Learn About

Field Mice
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

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

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Anatomy of a Field Mouse

- Brown or tan fur
- Oval ears
- Pointed nose
- White Belly and legs
- Large Back Feet
- Two-toned tail
Anatomy of a Field Mouse

Fill in the parts of the field mouse.
Field Mice Word Search

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 E C I M F O
C F I E L D N G G R C Q 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  DEER  FIELD
FOREST       FOX   GYMNAST
HAWK         MICE   MOUSE
NOCTURNAL    OMNIVORE
PINKIES      PREDATOR
SCAVENGER    STRATEGY

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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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