

THE IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE

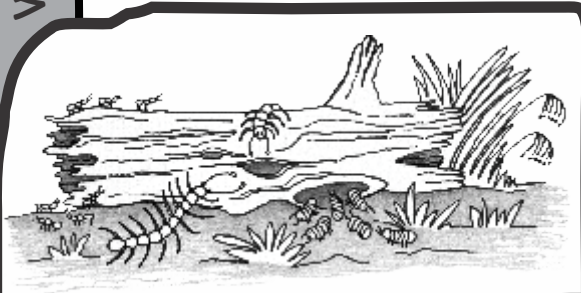
WHAT IS WILDLIFE?

The word wildlife includes all the living things that grow (plants) and live (animals) in a natural environment.

Wildlife in a natural environment can be found in many places around the world. These places can be big, or they can be small.

Wildlife in small places can be found close to where you live, like a park, a garden, a patch of plants or trees growing at the side of a road, or even a pile of wood.

Wildlife in big places grow and live in protected environments such as national parks, game reserves and private game-farms. And in some parts of the world, like in Africa, wild animals also share their living space with people.



IS OUR WILDLIFE THREATENED?

Yes, much of our wildlife all around the world is in trouble. Many different kinds of human activities threaten their safety and their survival.



The main threat to wildlife is the growing human population. As the human population grows, more land is needed to grow food, to build houses, and for other developments. Because of this, the space available for wild animals and plants becomes less and less.

Poaching (illegal hunting) is a real threat to wild animals.



In places where wild animals and people share the same space, it can happen that people and wildlife struggle with each other.



Chopping down forests and trees takes away habitats and oxygen, as well as important indigenous plants.



The building of roads and railways and clearing space for crop and animal farming divides habitats up into smaller areas. Because of this, the wild animals can no longer move freely without danger.

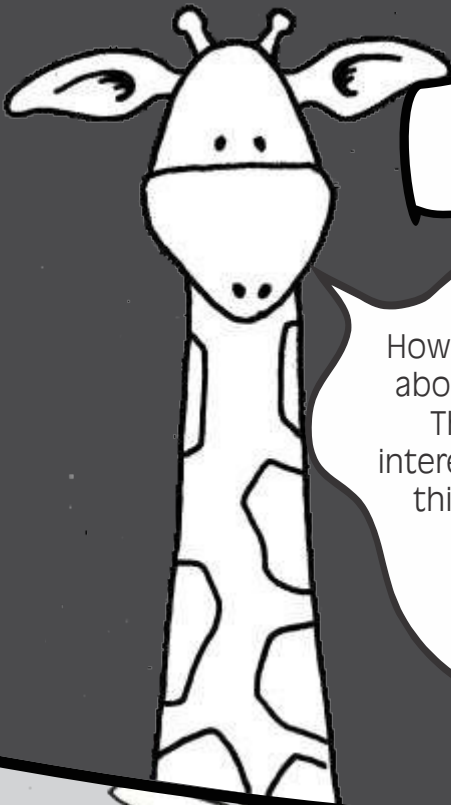


Pollution and over-fishing of the oceans threatens the survival of many sea animals and plants.



GI RAFFE

LONG LEGS, LONG NECKS AND
LOTS OF BROWN PATCHES



How much do you know
about giraffe in Africa?
There are so many
interesting and surprising
things about giraffe.

Let us explore
Africa's giraffe.



DID YOU KNOW?



Instead of only one kind, there are actually
4 different kinds of giraffe?



These 4 kinds of giraffe are called **species**.



They are the **Masai** giraffe,
the **Northern** giraffe,
the **Reticulated** giraffe and
the **Southern** giraffe.



There is more: the Northern
giraffe and the Southern
giraffe are made up of
several **subspecies**.

GIRAFFE TREE

SPECIES

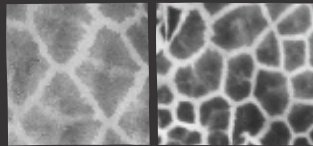
SUBSPECIES

Northern
giraffe



Kordofan giraffe
Nubian giraffe
West African giraffe

Southern
giraffe

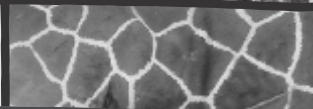


Angolan giraffe
South African giraffe

Masai
giraffe



Reticulated
giraffe







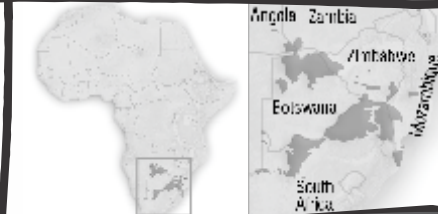


Even though all giraffe look very similar,
can you see that the patterns of the
different species are actually
not quite the same?

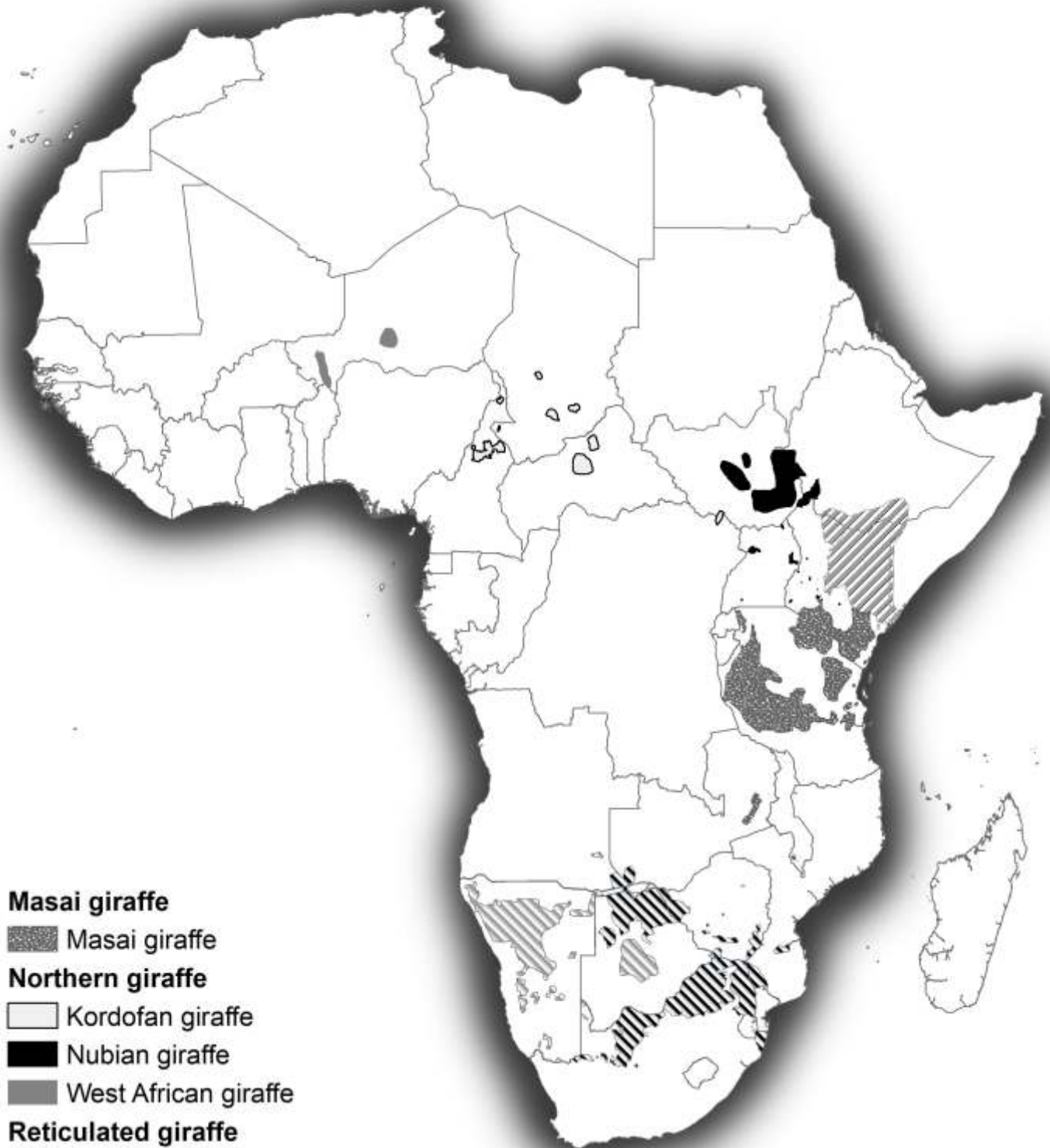


WHERE DO GIRAFFE LIVE?

Giraffe live in 21 countries throughout Sub-Saharan Africa, from South Africa and Namibia in the south, to Uganda and Kenya in East Africa, and across Central African countries like Chad to Niger in West Africa.

MASAI GIRAFFE	Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia	
NORTHERN GIRAFFE Subspecies: Kordofan giraffe	Chad, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, South Sudan	
Subspecies: Nubian giraffe	South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda	
Subspecies: West African giraffe	Niger	
RETICULATED GIRAFFE	Kenya, small groups in Ethiopia, Somalia	
SOUTHERN GIRAFFE Subspecies: Angolan giraffe	Namibia, Botswana, Angola, Zimbabwe	
Subspecies: South African giraffe	South Africa, Botswana, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola, Namibia	

GIRAFFE IN AFRICA





INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT GIRAFFE

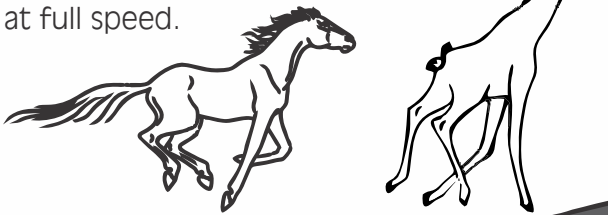
Just like a human fingerprint, no two giraffe patterns are the same. Researchers use their patterns to recognise individual giraffe in the wild.

The giraffe is the tallest animal in the world.

Giraffe can live for at least 25 years.

A new-born giraffe stands about 1.8 metres tall. This is taller than the average adult human.

Giraffe can run really fast! They can run up to 50 kilometres per hour. This is as fast as a horse galloping at full speed.



Like humans, giraffe also have 7 bones in their necks. Their necks are just longer and their bones are bigger.

An adult giraffe's neck is about 2 metres long. This is the same height as a door.

Giraffe usually have a lot of ticks living on them. And because of the way they are built, it is very difficult for them to groom themselves. So, they rub their bodies against trees to brush the ticks off.

