



LESSON 4 HUNTING LAWS AND REGULATIONS

STUDENT EXERCISE WORKSHEETS

INSTRUCTOR'S ANSWER SHEET

V. 3/2024

Students will use the Massachusetts Fishing & Hunting Guide to find the following information:

Pheasant Hunting on a Wildlife Management Area (WMA)

Permit &/or Stamp requirements: Pheasant/Quail Permit required.

Hunting Season and Hours: Check guide annually for specific dates; Season starts the first Saturday after Columbus Day and ends **December 31**. Pheasant and Quail seasons are closed during the shotgun deer season. Hunting hours on all public and private lands statewide, including WMAs are from sunrise to sunset. **(PG.40)**

Blaze Orange requirement: A Blaze Orange cap/hat is required while hunting on a WMA where Pheasant/quail are stocked during the Pheasant/quail season. No blaze orange is required on other properties, but it is recommended. **(PG.40)**

Legal Hunting Implements and Other Methods: Shotguns (including smoothbore muzzleloaders) with ammunition no larger than #1 birdshot and Archery equipment. Hunters holding a crossbow permit may use crossbows. **(PG.40)**

Bag Limits/Other Restrictions on Taking: Daily limit is two (2); Possession limit is four (4). There is no season limit for pheasant. Both hens & roosters can be hunted statewide **(PG. 40)**

Tagging, Transportation, and Reporting requirements: None

Hunting White-tailed Deer during the Shotgun Season in Zone 10

Permit &/or Stamp requirements: Hunting/sporting license includes 2 antlered deer tags. Antlerless permit needed to take any deer without antlers, or with antlers less than three inches in length. **(PG. 30)**

Hunting Season and Hours: Check guide annually for specific dates; the 12 Day season begins on the Monday after Thanksgiving and ends on the second Saturday thereafter; Hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. **(PG. 30)**

Blaze Orange requirement: 500 square inches of “blaze orange” on the chest, back and head. **(PG. 32)**

Hunting Implements and Other Methods: Shotgun not larger than 10 gauge (including a shotgun with a rifled barrel); Muzzle-loading firearm (either rifled or smoothbore) fired from the shoulder, .44 - .775 caliber; Archery equipment with a minimum draw weight of 40 lbs. at 28 inches or at peak draw. Arrows must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades with at least 7/8” cutting diameter. **(PG. 32)**

Bag Limits/Other Restrictions on Taking: Bag limit of antlered deer is two (2) statewide per calendar year (annual bag limit). Bag limit of antlerless deer is determined by the number of permits possessed. Daily possession limit of unreported deer is two (except for zones 13 & 14 where it is four). Use of rifles, handguns, dogs, decoys, bait, and electronic calls are prohibited. **(PG. 30, 33)**

Tagging, Transportation, and Reporting requirements: Each hunting license has two antlered “deer tags”; each antlerless permit has one antlerless “deer tag”. Upon killing a deer, the hunter must immediately fill out and attach the “deer tag” to the carcass. Within 48 hours the person who killed the deer must report it either online or present the entire carcass (other than field dressing) to an official game check station. **Exception-** ALL deer harvested during the first week of shotgun season must be taken to an official check station. Some portion of the deer must remain visible during transport, until reported. **(PG. 33)**

Hunting Wild Turkey in the Spring in Zone 3

Permit &/or Stamp requirements: Turkey hunting permit is required. Official safety sticker must be adhered to firearm in such a manner as to be visible when hunter is sighting down the barrel. Safety stickers are available from any MassWildlife office or by sending a request and SASE to any MassWildlife office. **(PG. 38)**

Hunting Season and Hours: Check guide annually for specific dates; four-week spring season begins on the last Monday in April; hunting hours are from ½ hour before sunrise to 12:00 noon. Hours extend to ½ hour after sunset in the fall. **(PG. 38)**

Blaze Orange requirement: Spring season, none required. Fall season, blaze orange cap required when hunting on WMA's stocked with pheasant and quail during the pheasant and quail season. **(PG. 38)**

Hunting Implements and Other Methods: Shotgun not larger than 10 gauge including smoothbore .775 caliber muzzle-loaders. Ammunition no larger than #4 size shot. Archery equipment allowed. Bows must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs. at 28 inches or at peak draw; Arrows must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades with at least 7/8" cutting diameter. Hunters holding a crossbow permit may use crossbows. **(PG. 38)**

