



The Northeast

 **beanstack** originals



The Northeast

From whales to moose, read about the fascinating animals of the northeastern United States.



The next stop on the astounding animals tour is the American Northeast! Home to thick forests, snowy mountains, and rocky coastlines, the northeastern region is also inhabited by unique animals. Let's meet some of the wonderful creatures that call the Northeast home.

Humpback Whale

Humpback whales live in oceans all around the world, traveling from place to place depending on the season. During the summers, these giant marine mammals can be spotted off the coasts of New England. And they are indeed enormous, weighing up to 40 tons (36 t)—that's almost as heavy as six African elephants! They also reach up to 62.5 feet (19 m) long, which is one and a half times as long as a city bus. However, these giants aren't normally dangerous to humans; they actually feed on tiny shrimp-like organisms called krill.

In addition to their humongous sizes, humpback whales are famous for their sounds. To communicate, these whales make distinct squeals, whistles, and gurgles. What's more, they sing! Humpback whales are known to sing long "songs" that consist of moans, cries, and howls that can last for several hours. Scientists aren't sure why humpback whales sing, but they think it may be to communicate, or else to attract mates. Sing on!



Animals Across America: The Northeast



A red fox, on the hunt for its next meal, sniffs the forest air.

Red Fox

Easily recognizable by their bushy tails and pointy ears, red foxes can be found in many places around the planet. And they are especially plentiful across the northeastern United States! Scientists think that these foxes thrive in so many habitats thanks to their cleverness and ability to adapt, or change to live in different situations. While many animals avoid humans, red foxes are known to steal food from garbage cans or make off with small livestock, like chickens.

So, what makes red foxes so good at surviving? For one thing, they have fantastic vision, which helps them see well at night.

They also have excellent hearing: a red fox can hear a rodent burrowing deep under the earth. And their thick fur lets them thrive in cold climates. Sometimes, a red fox will wrap its tail around itself to keep warm, similar to a blanket!

FUN FACT

A group of foxes is known as a leash or a skulk.

Moose

Moose are a type of deer that live in northern forests around the world, including throughout the northeastern U.S. But don't confuse them with other deer; moose are enormous! Weighing up to 1,600 pounds (725.7 kg), one moose can equal the weight of nearly three adult tigers. And they can reach up to 6 feet (1.8 m) tall—about



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A large male moose with antlers trudges through the snow.

the height of an adult male human. Moose are also known for their antlers. These are large as well, spanning about 5 feet (1.5 m)—longer than an average 10-year-old is tall!

Thanks to their large size and thick fur, moose stay toasty in snowy habitats, or natural environments. Their large hooves also help them walk on snow by acting in a similar way to snowshoes. They forage for greens above the snow, or else use their hooves to scrape away ice from the ground. Sometimes, they even rear up on their hind legs to reach tasty twigs and shoots on trees!

Barred Owl

Who? The barred owl, that's who! This large bird of prey can be found across the eastern U.S., and is quite common in the northeastern region. Known for their speckled brown and white coloring, barred owls blend in well in snowy forests, where they sit patiently to wait for prey like small rodents, squirrels, and more.

Although barred owls are most active at night, they are incredible hunters thanks to their excellent vision. An owl's enormous eyes let it take in much more light than a human's eyes can, so the owl can spot scuttling prey even in near-total darkness.

DID YOU KNOW?

A barred owl's cry isn't just "who;" bird experts describe it as sounding like "who cooks for you?"