

Elk Education Kits (Elk Trunks)

Description:

Elk trunks—which are tool kits containing lesson plans, activities, books, antlers, fur and skulls, among other things—resulted from a partnership between RMEF, Council for Environmental Education and Project WILD—*WILD About Elk* in 1993 to provide elk education materials aimed at youths grades 5 through 8 to conservation educators. In the beginning, RMEF gave each state a trunk, and sent a few partial trunks to Canada, all free of charge. By 2008, more than 140 trunks have been distributed to state wildlife management agencies, specific forests within the U.S. Forest Service, various national parks with elk herds, national wildlife refuges, some partnering agencies/businesses and RMEF chapters. The trunks are often used in conjunction with Project WILD—*WILD About Elk* guide.

RMEF recognizes that hands-on educational experiences better draw youths' attention and leave a more lasting impression. Elk trunks provide educators (or agencies, scout leaders, RMEF volunteers, etc.) with an effective combination of tactile and written tools designed to teach youth about elk, other wildlife, habitat conservation and hunting. In urban settings, elk trunks offer youth a chance to see and touch elk country, encouraging them to care about the natural world even if it isn't part of their daily lives.

Elk Trunk Contents

Hands-on teaching objects

- Elk hide
- Elk antler
- Deer antler
- Cow horn
- Deer hide piece
- Mountain lion hide piece
- Cow elk skull replica
- Elk track replica
- Deer track replica
- Elk scat replica
- Deer scat replica
- Elk calling device
- Measuring tape

Media, illustrations and teaching materials:

- WILD About Elk* Educator's Guide
- Zoobooks – Deer, Moose and Elk* (class set of 15)
- Wild About Wapiti* kid's guide to elk
- Historic Uses of Elk* list
- Jeopardy cards & answer key for every lesson to test knowledge & understanding
- Moccasin pattern
- Wildlife of Yellowstone* DVD

Media, illustrations and teaching materials (continued):

- CD of Pennsylvania elk sounds
- Tracks! Activity from *Project WILD*
- Elk anatomy guide
- Life-size elk, transparency
- Photo comparison of elk and mountain lion skulls
- Enormous Elk activity
- Body language silhouette cards & answer key
- Beyond Fair Chase* teaching guide
- Beyond Fair Chase* books (class set of 15)
- Photos of elk CD
- Copy Sheet: Elk range, past & present
- Elk Habits and Habitats*, class set of 15

Activity lesson guides for the following 8 elk topics:

- Antlers
- Hides
- Sounds
- Tracks
- Sign
- Body Structure
- Body Language
- Research, Management & Hunting