



Elk

in Yellowstone National Park

Elk are golden brown with darker hair on their heads and necks and often have white tails. The males have 55- to 60-inch antlers that are covered in thick, fuzzy skin often called “velvet.” The antlers weigh about 30 pounds a pair. Mature males have six top points or “tines.” Female elk sometimes have antlers, but they are much smaller. Males (bulls) weigh about 700 pounds and are five feet high at the shoulder. Females (cows) are about 500 pounds and shorter. They live 13 to 18 years. Elk diets include grasses, herbs, shrubs, and bark.

Elk of Yellowstone are seen in valleys and meadows. They sometimes migrate to Jackson Hole Elk Refuge in Wyoming during the winter.

What did you learn about the elk of Yellowstone?

1. What is another name for the fuzzy skin on elk antlers?

It is sometimes called “velvet.”

2. How much can elk antlers weigh?

A pair of elk antlers can weigh 30 pounds!

3. Where can you see elk in Yellowstone National Park?

Elk in Yellowstone are seen in meadows and valleys.

