

White-tail Deer

# White-Tailed Deer *(Odocoileus virginianus)*

## Instant ID

- A mammal with long, slender legs and tan to red-brown coloration
- Tail is brown on top and white underneath
- Has large ears that swivel to hear predators

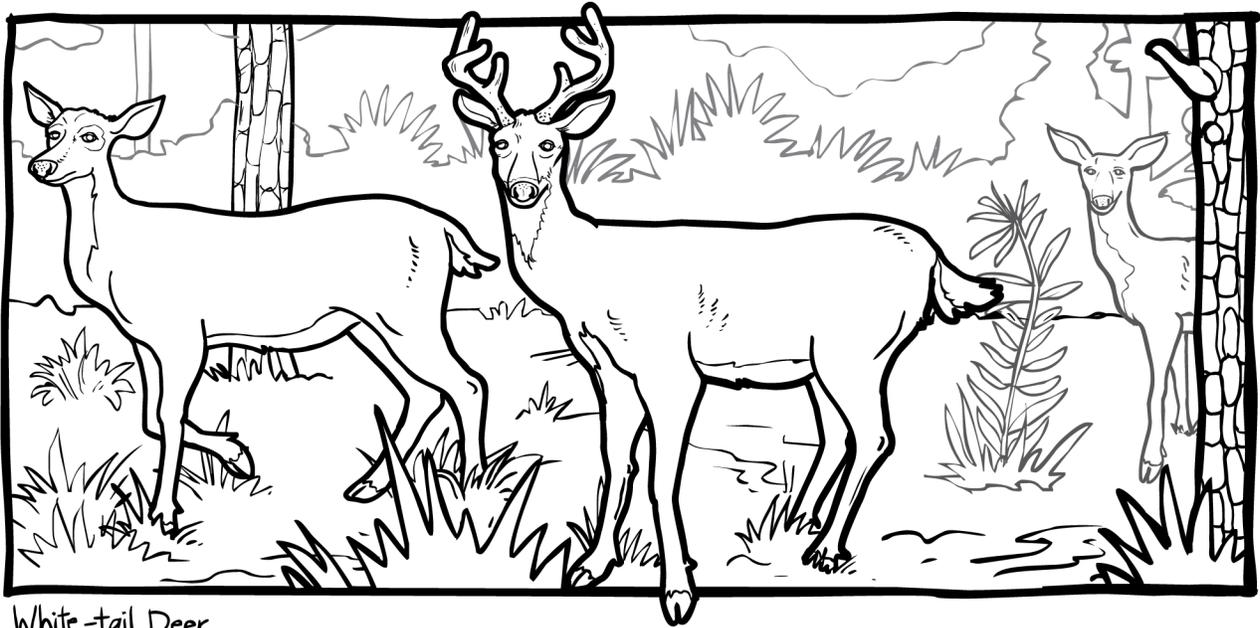
## Native Niches

- Can be found in almost all Florida habitats, ranging from coastal dunes to swamps
- The smaller Key deer is a white-tailed deer subspecies found only on Big Pine Key and No Name Key

## Favorite Foods

- Eats almost any leaf, grass or sedge they can reach
- Also eats twigs, nuts, berries and fungi





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## Critter Characteristics

- When startled, holds its tail erect revealing a white rump for others to follow away from danger
- Male white-tailed deer are the only native mammal in Florida to have antlers
- Fawns (babies) have white spots, which fade by their first winter
- A fawn will use its nose to “punch” its mother’s belly to get her to give more milk

## Population Protection

- The Key deer is listed as an Endangered Species
- Obey speed limits and heed deer crossing signs
- Feeding deer is dangerous for the animal and the person

