



Jane Goodall Institute  
Roots & Shoots

JANE GOODALL INSTITUTE CANADA



# All About Caribou

[JANEGOODALL.CA/ROOTSANDSHOOTS](http://JANEGOODALL.CA/ROOTSANDSHOOTS)



# THE DEER FAMILY

Caribou are members of the deer family. They live across Canada from the Yukon in the west, all across Canada to Newfoundland & Labrador in the east. Their European counterparts are sometimes called Reindeer! The male caribou have large antlers that branch out, while the females have small straighter antlers. Males lose their antlers every winter, while females only lose them after giving birth.

**Caribou are an important part of the forest ecosystem, their movements through the forests let us know if the forest is healthy or not, as they don't like to go into areas of the forest that has been cut or burned down.**



# SPECIES STATUS

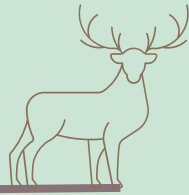
The boreal & southern mountain caribou are threatened species with their populations decreasing due to human-caused habitat changes like deforestation, forest fires and invasive insect outbreaks. These changes can remove the caribou's normal habitat or prevent them from accessing areas they need when the females are pregnant. The Peary Caribou species from Nunavut and the North West Territories is endangered, because of the warming effects of the arctic due to climate change. As sea ice thins this impacts their ability to move in their normal migration patterns.

**For Indigenous communities where caribou live, caribou play an important role in their culture, livelihood, and history. It is important we preserve caribou populations for future generations.**



# FANTASTIC FUN

CARIBOU ARE MEMBERS OF WHAT FAMILY?



TRUE

FALSE

MALES LOSE THEIR ANTLERS EVERY WINTER.

DO CARIBOU HELP TELL US IF A FOREST IS HEALTHY OR NOT?

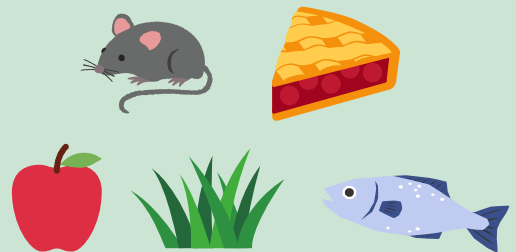
YES

NO

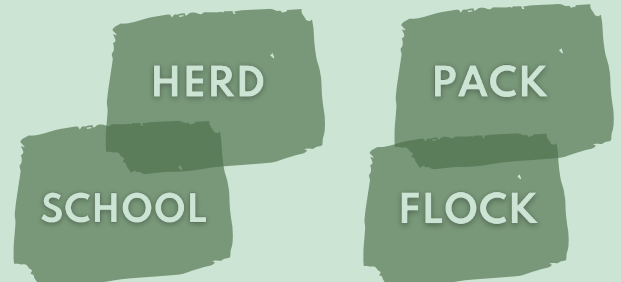
COLOUR IN WHERE YOU CAN FIND CARIBOU.



