

Name: _____ Date: _____

Baby Love

Have you ever looked into the eyes of a baby deer? They could melt your heart! Baby deer (also known as “fawns”) can walk as soon as they’re born but stay with their mom for up to two years before going out on their own. Young fawns can eat some **vegetation** when they’re born, but their stomachs can’t completely **digest** the food, so they need to drink their mom’s milk for the first eight weeks of their life. They depend on her to nurture and protect them. When mother deer (also called “**does**”) go looking for food, they hide their fawns in secret places to protect them from danger. **Does** are such good moms—they lick their fawns clean from head to toe so that **predators** can’t detect any smell. The number of natural **predators** has decreased, so human hunters are the biggest threat to a deer.

1. Why do fawns stay with their mothers for up to two years before going out on their own?

2. How do does protect their fawns?

3. What do you think happens to a fawn whose mother is killed?

4. How do you think fawns feel in that situation? What makes you think so?

KEY VOCABULARY	
digest	to change the food in the stomach into a form that can be used by the body
doe	a female deer
predator	an animal who lives by killing and eating other animals
vegetation	plants that cover a particular area