An adult giraffe's tongue is a blue-purple colour, and it is about 50 centimetres long. Their long tongues help them to reach leaves that are right at the top of trees.



When giraffe need to defend themselves, they can kick in all directions.

Giraffe's horns are called ossicones. When they are born, giraffe's ossicones lie flat on their head. As they grow older their ossicones grow straight, and after some more time they become part of their skull.

How do you tell the difference between male and female giraffe?

To tell the difference, you need to look at their ossicones.



Male giraffe's ossicones are thick and they often have no hair on top.

Female giraffe's ossicones are thinner and they have fluffy hair on top.

Giraffe do not eat grass. They eat leaves, seeds, twigs, and flowers from trees and bushes.

Giraffe chew and suck on bones. They do this to add minerals to their diet.

The reason why giraffe have to open their front legs wide apart or bend their legs to drink is because their necks are too short to reach the water on the ground.

Giraffe have a really big heart. It weighs about 11 kilograms. Their heart needs to be big and strong because it must pump blood all the way up their long necks to the brain.

A giraffe can eat up to 45 kilograms of food in a day, but only poos out 15 kilograms. This is a big difference. Where does it go? Just like cows, the giraffe is a ruminant. This means that their stomachs are divided into 4 parts, and because of this they have 4 chances to digest their food. After they swallow, they bring the food up from the stomach, chew it again, and then swallow it again. They do this several times. It means that giraffe and other ruminants make sure that they use all the nutrients that are in each mouthful of food.



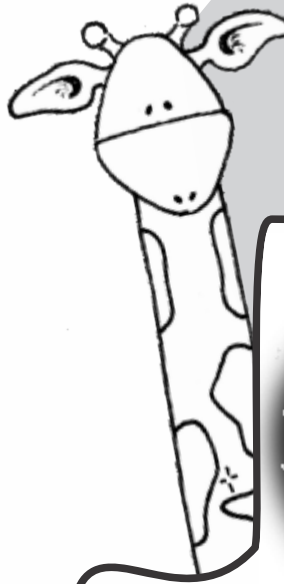
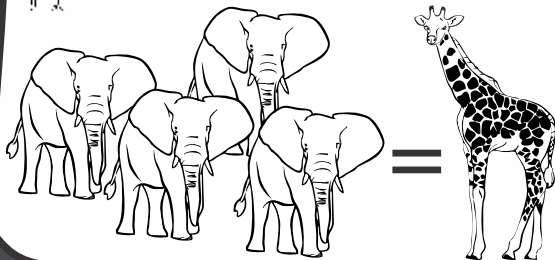
Long time ago, giraffe lived all over Africa, and there were more than 1 million of them. Thirty years ago, there were more than 150 000 giraffe. Today, there are only about 117 000 giraffe, and they can only be found in small population groups in different parts of Africa.



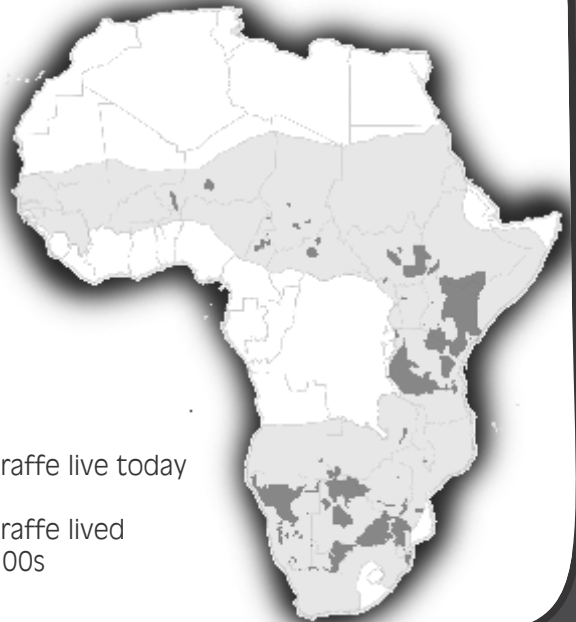
Almost 50% of all giraffe live in southern Africa.



For every four elephants in Africa, there is only one giraffe.



HOW MANY GIRAFFE ARE THERE IN AFRICA?



Where giraffe live today



Where giraffe lived in the 1700s

The IUCN Red List

There is a special list of all the plants and animals in the world that are in trouble. This special list is called the IUCN Red List: The International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List of Threatened Species. Giraffe are on this list.



Already, giraffe no longer exist in at least 7 African countries.



In many parts of Africa giraffe are in serious trouble. They need our help.



The Kordofan, Nubian, Masai, Reticulated, and West African giraffe are all listed as threatened on the IUCN Red List. This means that they are in trouble and need help.



Some of these populations of giraffe are rarer than mountain gorillas or the black rhinoceros.



For example: in Niger, there are just over 600 West African giraffe in the wild.



GCF works with and supports many African countries to protect giraffe so that they can live happily and safely, wherever they are.



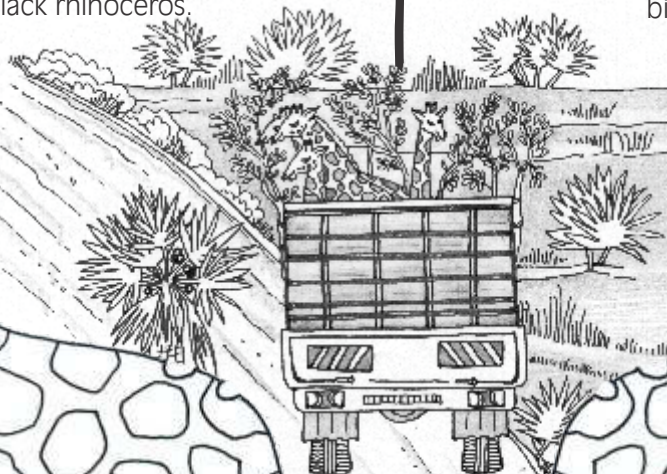
In some countries GCF moves giraffe back to areas where they used to live long ago. This helps to protect habitat for giraffe and other wildlife.



The good news is that there are a few populations of giraffe that are getting bigger, for example, in Namibia, Niger and Uganda.



These Nubian giraffe are happily travelling to their new, safer home in Uganda.



WHAT ARE THE MAIN THREATS FOR GIRAFFE?

Throughout Africa, giraffe face many different kinds of threats.

Running out of space

- 1 The main problem for giraffe is human population growth. There are more and more people living in Africa. All these people need more space to live and grow food. Because of this, the available food for giraffe and other wild animals gets less and less, and space for them to live becomes smaller and smaller.

Poaching

- 1 Another threat is poaching (illegal hunting). In certain areas, people hunt giraffe illegally for meat or for other body parts such as their skins and their tails.

War

- 1 In some parts of Africa there has been war and fighting. When this happens, it puts the safety of giraffe at risk.

Divided habitats and accidents

- 1 In many areas where giraffe live, their habitats are being divided up by new developments such as roads and railway lines. In these areas, giraffe are sometimes injured or killed by vehicles and trains.

LET US CELEBRATE THE WORLD'S TALLEST ANIMAL

on the longest
day/night of the year.

**21 JUNE IS
WORLD GIRAFFE DAY**

On World Giraffe Day, we raise awareness about giraffe
and celebrate them all over the world.
You could celebrate the next World Giraffe Day with us!

There are lots of ways for you to do this.

BE A GIRAFFE FOR THE DAY

Redraw or photocopy the giraffe mask on page 47 on to another piece of paper. Then, cut it out and colour it in. I live in Namibia, so I am an Angolan giraffe (a subspecies of the Southern giraffe).

Where do you live? _____

Which giraffe species or subspecies will you be? _____

DRAW YOUR OWN GIRAFFE

Page 46 shows you how to draw a giraffe. You could also draw a family of giraffe standing in their habitat with trees and plants.

SHARE FUN GIRAFFE PICTURES WITH US



How long is your tongue?

Send us a picture of how far you and your friends can stick out your tongues.



Pretend you are a giraffe

drinking. Ask a friend or someone in your family to take a picture of you and send it to us.

BE A TEACHER



You can help other people to understand why it is important to look after and protect the environment and giraffe by sharing what you know with them.



You could also create your own little classroom.



Gather a group of friends, family members or people from your community.



Invite them to your classroom, and then share information from your Nature Workbook about giraffe with them.

Share your World Giraffe Day
fun with us on our social media:

facebook.com/giraffeconservationfoundation

twitter.com/save_giraffe

instagram.com/giraffe_conservation

Why did Lady
giraffe leave
her boyfriend?

Because he
was a cheetah.

Why do people never
believe a giraffe?

Because they tell tall stories.



FUN AND GAMES

UNSCRAMBLE THESE WORDS

The letters in these words have been mixed up. Each word begins with the correct letter. See if you can unscramble them to make the correct words.

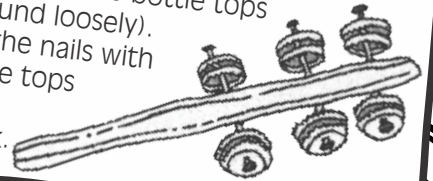
e o s c t y s m e
g e f f i r a
A r c f i a
w e a t r
r c l e y c e

WHAT IS MISSING IN THE FOOD CHAIN? JOIN THE DOTS TO BRING IT OUT.



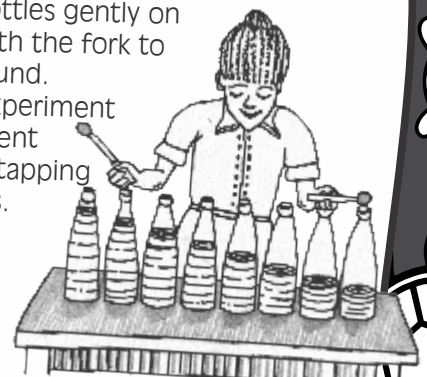
Make your own Tambourine

- You will need nails, bottle tops, a stick and a hammer.
- Make holes in the bottle tops using a nail and the hammer.
- Thread two or three bottle tops on to the nails (the holes must be just big enough so that the bottle tops move around loosely).
- Hammer the nails with their bottle tops into the broomstick.



Make your own Xylophone

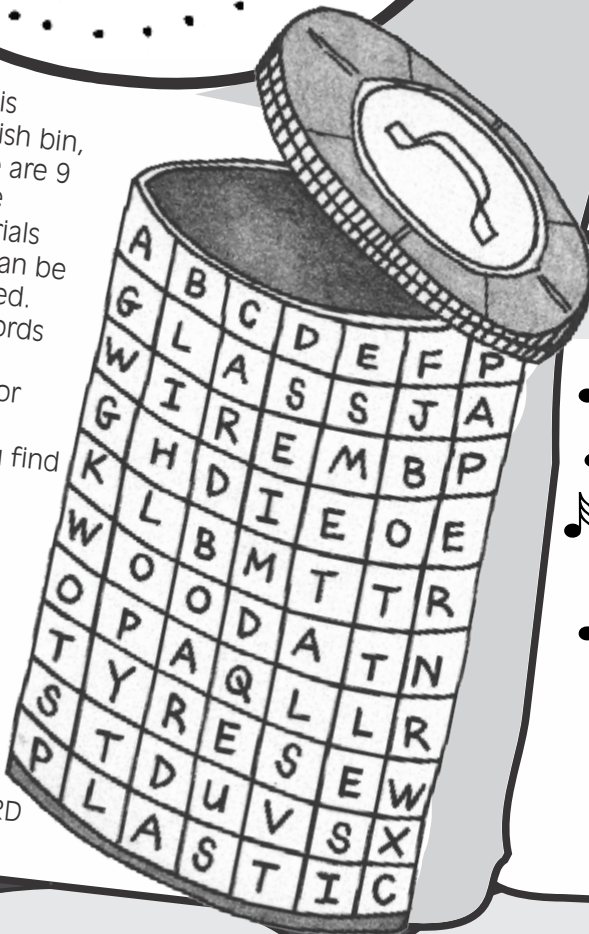
- You will need used empty glass bottles, water and a fork.
- Fill the bottles with water at different levels.
- Tap the bottles gently on the top with the fork to make a sound.
- You can experiment with different things for tapping the bottles.



RUBBISH BIN CROSSWORD

In this rubbish bin, there are 9 waste materials that can be recycled. The words can go across or down. Can you find them?

PLASTIC
GLASS
METAL
TYRES
PAPER
WIRE
WOOD
CARDBOARD
BOTTLES



Why did the man not pick up the packet of cake flour that he bumped off the shelf?

Because it said Self Raising Flour on the label.

Have you heard the joke about the giraffe's neck?

Get ready, it is a long one.

What do giraffe eat?

Macaroni and leaves.

Make
an animal
out of animals



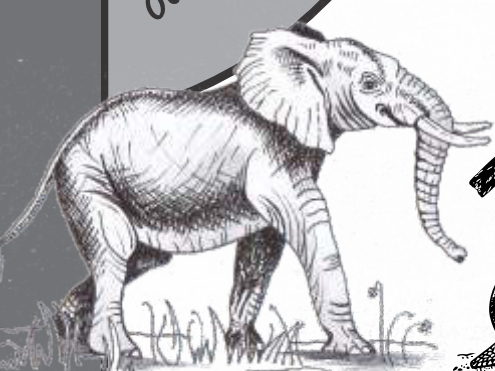
The second letter from each animal clue will spell the name of another animal.



Write down the name for each animal.



Then draw a circle around the second letter in each animal's name to spell the new animal.



2



3



4

1

=

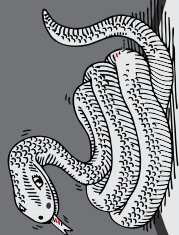


Teacher:
"What is your
favourite animal?"

Samuel: "I really like the
hippopotamus."

Teacher: "Will you spell it for
me, please?"

Samuel: "Uh, oh... I
think I like ants
better."

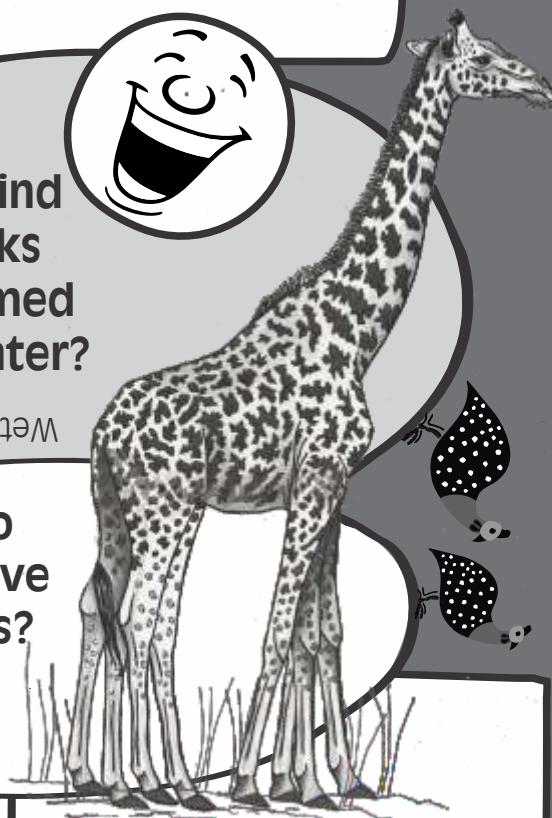


What kind
of rocks
are formed
underwater?

Wet ones!

When do
giraffe have
eight legs?

When there are
two of them.



What is What?

- 💧 The following list includes living things, non-living things and man-made things.
- 💧 Look carefully through the list.
- 💧 Write each one under its correct heading.

Living	Non-living	Man-made

wind frog fish
television human building
litter mountain soil
road book bird car
giraffe litter feather
tree water butterfly
wood grass sun

GIRAFFE QUIZ

How much have you learnt about giraffe?
Test your knowledge with this quiz.
Tick your answers in the boxes.

*All the answers
are in this
Nature Workbook*

1. Giraffe are

- a) Nocturnal
- b) Diurnal
- c) Cathemeral

☐
☐
☐

2. How many
giraffe are there in
Africa today?

- a) More than 150 000 giraffe
- b) 311 000 giraffe
- c) About 117 000 giraffe

☐
☐
☐

3. Giraffe are

- a) Herbivores
- b) Omnivores
- c) Carnivores

☐
☐
☐

4. Why do giraffe suck
and chew on bones?

- a) Because they like the taste
- b) To add minerals to their diet
- c) Because there is not enough other food

☐
☐
☐

5. Giraffe like to eat

- a) Leaves, twigs, seeds and flowers
- b) Fish and chips
- c) Insects

☐
☐
☐

6. Giraffe can run up to

- a) 15 kilometres per hour
- b) 50 kilometres per hour
- c) 65 kilometres per hour

☐
☐
☐

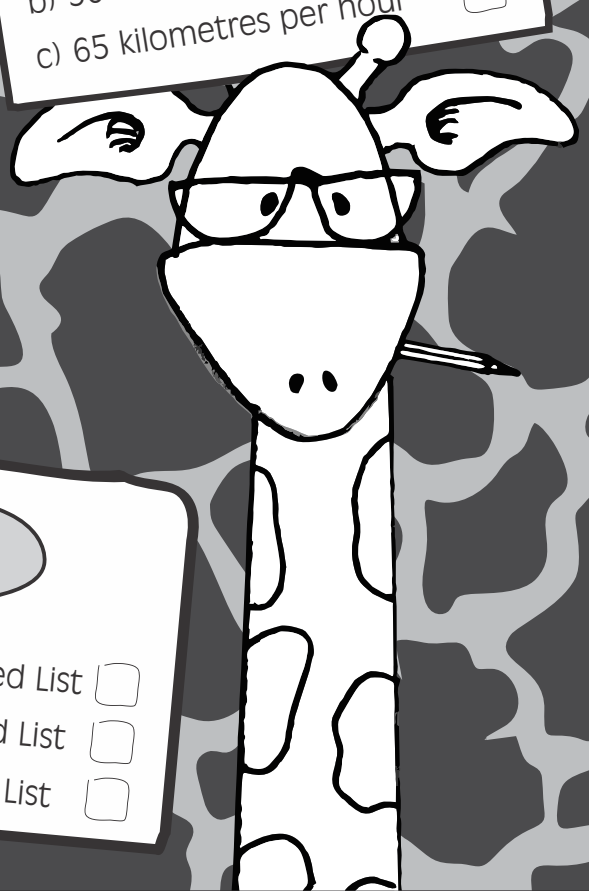
7. You can tell the difference
between male and female
giraffe by their

