



Photo by D. Gordon/E. Robertson

MUSKRAT



HARBOR SEAL



GREEN FROG



Photo by J. Bunnell/NJ Pinelands Commission

NORTHERN WATER SNAKE



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN



SNAPPING TURTLE

WILDLIFE of the HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY

HARBOR SEAL

What is it? *Phoca vitulina* is a mammal

How big is it? up to 6 ft. long; 300 lbs

What does it eat? fish, squid

Where does it live? oceans, bays, estuaries; usually found in salt water, but enters fresh water in the Hudson

What is its life cycle? mother gives birth to live young, called a pup; pup's body has the same parts as an adult's

MUSKRAT

What is it? *Ondatra zibethica* is a mammal

How big is it? about 20 in. long; 2-5 lbs

What does it eat? roots, stems, leaves, and fruits of water plants

Where does it live? streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, marshes, estuaries; fresh & brackish water

What is its life cycle? mother gives birth to live young with same body parts as an adult

NORTHERN WATER SNAKE

What is it? *Nerodia sipedon* is a reptile

How big is it? up to 42 in. long

What does it eat? frogs, salamanders, fish, crayfish

Where does it live? streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, marshes, estuaries; fresh & brackish water

What is its life cycle? mother carries eggs inside her body; when the eggs hatch, she gives birth to young that resemble their parents

GREEN FROG

What is it? *Rana clamitans* is an amphibian

How big is it? up to 3½ in. long (not including legs)

What does it eat? adults eat insects, fish, crayfish, smaller frogs, tadpoles, small snakes, & snails; tadpoles eat algae & plants

Where does it live? streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, marshes; fresh water

What is its life cycle? tadpole hatches from egg laid in water; tadpole metamorphoses into adult frog

SNAPPING TURTLE

What is it? *Chelydra serpentina* is a reptile

How big is it? shell up to 14 in. long

What does it eat? omnivore; reptiles, amphibians, fish, small mammals & birds, crayfish, dead animals, plants

Where does it live? streams, rivers, ponds, lakes, marshes, estuaries; fresh & brackish water

What is its life cycle? hatches from egg; baby's body same as adult's

DIAMONDBACK TERRAPIN

What is it? *Malaclemys terrapin* is a reptile

How big is it? shell 6-9 in. long

What does it eat? shrimp, clams, crabs, mussels, some fish & dead animals

Where does it live? salt marshes, estuaries; brackish & salt water

What is its life cycle? hatches from egg; baby's body same as adult's

WILDLIFE of the HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY