

# KIDS'

## DEER ANTLERS



In the spring male deer, called *bucks*, grow antlers.  
All of the deer's relatives grow antlers.  
Antlers are made of bone.  
The skin that covers and protects growing antlers is called velvet.  
Antlers are shed every winter.



Some one-year-old bucks have small antlers called spikes.  
As a buck gets older, he grows more points on his antlers.  
A four-year-old buck has larger antlers and more points.  
How many points are on this buck?

*Draw a set of antlers on the deer below.  
How many points does your buck have  
on this antler?*



### HORNS OR ANTLERS?

*Cattle and goats have horns. Deer have antlers.  
What are the differences?*

#### HORNS ARE:

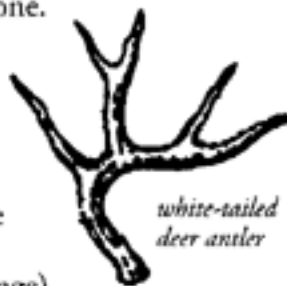
- made of a bony core covered by thin layers of keratin.
- slow growing and permanent.
- more like daggers than branches.
- usually grown by both sexes.
- grown in yearly 'rings' that may mark the animal's age.



*cow horn*

#### ANTLERS ARE:

- made of fast growing bone.
- shed every year.
- usually grown only by males.
- often branched (but the number of branches or points does not signify age).



*white-tailed deer antler*

KIDS' KORNER  
Courtesy of the  
Mississippi Museum of  
Natural Science  
2148 Riverside Drive  
Jackson, MS 39202

**How do you think deer use their antlers?**