

Learn About





Field mice, though near the bottom of the food chain, are surprisingly intelligent creatures. Weighing in at one-half to one full ounce, their heads and bodies are small, though their tails can be up to 2 ½ inches long. Field mice mostly live in the countryside in open fields or forests, but they can be found in houses, both abandoned and occupied.

Because of their size and their position on the food chain, field mice have to be particularly inventive to survive. It has been proven that field mice will actually think out a strategy before acting. They assess a situation, and if they find it too risky, they won't do it.

Even so, because they have the longest list of predators of any known creature, field mice are nocturnal. Conducting their business at night helps them avoid some of their enemies, which include snakes, cats, owls, hawks, dogs, wolves, foxes, and bears. Field mice have unknown life spans because those who have been tracked in the wild have all been eaten before reaching 2 years of age.

Field mice are also known as wood mice and deer mice, depending on where you live. They are great jumpers, climbers, and swimmers. They can jump as high as 1 foot (30.38 centimeters), allowing them to easily climb to high places to reach food. They can also squeeze through openings the size of a dime. Mice often seem like they're performing magic to reach food and escape predators, but in reality they are just very good gymnasts.

Being scavengers, field mice will eat anything they can find, which makes them omnivores—they eat both plants and animals including seeds, snails, insects, and just about anything else you can think of.

Field mice give birth to 2-4 litters per year, with 4 to a dozen pups (also called pinkies due to their bright color) per litter. They usually nest close to a food source. The pups are born

hairless, blind, and deaf, but are ready to leave the nest and take care of themselves within three weeks.

Differences between field mice and house mice

Field Mice	House Mice
Brown or tan with white belly, legs, and feet	Light brown or grey, solid color
Tails are dark on top and light underneath	Tails are uniform in color and almost hairless
Hoards food near its nest	Eats food immediately rather than saving it
Large back feet for leaping	Small hands and feet
Oval-shaped ears	Round ears
Slight smell	Strong smell
7 inches from nose to tail	5 inches from nose to tail



Fill in the Blank

Fill in the blank with the correct word to finish the statement.

1. Field mice weigh one-half to one full _____.
2. Field mice mostly live in the _____ near open fields and forest.
3. It has been proven that field mice will actually think out a _____ before acting.
4. Field mice have the longest list of _____ of any known creature.
5. Field mice are _____ in order to avoid their natural enemies.
6. Field mice are also known as _____ mice and _____ mice.
7. Being _____, field mice will eat anything they can find.
8. Field mice are _____, meaning they eat both plants and animals.
9. Another name for field mice pups is _____.
10. Field mice pups are ready to leave the nest within _____ weeks.

