

Canadian Wildlife

D2



Focus Morpheme

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Suffix | -ary |
| Pronunciation | The suffix <i>-ary</i> is pronounced /air-ē/. |

Etymology of -ary

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Origin | Latin |
| Meaning | of; relating to; connected with |
| Example: dietary | Look at the word dietary . The base is <i>diet</i> . By adding the suffix <i>-ary</i> , we create the word dietary , meaning “relating to or connected with diet.” |

Vocabulary

- dietary
- solitary
- customary
- momentary
- cautionary
- primary
- secondary
- legendary

Activating Prior Knowledge

This photo shows one type of Canadian wildlife. What other animals do you know that live in the Canadian wild?

Canadian Wildlife

In terms of geographical area, Canada is the second largest country in the world. Because of the diverse ecosystems within Canada, it is home to a wide variety of wildlife. Check out these iconic examples!

Humpback Whales

Humpback whales are the most common whales seen along Canada's coasts. Although humpback whales are typically **solitary** animals, they are known to come together for feeding. Along Canada's coastlines, it is **customary** to see pods of humpbacks from June to October when they are searching for fish or plankton. If you are lucky, you may get a **momentary** glimpse of an entire whale if one breaches—leaps belly-up—into the air. During a breach, the whale arches its back and then crashes back down into the water with an enormous splash. Scientists believe that breaching may be a **cautionary** message to rival groups, a way of saying “this is *my* territory.” Whatever the reason, it is a spectacular sight to see!



Vocabulary

Connections

Look at the word **solitary**. The root comes from the Latin *solus*, meaning “alone.” The word **solitary** can mean “relating to being alone.”

Moose

Moose can be found in most regions of Canada. They tend to be **solitary** animals, spending most of their time alone. Moose are the largest species of deer. From hoof to shoulder, they average between 1.5 and 2.1 metres tall. Male moose, which are called bulls, begin to grow antlers each spring. These antlers can grow to be 1.8 metres wide! The **primary** purpose of their antlers is to demonstrate strength and stature during the mating season. A bull with a large rack of antlers will often scare off younger or weaker males. Sometimes, though, the antlers must be used for their **secondary** purpose: to fight with other males for mates. The bulls face each other, lock their antlers together, and fight for the female mate. Each winter, when mating season is over, the bulls shed their antlers. They will grow new ones again the following spring.



Beavers

The beaver is Canada's national animal. It has been featured on the nickel since 1937. Beavers live in lakes and streams all over Canada, and are **legendary** for their ability to build dams. The beaver's physical features—especially their teeth and tail—make them excellent builders. Their long front teeth enable them to chew down tree trunks and branches, which they use to build their dams. Then, they use their tail to pat mud between the logs and branches, creating a solid, strong structure. Did you know that beavers also use trees to meet their **dietary** needs? They are herbivores who feed on tree bark, leaves, twigs, and some aquatic plants.



Time to Talk

- What information about these animals is especially interesting or surprising to you?
- What questions do you have about any of these animals?

Word Study

In your Word Study notebook, add today's morpheme.

| New Morpheme | Type of Morpheme | Origin | Meaning |
|--------------|------------------|--------|---------------------------------|
| -ary | suffix | Latin | of; relating to; connected with |

Predicted Meanings

1. Predict the meanings of the words below. They share a common Latin root, *solus*, meaning “alone.”

solo soloist solely isolate

2. Choose one of these words and write a sentence showing that you understand its meaning.

Writing Connections

Think about an animal that interests you. Write four or five questions you have about that animal.

You may also want to research information in your school **library** or on the internet. Then, write a short paragraph about the animal with the information you choose to include.

After writing, look back at your questions or your paragraph. Highlight or make a list of all the words you used that include a suffix.

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