- a) Tails
- b) Ossicones
- c) Tongues

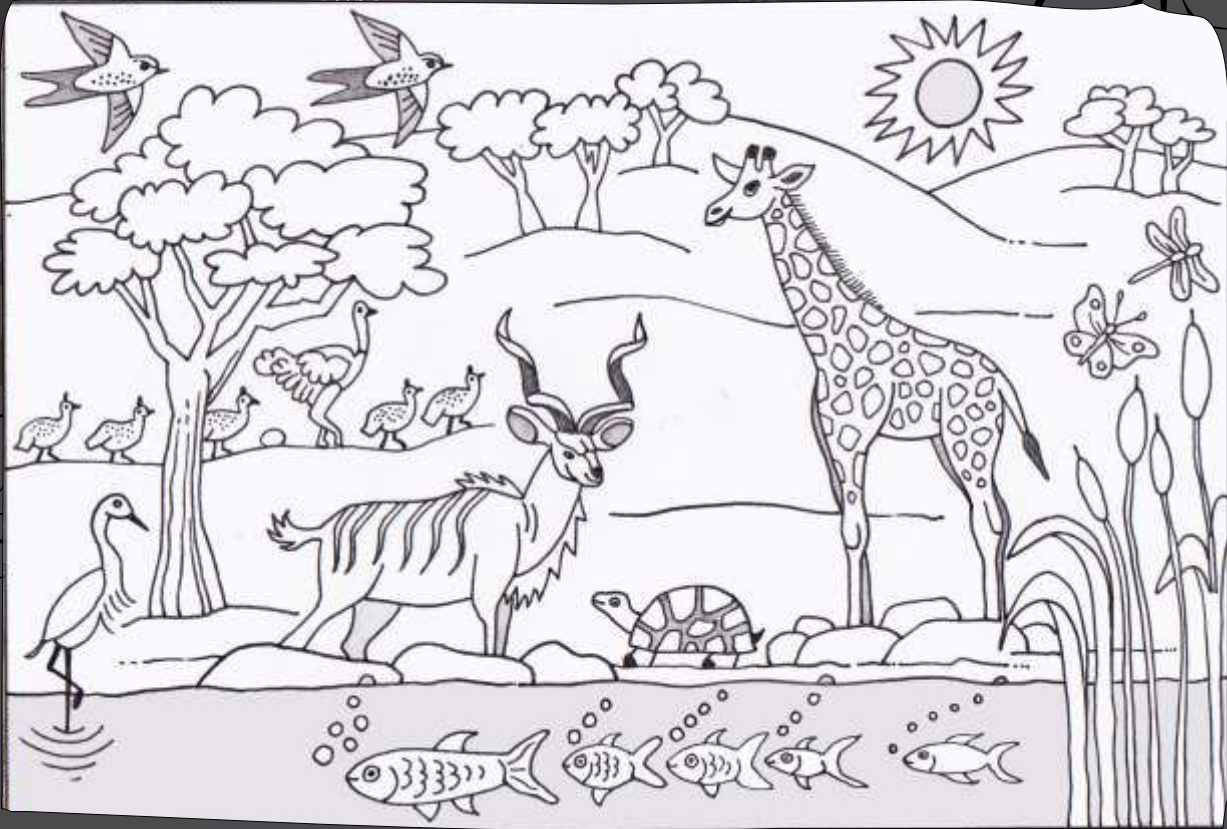
☐
☐
☐

8. What does the IUCN Red List
stand for?

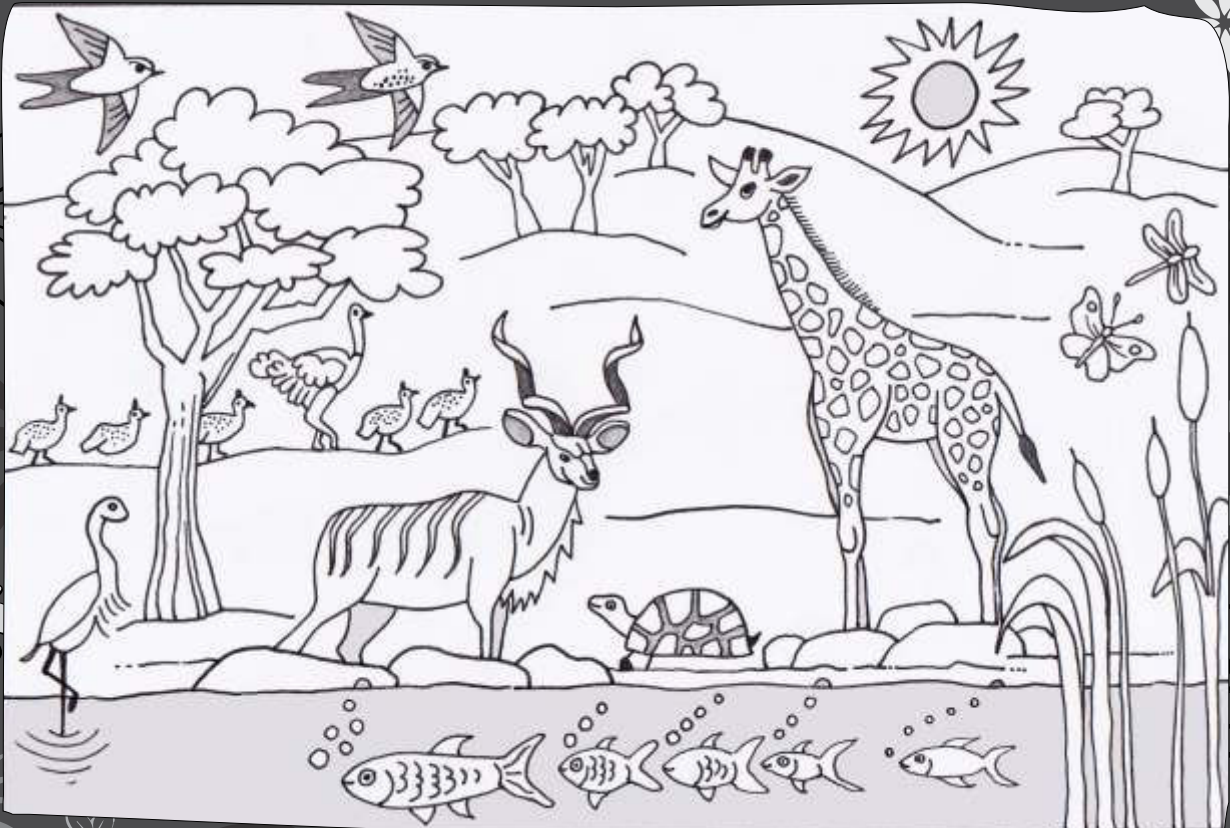
- a) International Understanding of Care and Nature Red List
- b) International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List
- c) Incorporated Agency for Caring and Nurturing Red List

☐
☐
☐

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE



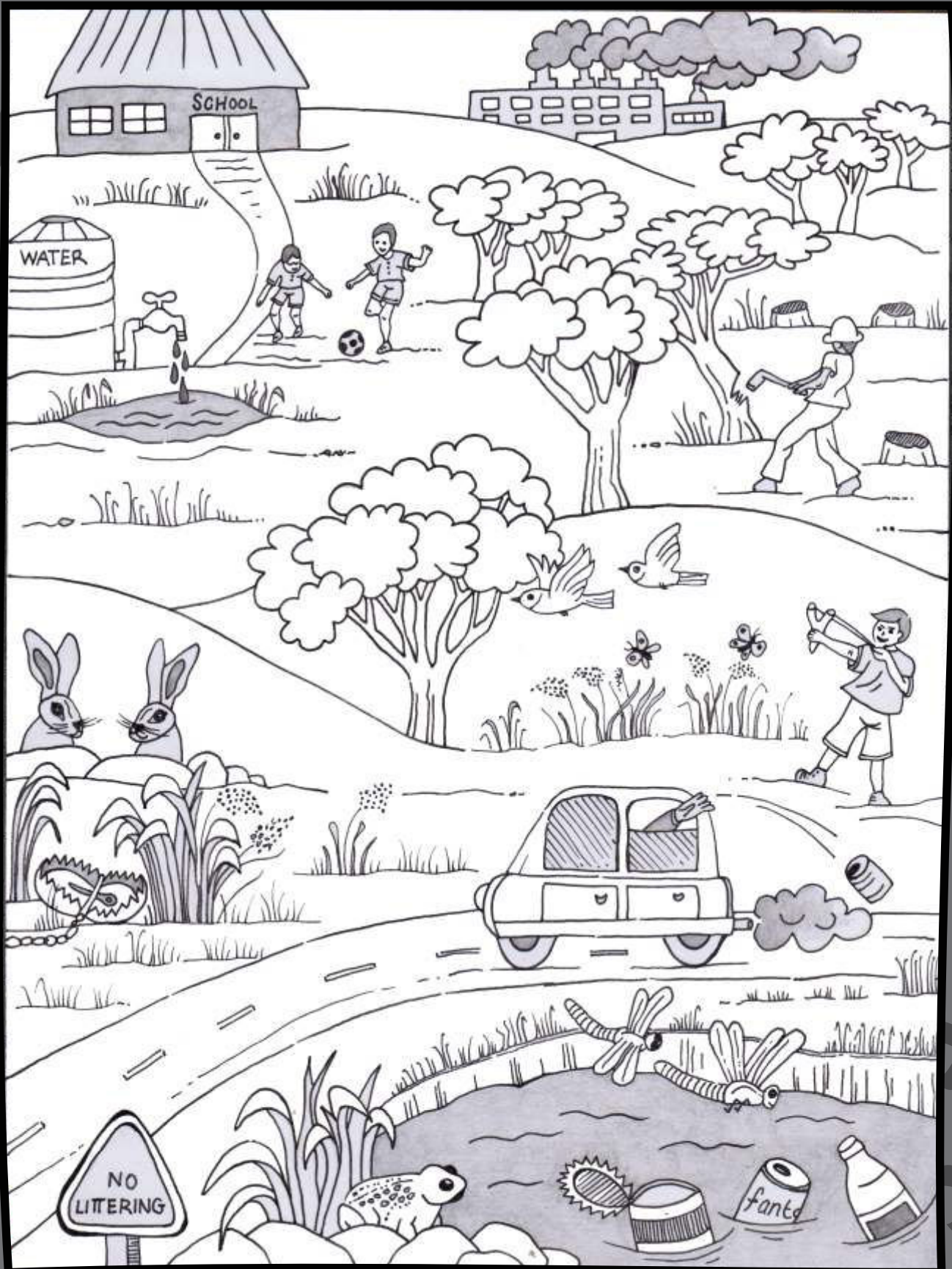
In the picture below, fourteen things are missing. Compare it to the picture above, and then draw a circle around the place where each thing is missing.



ANSWERS: 1) spots on flying swallow's body 2) patches on giraffe's neck 3) a river plant 4) tortoise's back leg 5) a fish's eye 6) ostrich's egg 7) big tree's left branch 8) dots on butterfly's wings 9) rock behind tortoise 10) hair on kudu's shoulder 11) tree on top of hill 12) water bird's beak 13) guinea fowl's legs 14) the kudu's tail

WHAT IS WRONG?