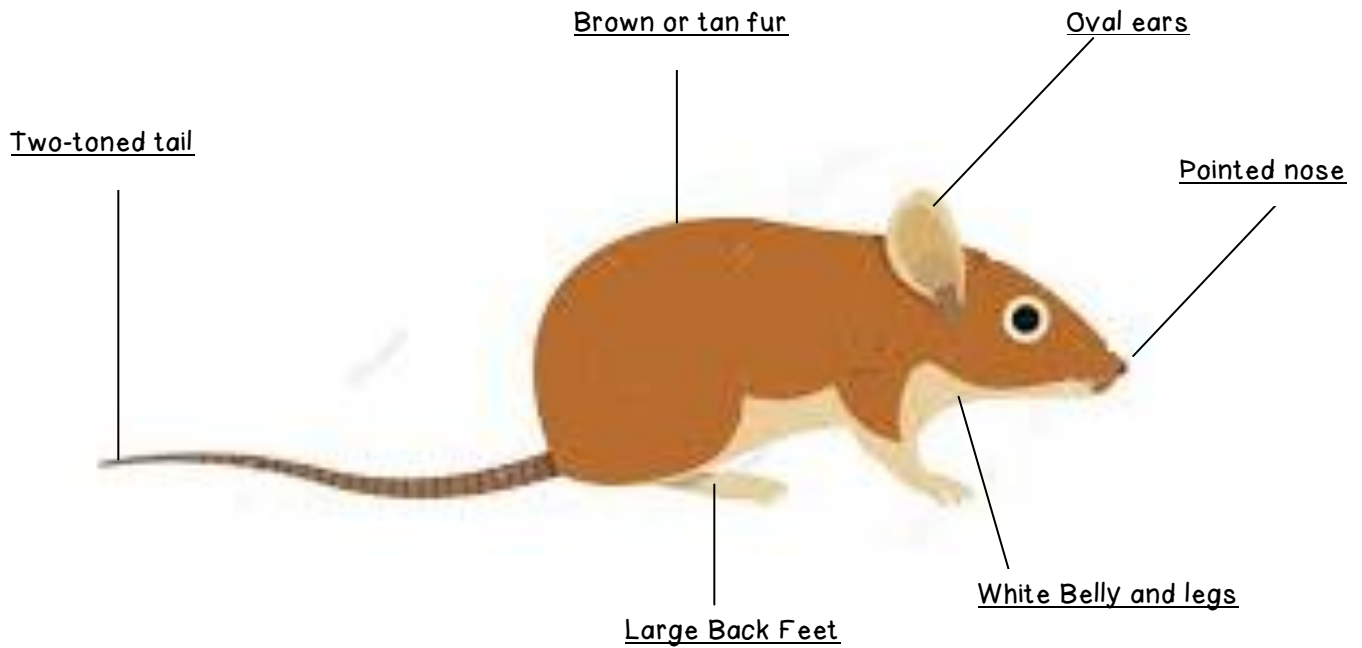


List the differences between field mice and house mice

Field Mice	House Mice

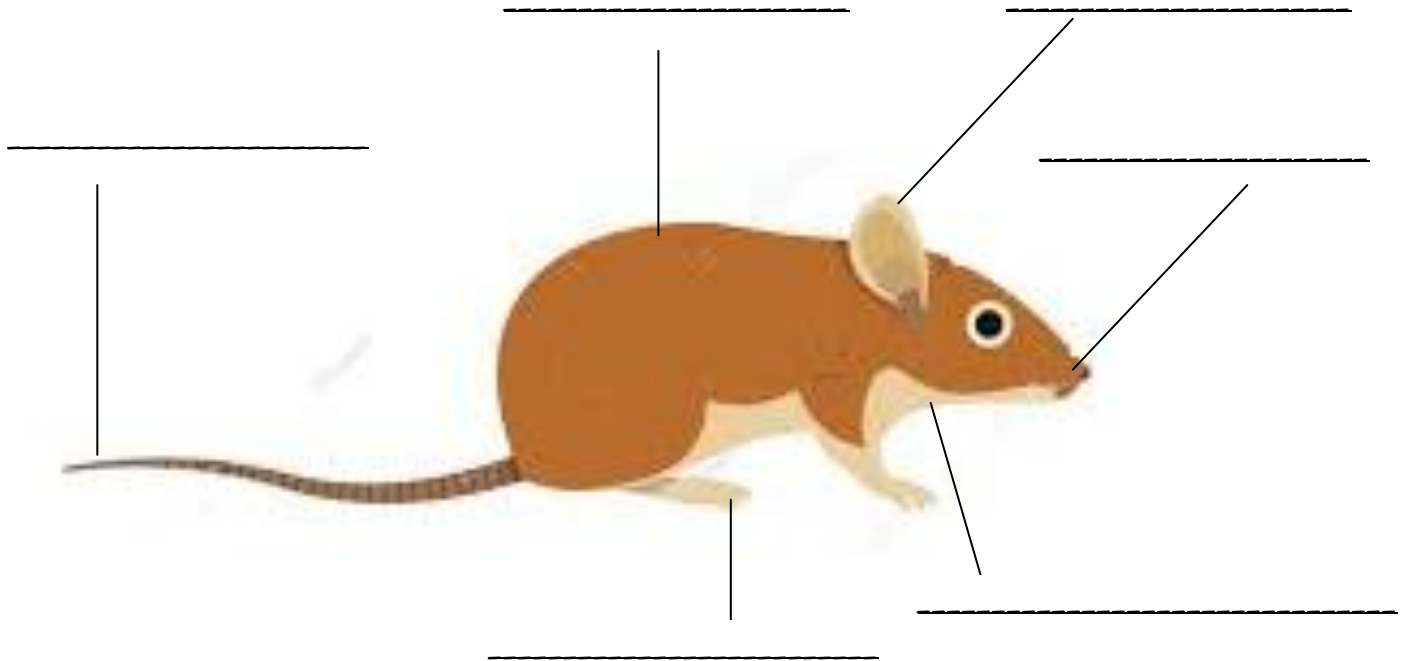


Anatomy of a Field Mouse



Anatomy of a Field Mouse

Fill in the parts of the field mouse.



Field Mice Word Search

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

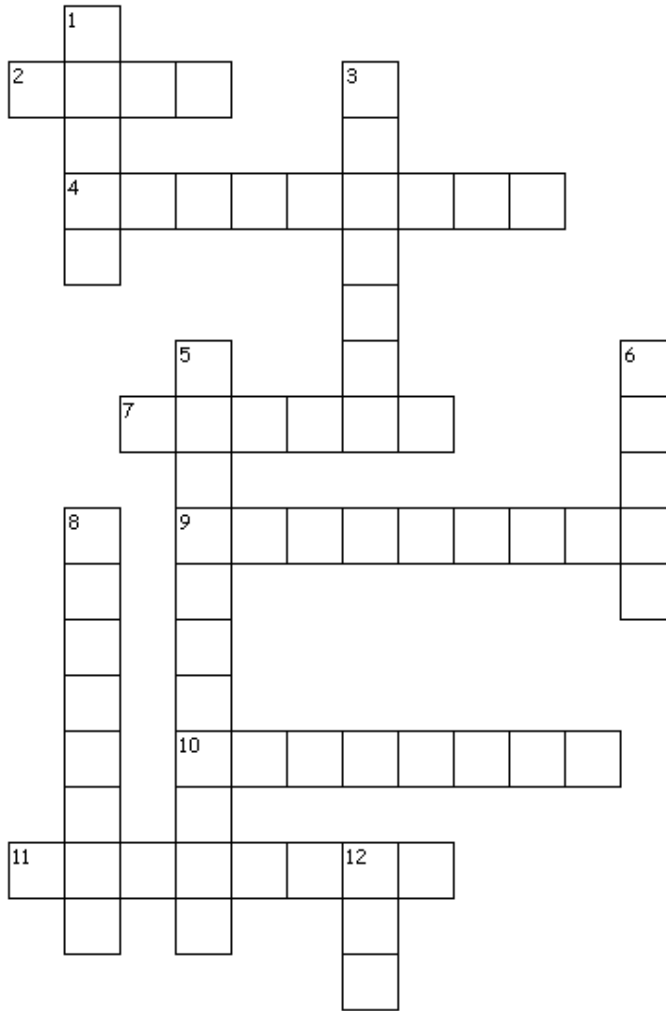
COUNTRYSIDE
FOREST
HAWK
NOCTURNAL
PINKIES
SCAVENGER

DEER
FOX
MICE
OMNIVORE
PREDATOR
STRATEGY

FIELD
GYMNAST
MOUSE
OWL
PUP
WOOD



Field Mice Crossword Puzzle



Across

- 2. another name for field mouse
- 4. animal that will eat anything it can find
- 7. wooded area where field mice are found
- 9. moves around at night
- 10. plan of action
- 11. a natural enemy that preys on others

Down

- 1. small rodent that lives in the country
- 3. baby mice
- 5. where most field mice are found
- 6. open area where field mice are found
- 8. animal that eats both plants and animals
- 12. natural predator of field mice

Word Bank		
field	mouse	countryside
forest	strategy	predator
nocturnal	wood	omnivore
scavenger	pinkies	owl



Thank you so much for downloading this Learn About Field Mice printable! I truly appreciate your support and encouragement and hope this printable helps your child understand more about field mice.

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