



## *mooz* (moose)

*Mooz* (moose) is the largest member of the deer family, which also includes *waawaashkeshi* (deer), *omashkooz* (elk), and *adik* (caribou). Moose are also the largest of Minnesota's wild animals. Their long legs make it easy to walk through deep snow and ponds where they eat water plants and willows. They run as fast as 35 miles per hour and swim up to 10 miles in one stretch.

The changing climate causes problems for moose. Warmer winters allow ticks to thrive and weaken moose. Also, less snow brings more deer to the area to compete for food, and more wolves that follow the deer and also prey on moose. Deer also carry a parasite, brain worm, that kills moose, elk, and caribou.

The name moose comes from the Anishinaabe word *mooz*. They are a traditional food source for Anishinaabe people in northern Minnesota, weighing around 1000 pounds – a lot of meat! During the fur trade years hunting to provide food took most of these animals from this area.