Bag Limits/Other Restrictions on Taking: Annual limit is three turkeys. During the spring turkey season, the daily and season bag limit is two bearded birds. Both birds may be harvested on the same day. During the fall turkey season, the daily and season bag limit is one bird of either sex. Electronic calls, bait, dogs, or driving turkeys are prohibited. **(PG. 38)**

Tagging, Transportation, and Reporting requirements: Upon killing a turkey, the hunter must immediately fill out and attach the "turkey tag" to the carcass. Within 48 hours the person who killed the turkey must report it either online or present the entire carcass to an official check station. No transporting requirements. **(PG. 32)**

Hunting Black Bear in September

Permit &/or Stamp requirements: Black bear hunting permit required. **(PG. 36)**

Hunting Season and Hours: Check guide annually for specific dates; there are three seasons: First season is in September; it is a 17-day season that opens the day after Labor Day; hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. **(PG. 36)**

Blaze Orange requirement: Different for each season **(PG. 30):**

- First season in September– Blaze Orange is not required.
- Second season in November - A blaze orange hat is required if hunting on WMAs stocked with pheasant or quail during the pheasant or quail season.
- Third Season coincides with the Shotgun Deer season therefore 500 square inches of blaze orange is required on your head, chest, and back.

Hunting Implements and Other Methods: In September season 1) Rifle .23 caliber or larger; 2) Muzzleloading firearm .44-.775 caliber, fired from shoulder, using single projectile; 3) a .357 magnum revolver using a .357 magnum cartridge, or a revolver .40 caliber or larger; 4) Archery equipment; bows must have a draw weight of at least 40 lbs. at 28 inches or at peak draw; Arrows must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades with at least 7/8" cutting diameter. (See chart on page 36 for hunting implements allowed by season). **(PG. 36)**

Bag Limits/Other Restrictions on Taking: Bag limit is one black bear per calendar year, of any sex, age, or size. Baiting and the use of dogs are prohibited. **(PG. 30)**

Tagging, Transportation, and Reporting requirements: A "bear tag" is attached to each black bear hunting permit. Upon killing a bear, the hunter must immediately fill out and attach the "bear tag" to the carcass. Within 48 hours, the person who killed the bear must report it online or present the entire carcass to an official check station. Some portion of the bear must remain visible during transport until reported. **(PG. 36)**

Hunting White-tailed Deer during the Archery Season in Zone 8

Permit &/or Stamp requirements: Archery Stamp required to hunt during the archery season; Hunting/sporting license includes 2 antlered deer tags. Antlerless permit needed to hunt any deer without antlers, or with antlers less than three inches in length. Antlerless deer permits can only be used in the Wildlife Management zone specified on the permit. **(PG. 30)**

Hunting Season and Hours: Check guide annually for specific dates; Six-week season begins the sixth Monday prior to Thanksgiving and ends the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset **(PG. 30)**

Blaze Orange requirement: A blaze orange cap is required when hunting on WMA's stocked with pheasant/quail during the pheasant/quail season. **(PG. 32)**

Hunting Implements and Other Methods: Only archery equipment allowed. Bow with a minimum draw weight of 40 lbs. at 28 inches or at peak draw. Arrows must have well-sharpened steel broadhead blades with at least 7/8" cutting diameter. Crossbows may be used by hunters with a crossbow permit. **(PG.32)**

Bag Limits/Other Restrictions on Taking: Annual bag limit of antlered deer is two (2) statewide; Annual limit of antlerless deer is determined by the number of permits possessed; Daily possession of unreported deer is two (except for zones 13 & 14 where it is four). Rifles and handguns, and dogs, decoys, baiting, and electronic calls are prohibited. **(PG. 30, 33)**

Tagging, Transportation, and Reporting requirements: Each hunting license has two antlered "deer tags"; each antlerless permit has one "antlerless tag". Upon killing a deer, the hunter must immediately fill out and attach the "deer tag" to the carcass. Within 48 hours the person who killed the deer must report it either online or present the entire carcass (other than field dressing) to an official game check station. **Exception-** ALL deer harvested during the first week of shotgun season must be taken to an official check station. Deer must remain visible during transport, until reported. **(PG. 33)**

Hunting Gray Squirrels in Zone 10

Permit &/or Stamp requirements: No special permit or stamp required. Hunting or sporting license required.