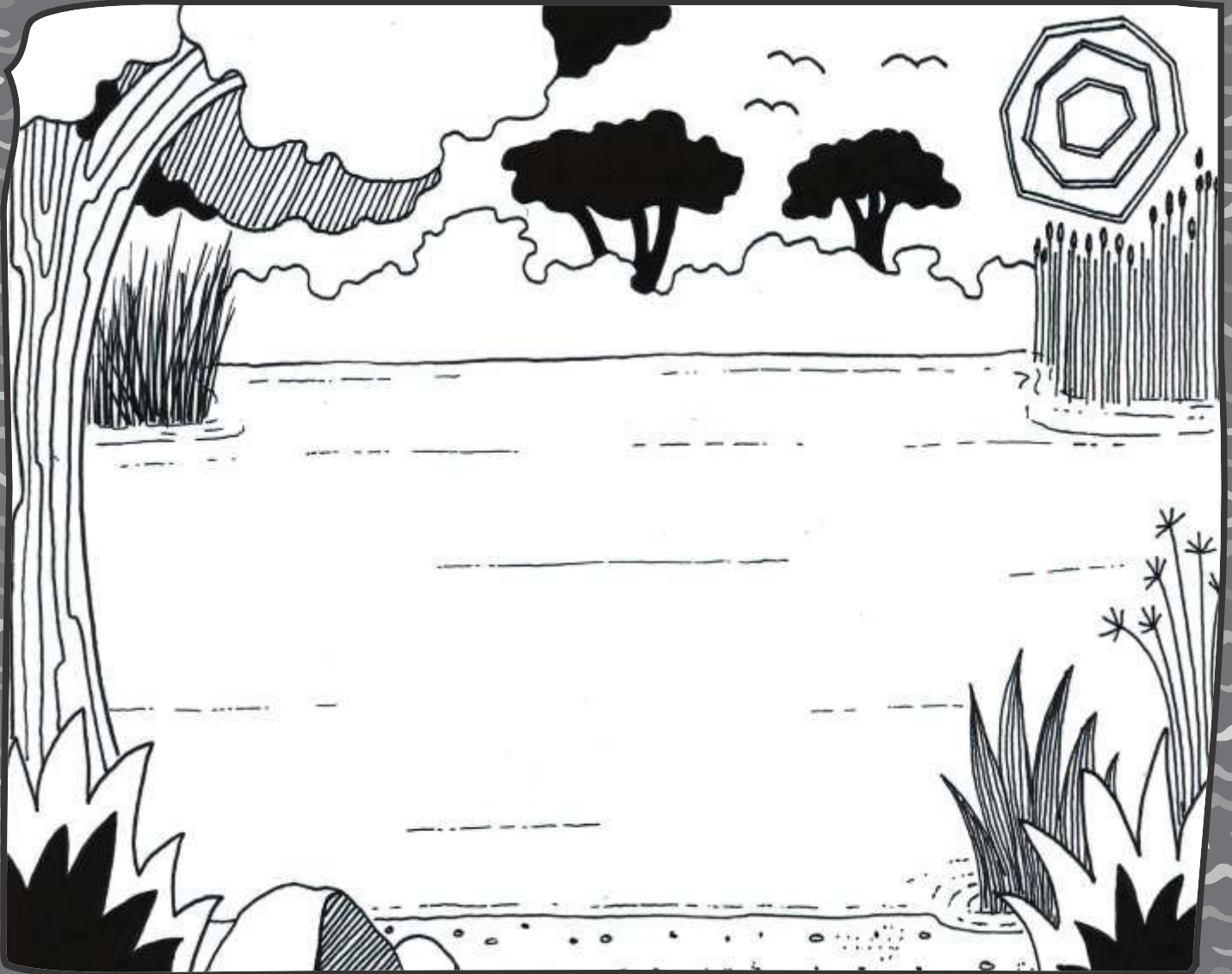
There are seven environmentally unfriendly things happening in these different environments. See if you can find them, and draw a circle around each one.



WATER-LIVING ANIMALS

Many creatures live in water all the time, and other creatures live in water only some of the time.

- ➡ For each animal that lives some of the time in the water, draw an arrow from it to the bottom edge of the river.
- ➡ For each animal that lives all the time in the water, draw an arrow from it to the middle of the river.
- ➡ If you would like to, you can draw the animals in or on top of the water and colour the whole picture in.



Ostrich

Duck

Crocodile

Lion

Frog

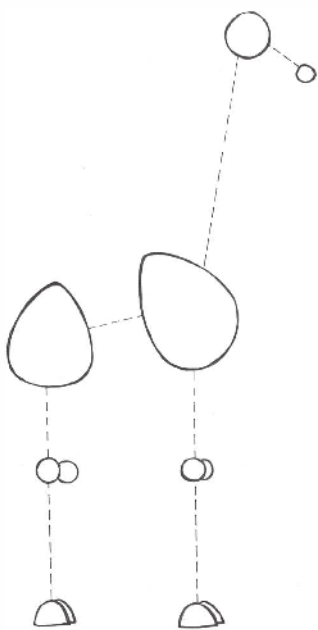
Fish

Tadpole

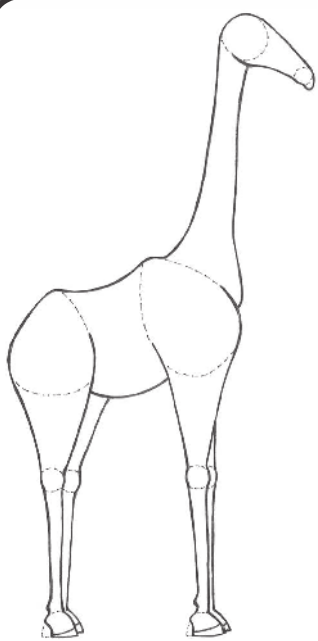
Tortoise

Hippopotamus

LEARN HOW TO DRAW A GIRAFFE!

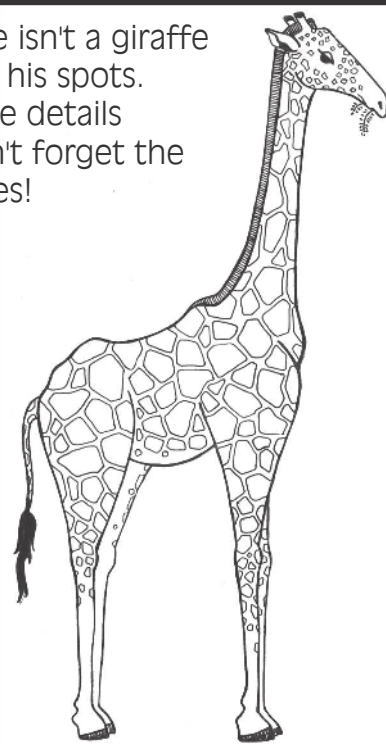


First, draw these basic shapes and the dotted lines between them. Remember to do them softly in pencil so you can rub them out later.



Now, draw around the shapes to get the outline of your giraffe. Take your time, there is no rush!

A giraffe isn't a giraffe without his spots. Fill in the details and don't forget the ossicones!



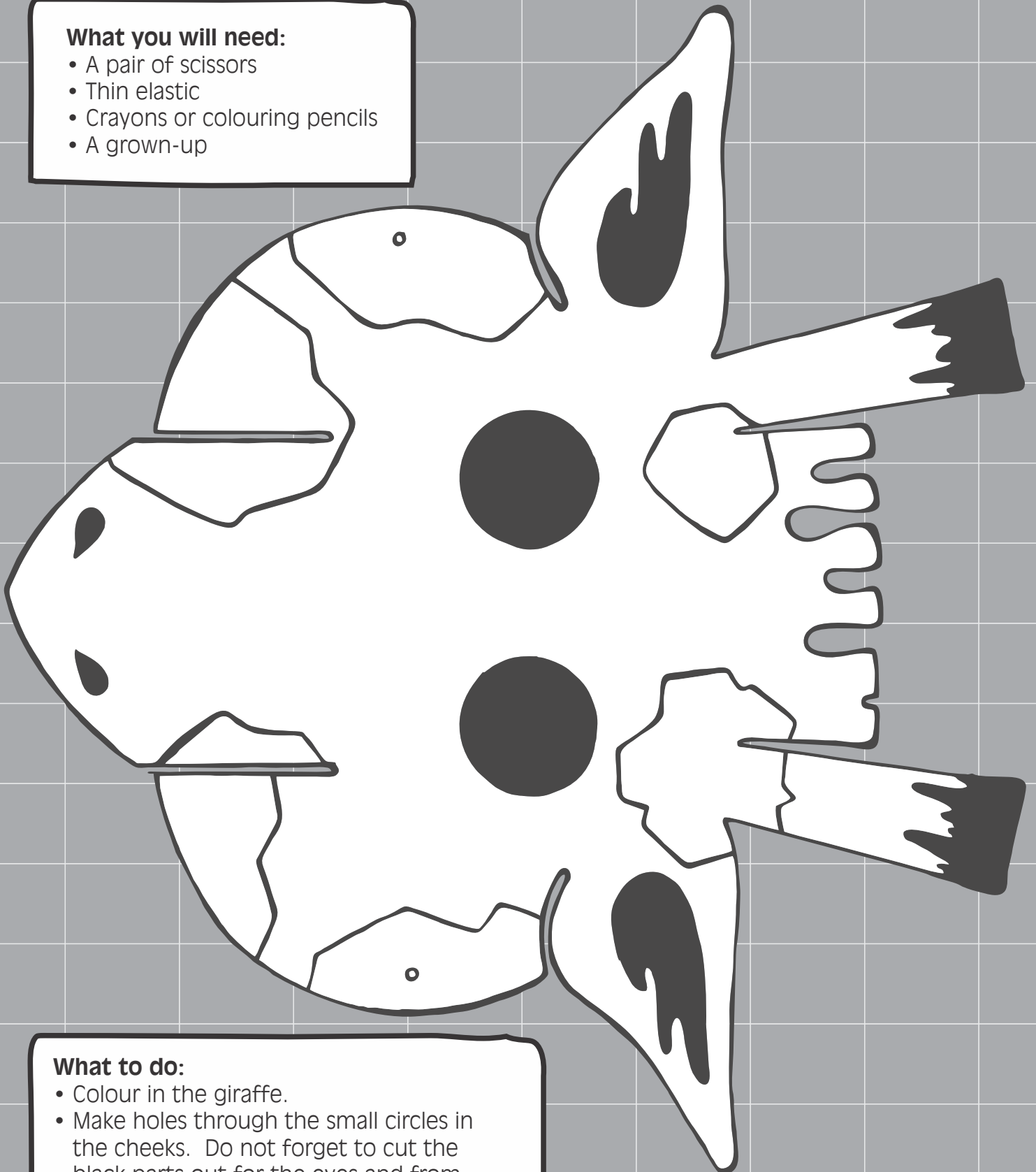
Well done, you've drawn a giraffe! Doesn't he look happy? Now colour him in.

BE A GIRAFFE FOR THE DAY

Make a giraffe mask!

What you will need:

- A pair of scissors
- Thin elastic
- Crayons or colouring pencils
- A grown-up

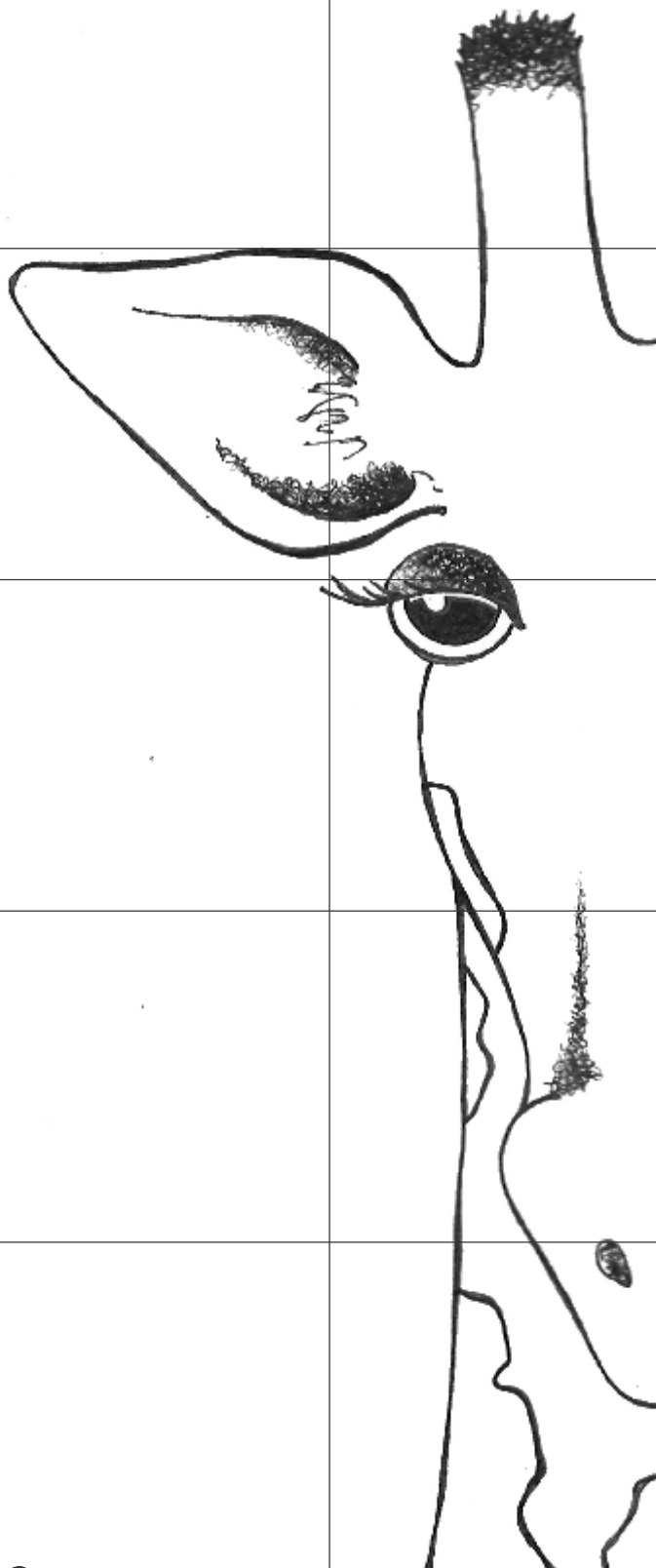


What to do:

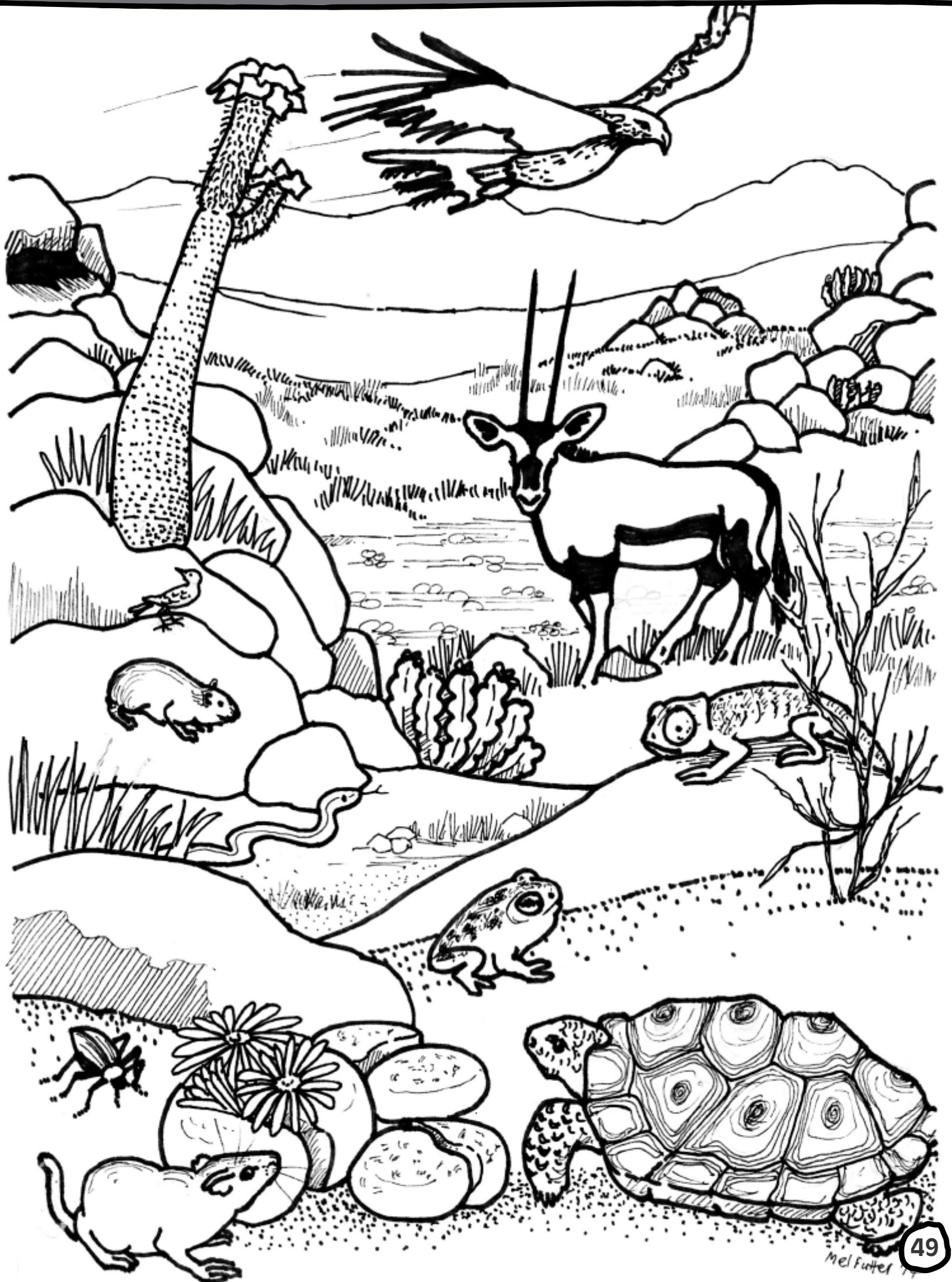
- Colour in the giraffe.
- Make holes through the small circles in the cheeks. Do not forget to cut the black parts out for the eyes and from the nose.
- Attach the elastic to the holes.
- Put the mask on. Now you are a giraffe!

FOLLOW MY LEADER

Draw the other side of the giraffe's face by copying what you see on the left, and then colour it in.



COLOUR ME IN



ANIMAL DETECTIVE

SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND

Wherever you are, there will always be wild animals to see. They could be big or very small. Sometimes you can also see...



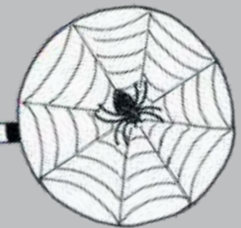
THEIR TRACKS

Lots of animals, even the very small ones, leave behind their footprints (tracks) in the sand. Look out for these and try to find out who they belong to.



A TERRITORY PATCH

Some animals mark their territory (home area) by peeing and pooing in one place. This sends a strong smelly message to others that someone is already living here.



THEIR HOMES

Some animals build homes that are easy to see. Think of birds and spiders.



THEIR POO

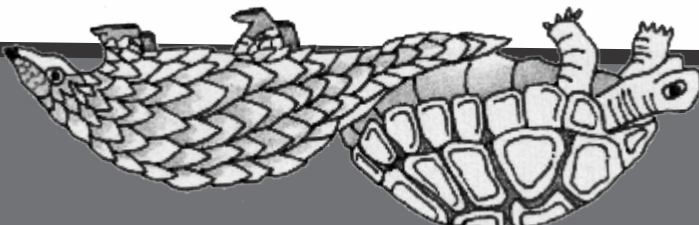
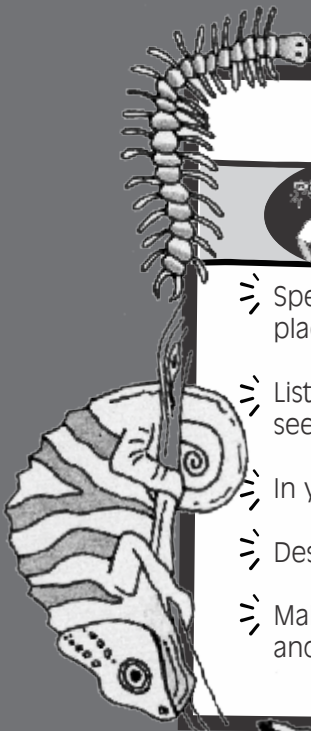
Like us, animals also have to go to the toilet. Look out for piles of poo and see if you can find out who they belong to.

SHHHHHH!



INVESTIGATE

- ⚡ Spend time in a garden, a park, or any outside area. Find a comfortable place to sit. Sit quietly.
- ⚡ Listen and look. Look high and low. It is surprising what you will hear and see.
- ⚡ In your notebook, make a list of all the creatures you see.
- ⚡ Describe their colours and what they are doing.
- ⚡ Make another list of all the other things you see (for example, poo and tracks), and what you hear (for example, birds).



GUIDE: SOME OF AFRICA'S ANIMALS AND PLANTS



The following guide includes a few examples of the animals and plants species found in Africa. If you would like to know more about all the different animals and plants in your country, there are lots of local books that you could use. Find out where to get these books and have fun learning more.

LEGEND



MOON AND STARS means that these animals are nocturnal. They are active during the night.



SUN means that these animals are diurnal. They are active during the day.



MOON, STARS AND SUN means that these animals are cathemeral. They are active during the day and the night.

HERBIVORES

Herbivores are animals that feed only on grass and plants. Grazers eat grass. Browsers eat plant leaves, seeds, flowers, twigs and bark.

WHO EATS WHAT?

OMNIVORES

Omnivores are animals that feed on plants and the meat of other animals.

CARNIVORES

Carnivores are animals that feed on the meat of other animals.

DETRITIVORES

Detritivores feed on rotting plants, animals and poo.

INSECTIVORES

Insectivores are animals that feed on insects.

PREDATORS

Predators hunt and kill other animals for their food. Carnivores and insectivores are predators.

