 4 to 5 football fields)**

Map your home range. How far away are the places you normally travel?

Remember to include the grocery store, school, a friend's house, shopping mall, doctor's office and anywhere else you normally travel.

P.J. FUSCO

Wildlife Division biologist Howard Kilpatrick uses an antenna to locate a deer equipped with a radio collar.

How does the Wildlife Division use radio telemetry?

Deer biologists put radio collars on deer to help determine their movements. They also use telemetry darts to help locate a deer that has been darted with an immobilizing drug.

Nonharvested wildlife biologists attach tiny radio transmitters to the backs of tree-roosting bats to help them find out where the bats spend the daytime hours. Biologists also use telemetry to study the movements of rattlesnakes and bog turtles.

The furbearer biologist uses radio telemetry to study the home range of raccoons.

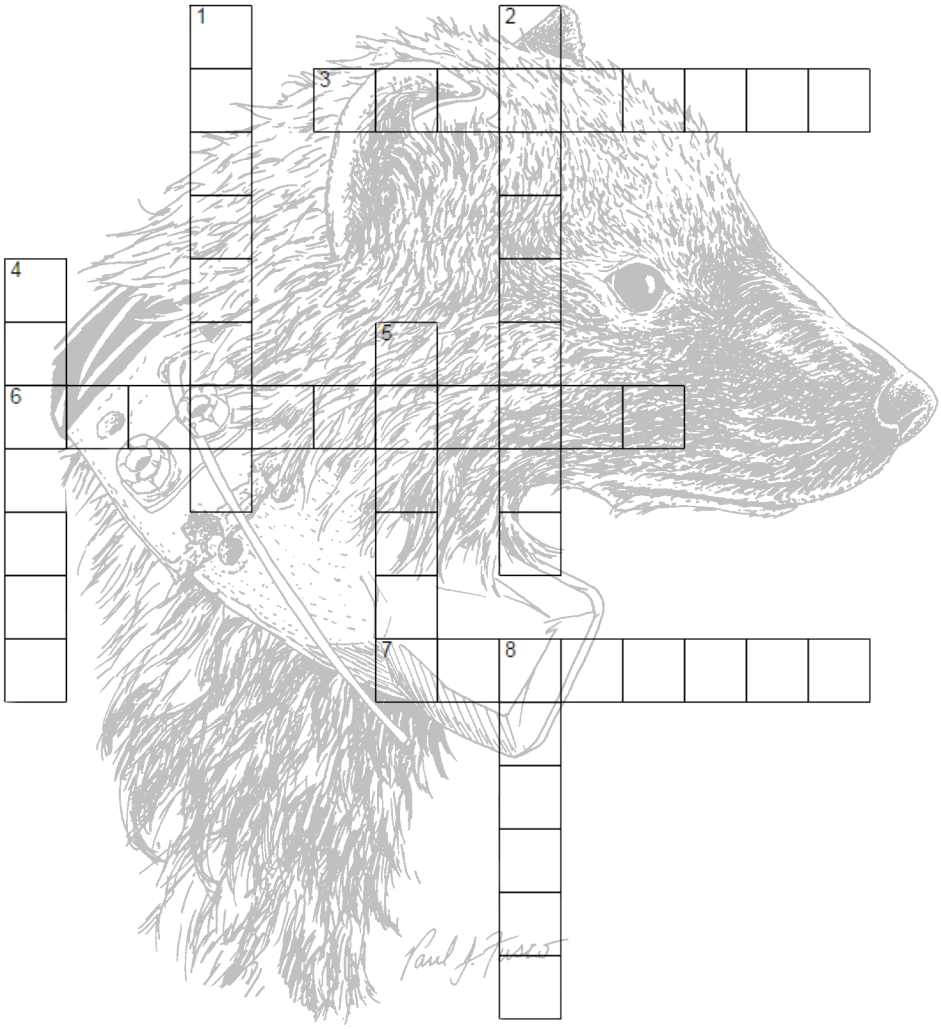
Answers to quiz:

Coyote (C); White-tailed deer (A); Raccoon (D); Black bear male (B)

Reprinted from *Connecticut Wildlife*

Radio Telemetry

Radio telemetry is a very important technology in wildlife biology. Biologists use this technology to study animal populations, and the information they gather can be used to better understand the status and behavior of different wild animal communities that are living in the area. Use the information on the front of this sheet to complete the crossword below!



Across

3. An animal's _____ is the area they normally travel to find food, water, shelter, and a mate.
6. To track wildlife, animals are fitted with a special radio _____ that gives off a signal
7. Using radio telemetry, biologists can determine the exact _____ of an animal

Down

1. Biologists can follow an animal's _____ by tracking it's radio signal
2. Radio _____ is used by wildlife biologists to track animals
4. A special _____ receives the signal from the radio transmitter
5. By reading the _____ biologists can track animals
8. Biologists put radio _____ on larger animals such as deer and black bears to help determine their location