Hunting Season and Hours: Check guide annually for specific dates; Gray squirrels may be hunted in Zones 1-14 from September 3rd to the last day of February of the following year. Season is closed during deer shotgun season; Hours are ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after **(PG. 45)**

Blaze Orange requirement: None, except on WMA's stocked with pheasant/quail during the pheasant/quail season where an orange hat or cap is required. **(PG. 45)**

Hunting Implements and Other Methods: Gray squirrels may be hunted with rifle, shotgun with ammunition not larger than #1 shot, handgun, and archery. Except rifles and handguns are prohibited in Zones 10-14, and on Youth Deer Hunt Day. **(PG. 45)**

Bag Limits/Other Restrictions on Taking: Daily bag limit is five; Possession limit is ten. **(PG. 45)**

Tagging, Transportation and Reporting requirements: None.

Hunting Coyotes in Zone 8

Permit &/or Stamp requirements: No special permit/stamp is required. Hunting or sporting license required.

Hunting Season and Hours: Check guide annually for specific dates. Season opens 1st Saturday after Columbus Day and closes the following **March 8th**; Coyotes may be hunted during the “shotgun” deer season. Hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to midnight except during shotgun deer season when hunting hours close ½ hour after sunset. **(PG. 48)**

Blaze Orange requirement, Hunting Implements and Other Methods: (PG. 48)

	Hunting Coyotes <u>during</u> Shotgun Deer season	Hunting Coyotes <u>outside</u> Shotgun Deer Season
Blaze Orange	500 square inches (Head, Chest, back)	None required, except a blaze orange cap required on WMA's during Pheasant/Quail season.
Hunting Implements	Shotgun, Muzzleloader, and Archery equipment allowed. Rifles and handguns are prohibited	Rifle, Shotgun, Handgun & Archery allowed. Handgun & Rifle night restrictions. (1/2 hour after sunset to midnight)
Aids: Dogs	Not allowed	Allowed
Calls	Not allowed	Allowed
Bait	Allowed – as long as it's not for deer. Baiting for Deer is prohibited	Allowed
Decoys	Allowed – as long as it's not for deer. Decoys for deer is prohibited	Allowed
Artificial light	Not allowed	Not allowed
Ammunition	All ammunition allowed during shotgun deer including buckshot and slugs may be used	Shot not larger than 0.230-inch diameter (FF). Handgun & Rifle night restrictions: Rifles chambered not larger than .22, and handguns not larger than .28

Bag Limits /Other Restrictions on Taking: No daily, possession, or season limits. **(PG. 48)**

Tagging, Transportation, and Reporting requirements: Must be reported either online or at an official check station within 48 hours of harvest. If online, confirmation number is issued and must be written on a tag and attached to the carcass.

Hunting Ducks on the Coast

Permit &/or Stamp requirements: Massachusetts Waterfowl “stamp” (simply printed on license); Federal Duck stamp – obtain from any post office or **MassFishHunt**. If purchased online, “eDuck Stamp” will be good for 45 days or until real stamp is received. Hunter is required to sign the front of the real stamp. Harvest Information Program (HIP) survey is required and only available online. Once complete the words “HIP Survey” will be printed on the license. **(PG. 46)**

Hunting Season and Hours: Hunting seasons change annually; check waterfowl regulations for specific dates; hunting hours are ½ hour before sunrise to sunset. **Exception:** Early Canada Goose season only is ½ hour before sunrise to ½ hour after sunset. **(See Migratory Bird Regulations PG. 46)**

Blaze Orange requirement: Typically, none. During shotgun deer season and Youth Deer Hunt Day, must wear 500 square inches of “blaze orange” clothing (hat and vest) while in transit to their blind or boat, and it may be removed once in the blind or boat. On a WMA stocked with pheasant/quail during the pheasant/quail season, must wear an orange cap UNLESS hunting from a blind or boat **(PG. 47)**

Hunting Implements and Other Methods: Shotgun, not larger than 10-gauge or by archery or by falconry. Shotguns must be plugged which limits the gun’s capacity to three shells (chamber and magazine combined); only non-toxic shot, up to size BBB, may be used. The use of live birds as decoys, baiting, and electronic calls are prohibited. Cannot hunt from or by means, aid, or use of any motor vehicle. **(PG. 46)**

Bag Limits/Other Restrictions on Taking: The daily bag limits are set annually; Limits vary by species and sex. **(See Migratory Game Bird regulations)**. Possession limits are triple the daily bag. A reasonable effort to retrieve all birds that you crippled or killed is required.

Tagging, Transportation, and Reporting requirements: Any migratory game bird that is gifted or no longer in the custody of the hunter must be tagged with the hunter’s signature, address, total # of birds harvested by species, and the dates killed. The head and one fully feathered wing must remain attached to the bird while transported to a processing facility or hunter’s residence. **(PG. 47)**