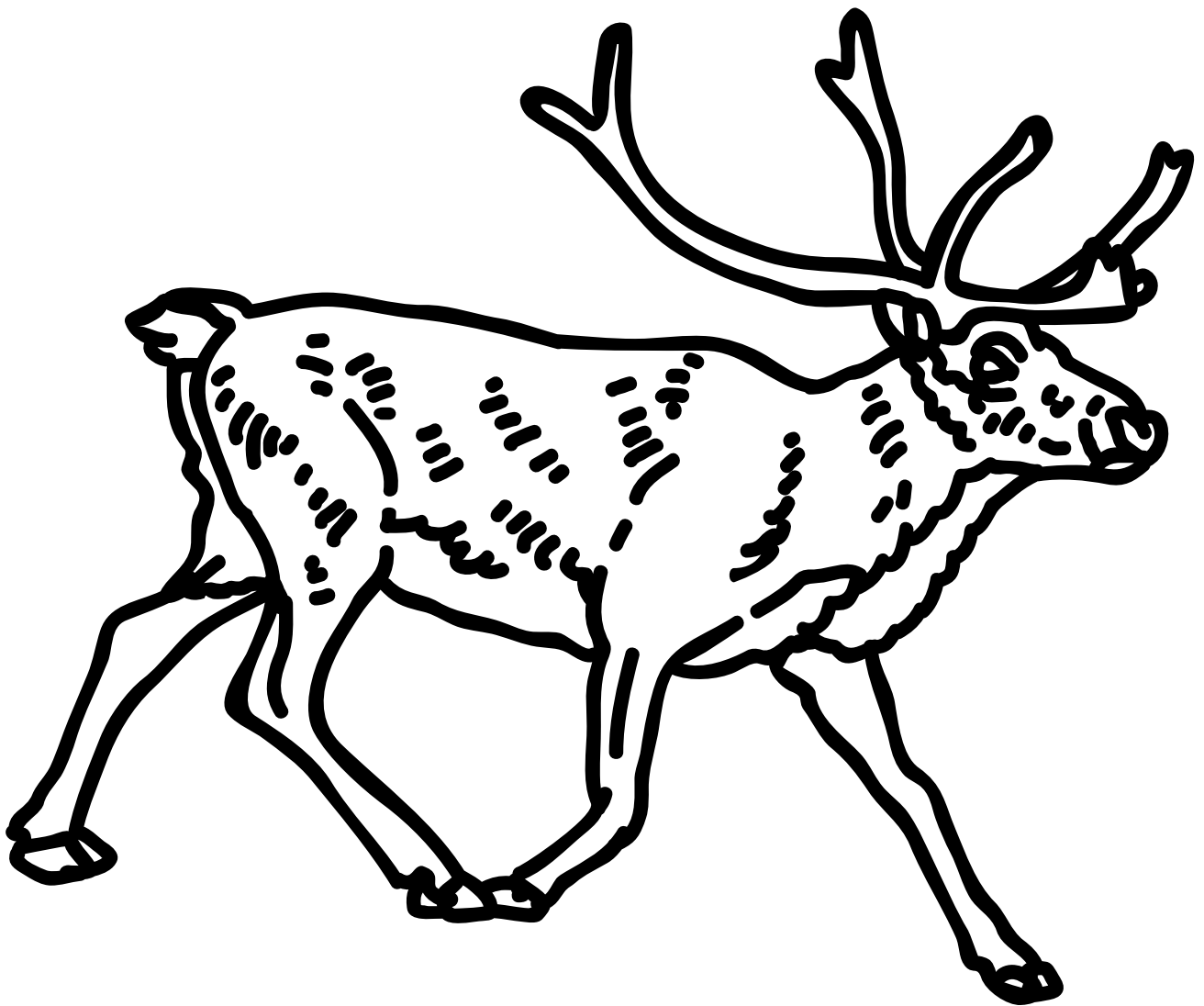
CIRCLE WHAT THEY EAT.



CIRCLE WHAT A GROUP OF CARIBOU IS CALLED?

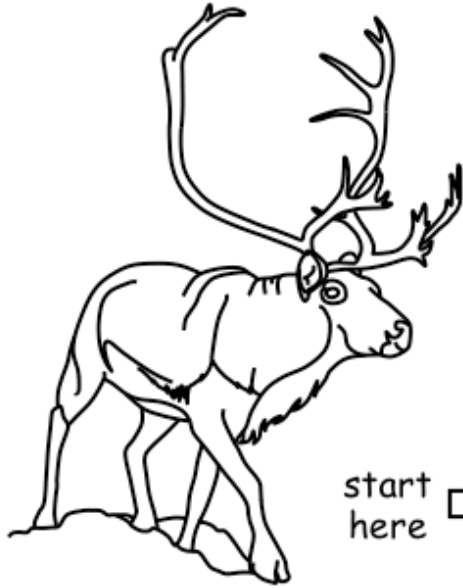


# Caribou



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Help the Caribou Migrate to the Taiga!



start here →

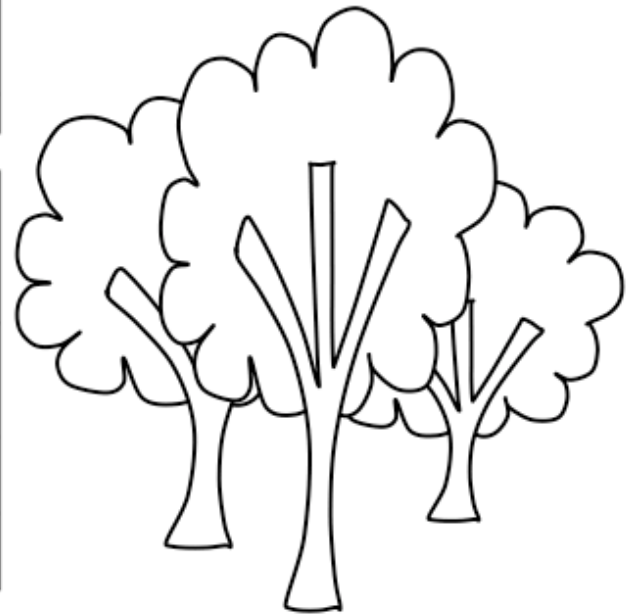
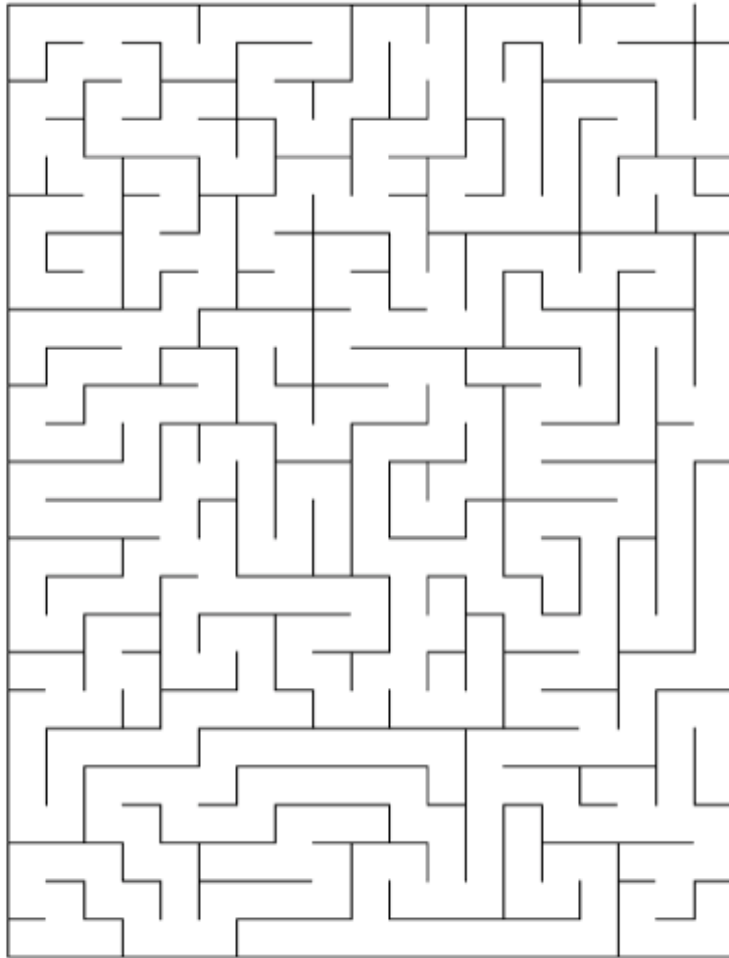
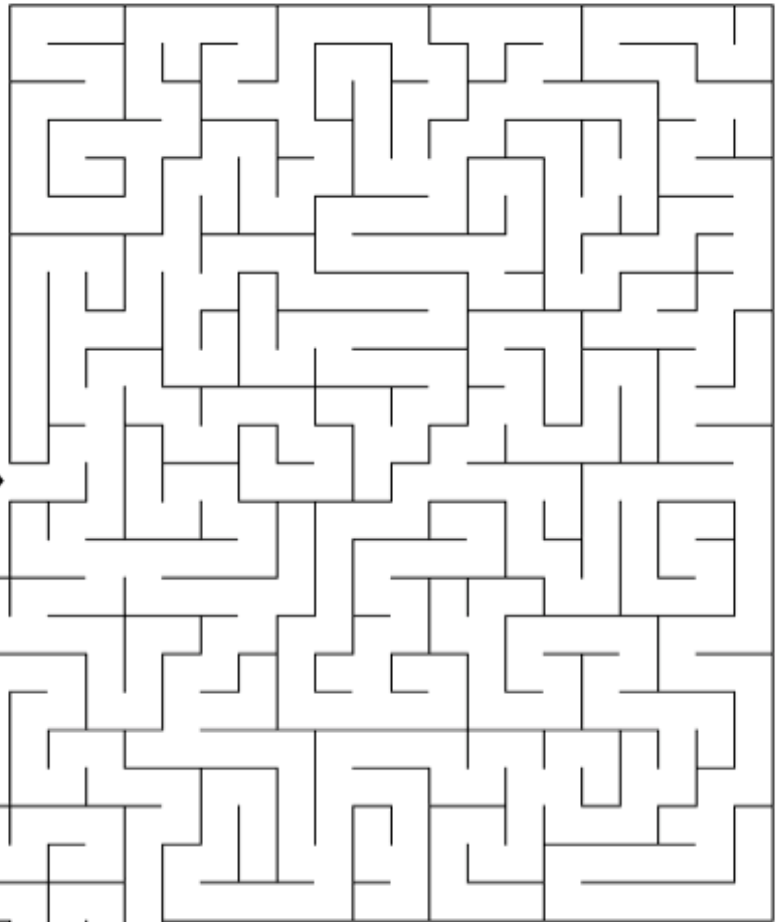