SCAVENGERS

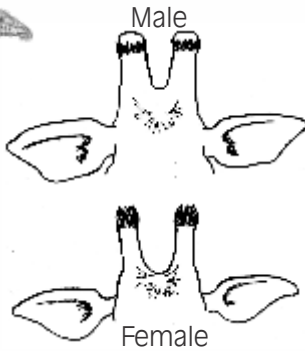
Scavengers feed on the meat of other animals that have already died or been killed by predators. They do not hunt.

Giraffe



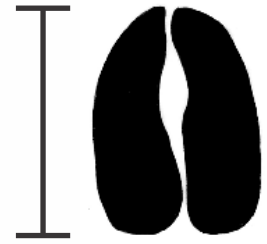
Herbivore

Browser: leaves, flowers, fruit and twigs.



The male Northern and Reticulated giraffe have a middle, third ossicone.

Find out which giraffe are in your country. Go to pages 34 and 35 to help your investigation.



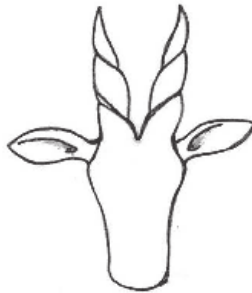
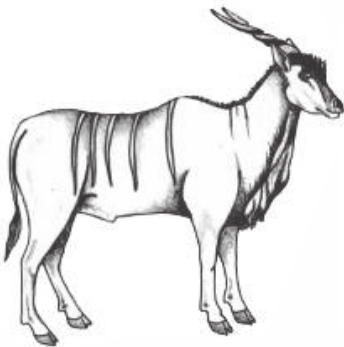
18 cm

Eland



Herbivore

Browser: leaves, twigs, underground bulbs and fruit (sometimes they will also eat grass, when it is fresh and green)



10 cm

When eland walk, they make a loud, clicking sound. This clicking sound comes from their knees.

Oryx



Herbivore

Browser: leaves, seeds, twigs and flowers.



11 cm

There are four different species of oryx in Africa. The gemsbok oryx is found in southern Africa. The Arabian oryx is found in Saudi Arabia. The scimitar oryx is found in North Africa, but there are very few of them left. The East African oryx is found in eastern Africa. All of the oryx species have long straight horns, which they use to protect themselves from predators.

Kudu



Herbivore

Browser: leaves, new shoots and fruit.



6.5 cm

Kudu are very shy and secretive. While they feed during the day, they hide in thick bush as much as they can.

Zebra



Herbivore

Grazer: grass.



10 cm



There are three species of zebra in Africa. Burchell's and mountain zebra are found in Southern Africa, and Grevy's zebra are found in East Africa.

Every individual zebra's pattern of stripes is different from each other.

Hartebeest



Herbivore

Grazer: grass (sometimes they will break open wild melons and eat the fruit inside).



10 cm



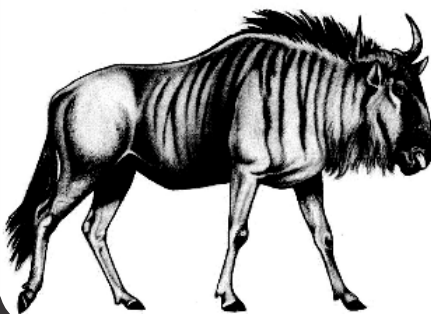
Hartebeest can run extremely fast, reaching a speed of 55 kilometres per hour. They can also keep on running for a very long time.

Wildebeest



Herbivore

Grazer: grass.



10 cm



There are two species of wildebeest in Africa: the blue wildebeest and the black wildebeest. The blue wildebeest has long black stripes running down its body, and the black wildebeest has a white tail.

A wildebeest calf can stand and run together with its mother five minutes after being born.

Springbok



Herbivore

Grazer and Browser: grass, leaves, twigs, seeds, fruit, and they also dig up roots.



5.4 cm



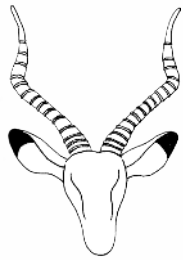
When springbok are frightened or excited, they are able to do the most amazing springing leaps. They can leap into the air with straight legs, a full 2 metres off the ground. This collection of springing leaps is called pronking.

Impala



Herbivore

Grazer and Browser: green grass and bark, leaves, wood and plant stems.



Male



Female



5 cm



There are two species of impala in Africa. The black-faced impala are found in southwestern Angola and Namibia, and the common impala are found in southern and central Africa.

The impala has a very special kind of jump while running to avoid predators.

Thomson's Gazelle



Herbivore

Grazer and Browser: in the wet season they graze fresh green grass, and in the dry season they browse leaves from trees and bushes.



3.8 - 6 cm



Thomson's gazelle can run very fast, up to 80 kilometres per hour. They also often run in a zig-zag to confuse predators.

African Buffalo



Herbivore

Grazer: grass (sometimes they will also browse on certain shrubs and herbs).



12 - 15 cm



Buffalo will often roll in mud, which helps to get rid of ticks on their skin. They live in big groups and protect each other.

In Africa, there are also forest buffalo. They live in the rainforests of West and Central Africa.

Elephant



Herbivore

Grazer and Browser: most kinds of grass and plants, as well as the bark of certain trees.



Forefoot 50 cm



Hindfoot 60 - 71 cm



In Africa, there are two elephant species: the African savanna elephant and the African forest elephant. The African savanna elephant can live up to 80 years. The African forest elephants live only in the rainforests of West and Central Africa. They are smaller than the African savanna elephants, and they can live up to 70 years.

White Rhinoceros



Herbivore
Grazer: grass..



Square-lipped



25 – 27 cm



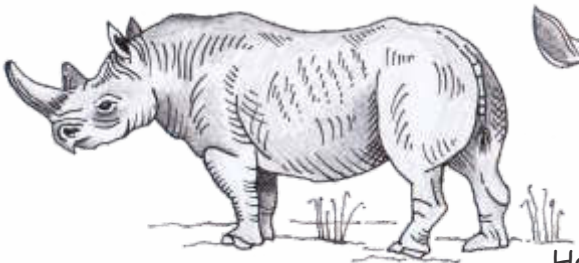
The white rhinoceros has a square-shaped upper lip, and it is larger than the black rhinoceros. An adult male can weigh 2 500 kilograms, which is the weight of 30 men together!

Black Rhinoceros



Herbivore

Browser: leaves, twigs, new shoots and fruit.



Hook-lipped



22 – 25 cm



The black rhinoceros has a hook-shaped upper lip. Even though the black rhinoceros are large animals, they can run quite fast. When they chase after unwelcome intruders, they can run at 40 kilometres per hour!

Hippopotamus



Herbivore

Grazer: grass (they prefer short green grass and feed in open areas).



22 – 25 cm



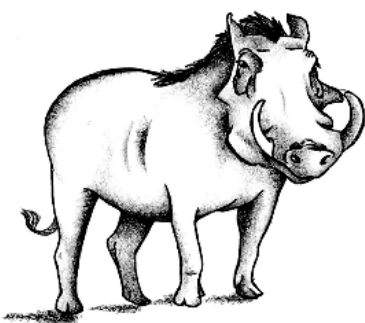
At night, hippopotami leave the water to graze. When they graze, they swing their heads from side to side, cutting the grass with their lips.

Warthog



Herbivore

Grazer: grass, and they also dig up roots..



.5 cm



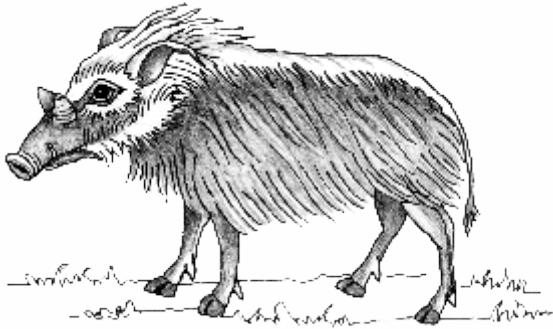
When warthogs graze and dig for roots, they will often bend down on their knees. When warthogs run, they raise their tails so that the family members can easily stick together.

Bush Pig



Omnivore

Roots, leaves and fruit, and scavenge carrion (meat of animals that have already died).



4.5 - 5 cm

Bush pig piglets are born with yellow and brown stripes that disappear after a few months.

Hyena



Omnivore

Predator and Scavenger: hunt antelope, birds, tortoises and hares, scavenge carrion (meat of animals that have already died), and they also eat fruit and termites.



10 - 12 cm

There are three species of hyena in Africa: the spotted, brown and striped hyena.

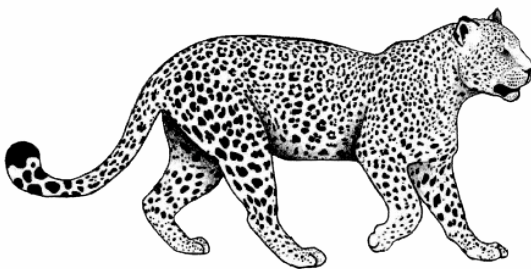
Hyena play an important role in the environment because they control the spread of disease by cleaning up dead animals.

Leopard



Carnivore

Predator: hunt medium-sized antelope, and also jackals, monkeys, hares, mice, birds and insects.



7 - 9 cm

Leopards will store their larger kills, like antelope, in trees or holes in the ground, or they will cover them up with branches and plants. They will return during the following days to continue eating, even if the meat has begun to rot.

Cheetah



Carnivore

Predator: hunt small antelope, ground birds, ostrich and hares.



9 - 10 cm

Cheetah are the fastest land animals on Earth. At full speed, they can run at 112 kilometres per hour.

Lion



Carnivore

Predator and Scavenger: hunt large antelope, tortoises, lizards and hares, and scavenge carrion (meat of animals that have already died).



11 - 13 cm



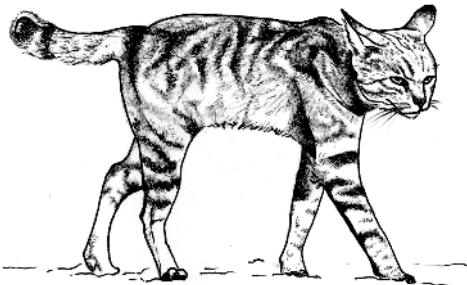
A lion's roar can be heard as far as 5 kilometres away.

African Wild Cat



Carnivore

Predator: mice, hares, birds, insects and lizards.



3.6 cm



African wild cats are extremely important for keeping mice populations under control, especially after good rains.

