

# Groundhog (Marmota monax)

Groundhogs, also known as woodchucks and marmots, cannot really forecast the end of winter. However, these oversized squirrels can do other amazing things, like swim, climb trees, and whistle. They dig large underground dens that later might become home to skunks, rabbits, raccoons, or other small mammals.

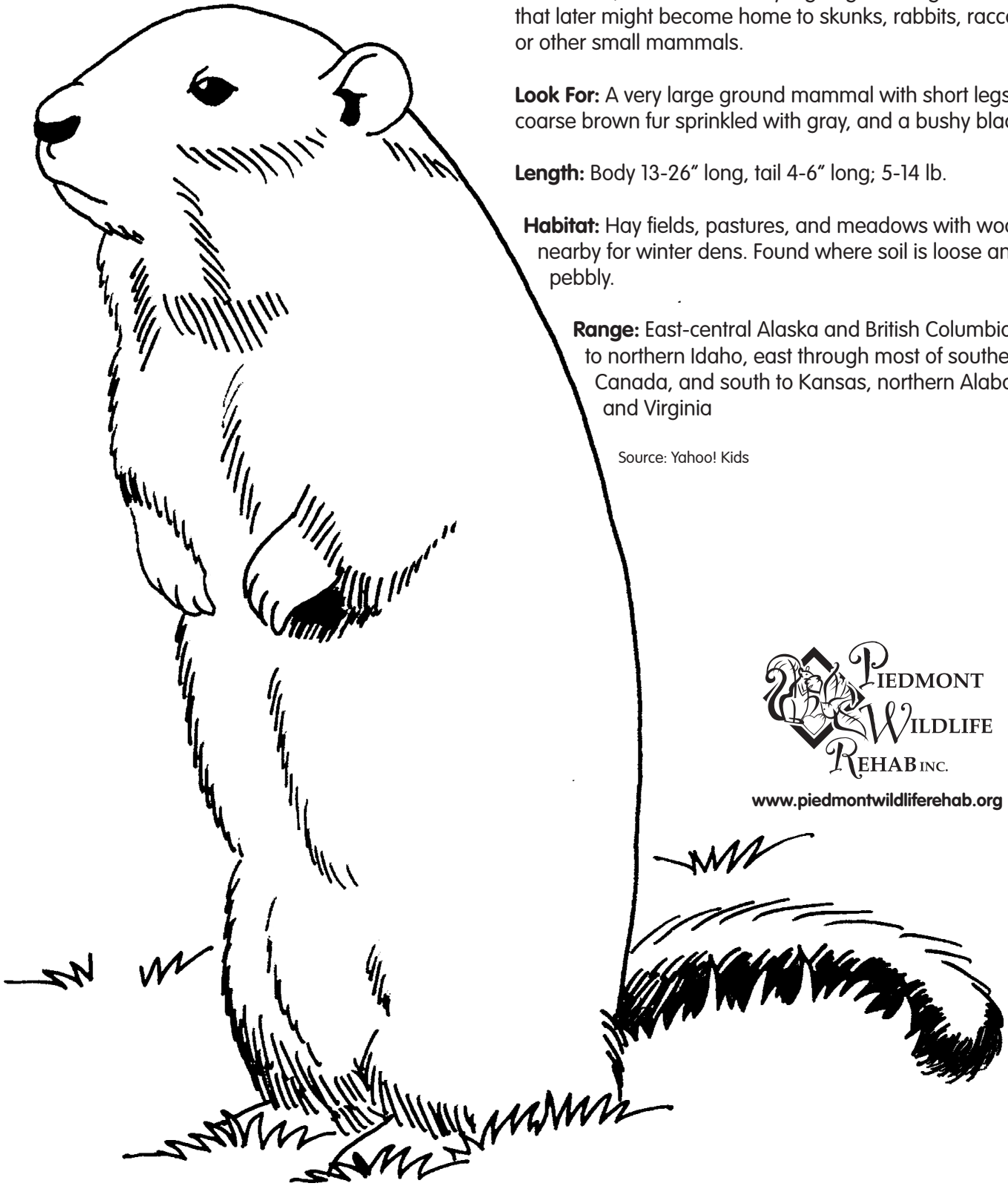
**Look For:** A very large ground mammal with short legs, coarse brown fur sprinkled with gray, and a bushy black tail.

**Length:** Body 13-26" long, tail 4-6" long; 5-14 lb.

**Habitat:** Hay fields, pastures, and meadows with woods nearby for winter dens. Found where soil is loose and pebbly.

**Range:** East-central Alaska and British Columbia south to northern Idaho, east through most of southern Canada, and south to Kansas, northern Alabama, and Virginia

Source: Yahoo! Kids



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