MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

FALLOW DEER

Dama dama

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Fast facts

FAMILY	Cervidae (deer)
SCIENTIFIC NAME	Dama dama
NATIVE REGION	Mediterranean region and Asia Minor
HABITAT	Woodland and grassy openings
DIET	Herbivore
ANTLERS	Palmate in mature bucks
YOUNG	Fawn
GLOBAL STATUS	Least Concern (IUCN 2008)



Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

Did you know?

- Palmate means shaped like the palm of a hand.
- Fallow deer occur in several coat colours.
- Bucks shed and regrow antlers in a yearly cycle.
- Fallow deer both graze and browse.
- A mother nurses her fawn.

Words to know

Palmate: Shaped like a hand's palm.
Herbivore: An animal that eats plants.
Fawn: A young deer.
Browse: Eat leaves and shoots from woody plants.

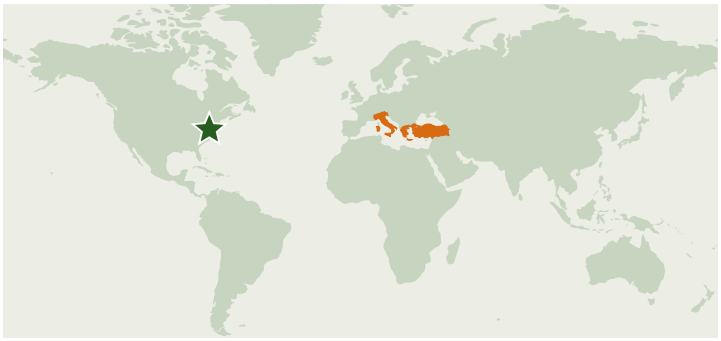
Think about it

1. What does palmate mean?
2. Why is coat colour alone not enough to identify every fallow deer?
3. What happens to a buck's antlers in a yearly cycle?
4. How is browsing different from grazing?
5. How does a mother help her fawn?

Draw it

Draw a fallow deer. Label its ears, muzzle, coat pattern and broad antlers.

Where it lives in the wild



Lives in the wild ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

STANDARDS · GRADES 1–4 **WRITTEN FOR GRADES 3–5**

Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2**
Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.1.B**

Draw here

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/fallow-deer/ · **Sources:** British Deer Society; Animal Diversity Web; Texas Tech University; IUCN Red List (2008)
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: 4-LS1-1 (3.1.4.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo

FALLOW DEER

Before and after your visit

 © 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Before you visit · 5 minutes

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Predict: where in the wild does the fallow deer live?

Circle one (or more if it lives on more than one):

Africa | Asia | Australia | Europe | North America | South America

2. Predict: what does it eat?

☐ plants ☐ other animals ☐ both

3. Word hunt: find these words on page 1. Put a check by each one you already know.

☐ Palmate ☐ Herbivore ☐ Fawn ☐ Browse

Pick one word and write what it means in your own words:

_____

_____

4. My question: one thing I want to find out when I see the fallow deer.

_____

_____

At the zoo · look closely

Watch for one minute. What is it doing?

☐ resting ☐ eating ☐ moving ☐ watching ☐ with others

Draw or describe one body part that helps it survive, and say how it helps.

Draw here

After your visit · talk it over

1. Check your prediction. Native region: Mediterranean region and Asia Minor. Was your guess right?

☐ yes ☐ no ☐ partly

2. Diet check. The fact sheet says: Herbivore. What did you learn about how it finds or eats food?

_____

_____

3. Discuss with a partner, then write your best answer.

• Why is coat colour alone not enough to identify every fallow deer?

_____

_____

• What happens to a buck's antlers in a yearly cycle?

_____

_____

4. Exit ticket.

One thing I learned: _____

One thing I still wonder: _____

ADJUST IT

Grades K–2: talk and draw instead of writing; read the questions aloud. **Grades 6–8:** add evidence from the fact sheet and the animal page to every answer.

Learn more: https://plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/fallow-deer/ · Fact sheet page 1 has the fast facts, map and vocabulary this page refers to.

Grades 1–4 · Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): **4-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2** · Pennsylvania (STEELS): **3.1.4.A · 3.1.1.B**

Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo