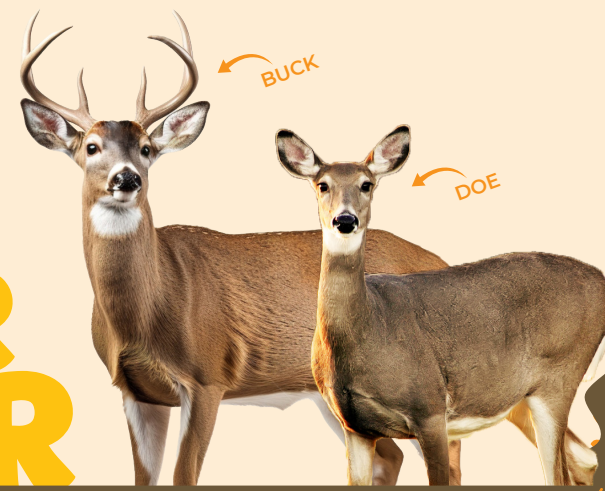


WAM!

WILD ABOUT MISSISSIPPI

CRITTER CORNER



THE WHITE-TAILED DEER

Odocoileus virginianus

EXPLORE MISSISSIPPI

Have you ever wanted to step back in time to explore a place where people lived over **9,000 years ago**? At Tishomingo State Park, in the beautiful foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, you can! Named after Chief Tishomingo of the Chickasaw nation, this park has tons of exciting things for you to discover!

Here's a few things you can do at Tishomingo State Park:

- Walk across the Swinging Bridge
- Picnic
- Ride your bike
- Hike
- Fish
- Camp



White-tailed deer are large mammals. Their fur color ranges from tannish brown to gray depending on the time of year. They are called "white-tailed" because of a little patch of white fur under their tails. White-tailed deer are one of two official State Land Mammals for Mississippi. Do you know the other one? (Hint: it's somewhere on this page!)

Girls are called "does" and boys are called "bucks"! A great way to tell them apart is that bucks are often larger than does, and bucks can grow antlers. Every year the bucks shed their antlers and regrow them getting bigger every year!



PLANT I.D.

American Beautyberries

• Deciduous shrub, which means it sheds its leaves every year, native to Mississippi.

• During the summer, this plant produces white or light pink flowers that, by fall, blossom into vibrant purple fruits. These plump fruit clusters remain on the plant through winter.

• American Beautyberries are known to be a favorite of many birds and small mammals, especially the white-tailed deer!

High nutritional benefits!

These berries are known for being high in antioxidants which help animals stay healthy and not get sick.



Hee Hee! That's a good one...

GIGGLE TIME!

What do you call a baby bear with no teeth?
A GUMMY BEAR!

Why do fish live in salt water?
BECAUSE PEPPER MAKES THEM SNEEZE!

Why do ducks fly south for the winter?
BECAUSE IT'S TOO FAR TO WALK!

I'm also a State Land Mammal of Mississippi!



WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Deer are herbivores, which means they only eat plants. Their favorites are leafy greens, grass, and even fruits and vegetables! Do you like eating green foods like deer?

yum yum.



ISSUE No. 1

CAREER SPOTLIGHT FISHERIES BIOLOGIST

WORD SEARCH

Fisheries biologists have many duties, but one task they do every Fall is **electrofishing!**

Biologists use electricity to stun and catch fish in order to check on their health and figure out how many fish we have in that area. After they catch a fish, they are identified, counted, weighed, measured, and released back into the water.

By doing these surveys, they ensure our public waters are well stocked for Mississippi anglers to enjoy!



These electrodes hang into the water, sending out electric current and stunning nearby fish.



The fish are then easily collected and studied, and quickly returned to their home!

S V M F C K N T O P
C W M A P L E S A C
Y P E D G D U K K E
P I H E R N M R X D
R N O I T U O U S A
E E L R C G T L T R
S G L J F K U U I T
S Z Y X A G O M K A
N B E E C H D R A T
B U O N J P J S Y G

Try to find these trees that are native to Mississippi. A few of the words are diagonal.

- Magnolia
- Hickory
- Pine
- Maple
- Holly
- Beech
- Cypress
- Cedar
- Oak
- Sweetgum

UPCOMING EVENTS

HAVE A **ROARING GOOD TIME!**
AT THE MISSISSIPPI MUSEUM OF NATURAL SCIENCE

SEE IT ALL!

- Mississippi Animals & Fossils
- Dinosaurs & Nature Trails
- Aquariums & Fish Feedings
- Preschool Treehouse Slide
- LeFleur's Bluff Playground

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

- Mindbender Mansion Jan. 18-May 4, 2025
- Backyard Adventures May 24-Jan. 4, 2026



PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE!



HAHA!
Can't catch me!

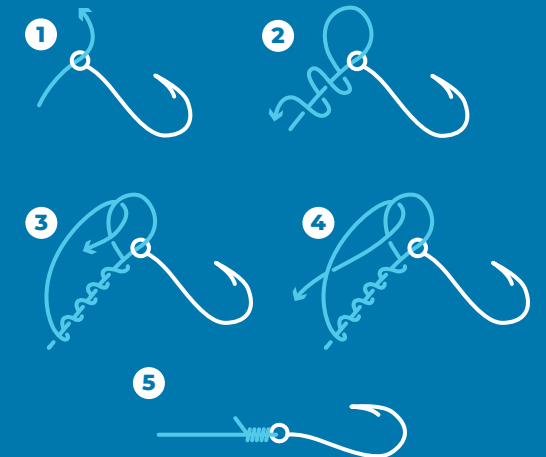
know your knots

Whether fishing for catfish or bass, it's important to have a good, secure knot to keep you from losing your gear... **or your fish!**

THE CLINCH KNOT

It's easy to learn with a little practice and great for beginning anglers! Give it a try and happy fishing.

- 1 Pass the line through the eye of the hook.
- 2 Make five turns around the standing end of the line.
- 3 Pass the end through the small loop above the eye.
- 4 Pass the end through the big loop.
- 5 Pull the knot tight against the eye and clip any extra line off the end.



NATURE TRIVIA

- A:** What type of animal is a snake?
- B:** What is the state bird of Mississippi?
- C:** What kind of scientist studies fossils and dinosaurs?

A: Reptile | B: Mockingbird | C: Paleontologist

A great place to look for deer tracks and scat is near a water source like a lake or a stream.