



Diets of Potomac River Watershed Organisms

Instructions:

Pick one of your favorite animals from the list below to research on the Internet and in the library. Create a mural depicting a food web that contains the animal you selected. The list below includes the typical diet for each animal.

Animal	Diet
Black-capped chickadee	Seeds, nuts, berries, insects
Tiger swallowtail	Tulip tree, ash tree, aspen, birch, lilac, basswood, flower nectar
Chipmunk	Nuts, seeds, berries, fruit, insects, mushrooms
Black bear	Twigs, roots, berries, buds, young plants, insects, fish, small mammals
Belted kingfisher	Small fish, aquatic invertebrates, amphibians, reptiles, insects
Great blue heron	Fish, shrimp, amphibians, reptiles, insects, crayfish
Striped Mullet	Zooplankton, benthic organisms, detritus
River otter	Fish, crustaceans, amphibians, snakes, water insects, worms, small mammals, birds, eggs, turtles, aquatic invertebrates
Calico pennant dragonfly	Small insects
Ground beetle	Insects, plant matter
Red-tailed hawk	Small rodents, snakes, lizards, other smaller birds, squirrels, rabbits
Muskrat	Roots, shoots, stems, leaves, tubers, aquatic plants, cattails, clams, snails, crayfish, fish frogs, bark
Possum	Just about anything, including fruits, insects, other small animals, carrion
Diamondback terrapin	Crustaceans, fish, insects, mollusks
Merlin	Mostly small birds, but also rodents, bats, reptiles, large insects
Green heron	Mostly fish, but also crustaceans, mollusks, insects, reptiles, amphibians, spiders
Painted turtle	Maggots, larvae, beetles, snails, insects, crayfish, leeches, tadpoles, many plants
Tiger salamander	Insects, earthworms, grubs, mice, minnows, small amphibians
Woodchuck	Grass, seeds, leaves, flowers, fruit, eggs, small amphibians
Great horned owl	Rodents, small mammals, birds, reptiles, insects
Tiger salamander	Insects, earthworms, grubs, small mice, minnows, small amphibians
Deer mouse	Seeds, berries, cones of conifers, nuts, insects
Great horned owl	Rodents, small mammals, birds, reptiles, insects
Hornwort	Sun, water, and carbon dioxide (for photosynthesis)
Ruby-throated hummingbird	Nectar, small insects (e.g., bees, wasps, spiders, etc.)
Pied-billed grebe:	Aquatic invertebrates, insects, fish, reptiles, amphibians, crustaceans



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Animal	Diet
American coot	Aquatic vegetation, algae, fish, tadpoles, crustaceans, snails, worms, insects, eggs
Snapping turtle	Small mammals, birds, other reptiles, amphibians, fish, crayfish, crabs, clams, snails, earthworms, leeches, insects, plants, carrion
Chestnut oak	Sun, water, and carbon dioxide (for photosynthesis)
Wood duck	Seeds, acorns, fruits, invertebrates
Short-tailed shrew	Mostly invertebrates and insects, but also vegetable matter, centipedes, small vertebrates, fruit, earthworms, nuts
Golden-crowned kinglet	Spiders, fruits, seeds
Grey squirrel	Nuts, seeds, fruit (especially acorns)
Red fox	Fruits, berries, grasses, birds, small mammals
Mink	Small mammals, rodents, frogs, fish, crayfish, birds, eggs, insects, worms, clams, snakes, mice, plant matter
Praying mantis	Aphids, mosquitoes, caterpillars, flies, spiders, grasshoppers, crickets, moths, other insects
Honey bee or bumble bee	Pollen, nectar
Flying squirrel	Fruits, nuts, seeds, bark, buds, fungi, lichen, insects
Chimney swift	Flying insects (e.g., flies, ants, beetles, etc.), sometimes spiders
Marsh wren	Spiders, aquatic and terrestrial insects
Hooded merganser	Fish, crayfish, frogs, mud crabs, aquatic insects, insect larvae
Walleye	Small fish (mostly yellow perch), insects, sometimes snails, small mammals, frogs
Long-tailed weasel	Small mammals (e.g., mice, voles, rabbits, gophers, chipmunks, etc.)
Eelgrass	Sun, water, and carbon dioxide (for photosynthesis)
Insect larvae	Algae, plankton, decaying organic material
Crabs	Aquatic invertebrates, fish, plants, mollusks, crustaceans, organic debris
Eastern meadowlark	Insects (especially caterpillars and grasshoppers), seeds
Red-winged blackbird	Seeds, insects, fruits, small aquatic life
White-tailed deer	Corn, acorns, nuts, buds, twigs, plant leaves
Wild celery	Sun, water, and carbon dioxide (for photosynthesis)
Crayfish	Aquatic plants, animals, fish, shrimp, decaying organisms
Aquatic invertebrates (including insects):	Plankton, plants, other invertebrates/vertebrates
American raccoon	Birds, mice, insects, small fish, crayfish, frogs, eggs, nuts, fruits