

Decodable Texts: Long Vowel Teams: ee

"This nonfiction story explains how deer use their ears to stay safe. Look for 'ee' vowel team words like 'deer,' 'freeze,' and 'green' as you read!"



How Do Deer Hear So Well?

Deer use their big ears to hear what's around them.

Each ear can twist to track sound from trees, grass, or creeks.

If a twig snaps, the deer will freeze.

Deer live in fields, woods, and even near streets.

They eat green plants and sleep where it's safe.

Sharp hearing helps deer keep away from danger.

It's one reason deer are so fast and free.

After reading the story, have your child point to and slowly sound out each practice word.

deer

green

trees

sleep

street



Name: _____

How Do Deer Hear So Well?

1. What helps deer hear danger?

- A. Their tails
- B. Their ears
- C. Their teeth
- D. Their feet

2. What do deer do when they hear a snap?

- A. They run toward it
- B. They eat more
- C. They freeze
- D. They sleep

3. Fill in the blank:

Sharp hearing helps deer keep away from _____.

4. Why is it helpful that deer can move each ear?

5. What are some places deer live and how do their ears help in each one?



Coaching Guide

Target Skill: ee Vowel Team (Long E)

Genre: Nonfiction – Animal Adaptations

High-Frequency Words: from, each, their, what, where

Before Reading

1. This story explores animal survival and features “ee” words like *deer*, *sleep*, and *trees*.
 2. Have you ever seen a deer? What did it look or act like?
 3. Why do you think animals need to hear well?
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During Reading

1. **Sounding Out Support:** Stretch and tap “ee” sounds in key words like *freeze*, *green*, and *sleep*.
 2. Watch for ee words that describe actions and places
 3. What happens when a deer hears danger?
 4. Try reading that part with tension in your voice
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After Reading

1. Retell what the deer does to stay safe
 2. Why is good hearing important in different environments?
 3. What would you do if you had ears like a deer?
 4. Skill Check: Highlight six ee words in the passage
 5. **Fluency Tip:** Read the story again like you're a nature show narrator
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Activity Idea

Draw a deer in the woods, standing still with its ears up. Label the parts using ee words like “ears,” “trees,” “deer,” or “sleep.” Write one sentence about how its ears help it.

Coaching Tip

Create a wide, nonfiction-style photo of a deer in a forest, standing alert with its ears raised. Include trees, green grass, and a stream in the background. The scene should look calm but observant—perfect for 8-year-olds learning about nature. The image dimensions must be wide.