Image credit: Photography by David Moskowitz, civileats.com

# WHO IS HELPING?

Meet Starr Gautheir. A Caribou Guardian from Saulteau First Nation in British Columbia. Caribou Guardians take turns living with caribou to help protect them from predators, especially babies. This ensures that more babies survive to adulthood and helps to increase the overall southern mountain caribou population. The guardians feed the caribou, observe their behaviour, make sure the fences are secure and patrol for predators.

**By helping the caribou increase their numbers Starr is working to ensure that there are caribou in Southern BC for generations to come.**

**READ MORE**



[ORIONMAGAZINE.ORG/ARTICLE/  
THE-CARIBOU-GUARDIANS/](https://ORIONMAGAZINE.ORG/ARTICLE/THE-CARIBOU-GUARDIANS/)



# 5 WAYS YOU CAN HELP CARIBOU



- ✓ Educate others at your school by doing a presentation, or set-up a learning resource table.
- ✓ Write a letter to your local provincial or federal representatives to let them know it's important to protect all caribou species in Canada.
- ✓ Research species that live in your area and share that knowledge with family and friends.
- ✓ Set-up a park clean up project to ensure hazards like plastic are removed for caribou health and wellness.



As part of their Roots & Shoots project, the environmental science students at Lake Superior High School in Northern Ontario visited the remaining population of Woodland Caribou on Lake Superior on the Slate Islands. Students researched wildlife management plans and discussed the future management plans for the caribou.

**Students are now able to provide meaningful feedback to Parks Canada in their conservation efforts.**