African Wild Dog



Carnivore

Predator: small to medium-sized antelope and hares.



6.8 - 7 cm



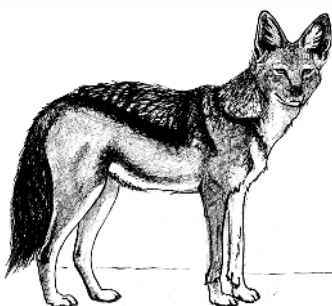
Wild dogs live in large groups and they care for each other, including the elderly. They hunt together in groups, using very clever methods. Wild dogs are in very serious trouble. They no longer exist in at least 19 countries, and there are very few of them left in Africa.

Jackal



Omnivore

Predator: young antelope, mice, birds, lizards and insects. Sometimes they will also eat wild fruit and berries and scavenge dead meat.



4 cm



There are three species of jackal in Africa. The common (golden) jackal is found in East and North Africa, and the black-backed and side-striped jackal are found widely throughout Africa.

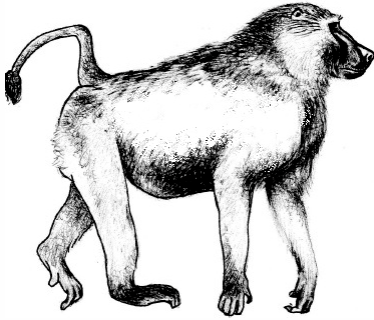
The black-backed jackal mate for life, and they are very caring of each other and their young. They share all their activities such as hunting, eating and defending their territory. They call each other when they are separated.

Baboon



Omnivore

Grasses, seeds roots leaves, bark, fruit, insects, fish, mice, lizards, birds, scorpions and smaller monkeys.



Front



Hind

There are five species of baboon in Africa: hamadryas baboon, Guinea baboon, olive baboon, yellow baboon and chacma baboon.

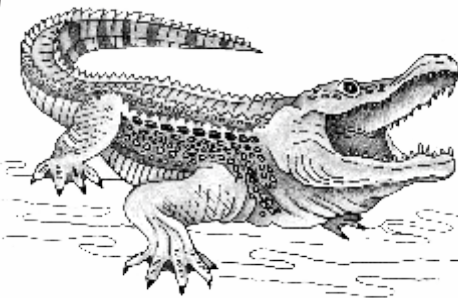
All baboons have a long dog-like snout and hairless pads of thick skin on their buttocks for comfortable sitting.

Crocodile



Carnivore

Predator: fish, birds, wildebeest, zebra and other antelope. They will sometimes even catch young hippopotami.



Front



Hind

There are five species of crocodile in Africa: the Nile crocodile, West African crocodile, West African slender-snouted crocodile, Central African slender-snouted crocodile, and the African dwarf crocodile.

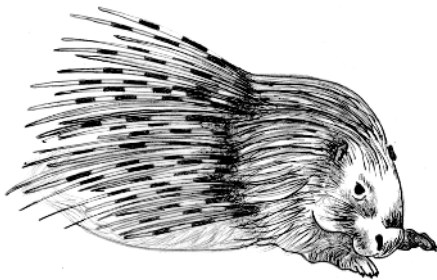
The Nile crocodile is one of the oldest species on Earth. They have survived over millions of years. After they have eaten their food, the Nile crocodiles swallow large stones to grind the food in their stomachs. When crocodiles feel threatened, they dive under water and can hold their breath for up to two hours.

Porcupine



Herbivore

Roots, bulbs and bark (sometimes they will eat the meat of dead animals).



Front



Hind

If a porcupine is chased, it will often suddenly stop and raise its quills so that the attacker runs into them.

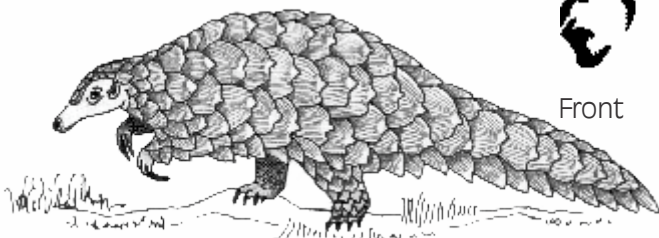
Although porcupines are nocturnal, they are also sometimes active in the early morning or late afternoon.

Pangolin



Insectivore

Only ants and termites.



Front



Hind

3.2 cm

There are four different species of pangolin in Africa. Pangolin tongues are long and sticky. They are long to be able to reach the ants and termites, and sticky so that they can collect as many as possible. They can eat up to 20 000 ants and termites in one day.

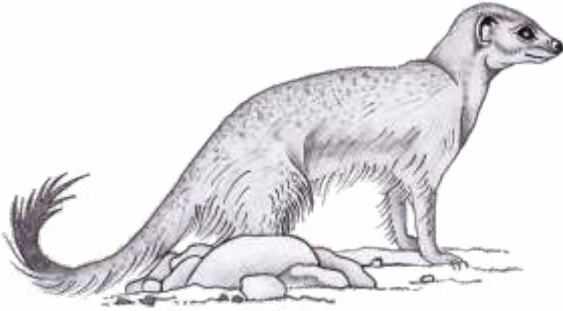
Most of the time, pangolins walk on their hind legs.

Mongoose



Omnivore

Lizards, rodents, insects, small snakes, birds, frogs, fruit and berries.



2.3 cm



There are 34 different species of mongoose in Africa. Try and find out which ones are in your country.

Some of the mongoose species are famous for attacking and killing venomous snakes.

Helmeted Guinea fowl



Omnivore

Ants, termites, snails, worms, frogs, lizards, insects (grasshoppers), fruits and certain grass seeds.



8 cm



The helmeted guinea fowl are grey-brown and covered in lots and lots of white spots. Their heads are red and blue. Many farmers in Africa welcome these birds in their crop fields because they eat insects that are pests. They live on the ground but sleep together in trees at night. When they travel to water, they walk in a single line – going one after the other.

Ostrich



Omnivore

Grass, fruit, seeds, fleshy plants, small lizards and insects.



19 cm (the long toe)



The Ostrich is the largest bird in the world. They stand about 2 metres tall. They cannot fly but they can run at 50 kilometres per hour, the same speed as a giraffe – this is amazingly fast!

Flamingo



Herbivore

Very small water algae.



9 cm



There are two species of freshwater flamingo in Africa: the lesser flamingo and the greater flamingo.

Flamingos live in large groups, from hundreds to thousands. Their big bill is a clever filter, which they move from side to side on the surface of the water to catch the tiny algae they live on. Algae are very, very small plants that live in water. More than half of the world's beautiful pink lesser flamingos live on the lakes in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Tanzania.

Vulture



Carnivore

Scavenger: dead animals.



11 - 12 cm



There are 11 different species of vulture in Africa. Vultures are extremely important birds because they clean up the environment by scavenging on dead animals. They clean up 70% of Africa's dead animals.

Many of Africa's vultures are in trouble. Their numbers are decreasing because they are poisoned, and they are killed for their talons (claws), which are used as medicine. Imagine what it would be like without vultures to keep the environment clean...

African Fish Eagle



Carnivore

Predator: different kinds of fish.



10 cm



The African fish eagle lives where there is enough water for them to find fish and a good branch to perch on. Fish eagles will often steal food from other water birds like herons and storks. And surprise, surprise, fish eagles do not only eat fish but also ducks, small crocodiles and flamingos.

Spiders

Insectivore

Predator: insects.



Spiders come in all shapes and sizes. In the world, there are about 40 000 different species of spider. All spiders have eight legs.

To catch their food, some spiders dig holes and others spin webs in the trees or between rocks and grasses on the ground.

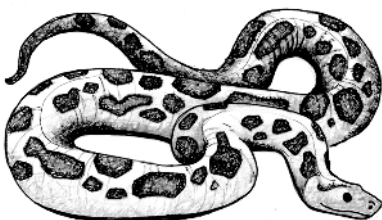
The tarantula, the biggest spider, does not use a web to catch its food. Tarantulas live in burrows. They will rush out of their burrow to catch their food. At the entrance of their burrow, they spin a web door to hide behind.



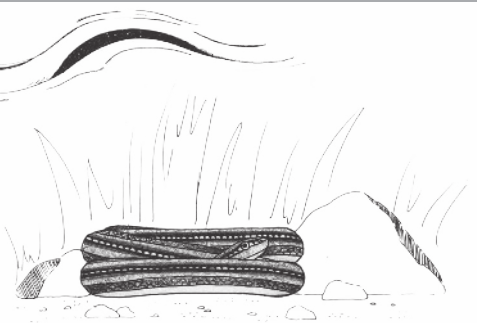
Snakes

Carnivore

Predator: small mammals, rodents, frogs, insects and birds, and some also eat other snakes.

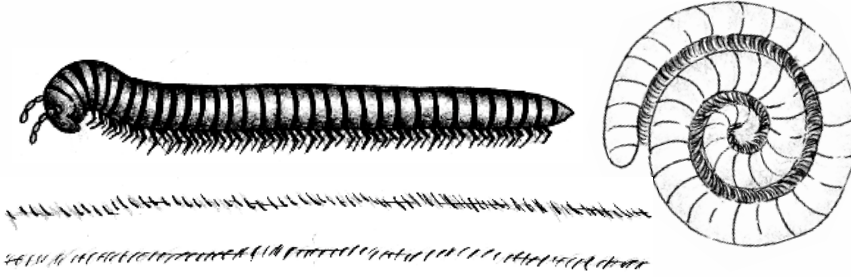


Snakes do not have eyelids, so they do not blink. Snakes smell with their tongue. Several times a year, snakes shed their skin.



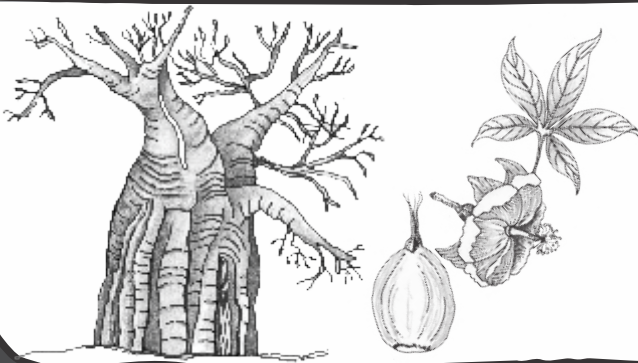
Millipedes

Detritivore
Rotting plant matter.



Millipedes can curl up into tight spirals. There are many different kinds of millipedes. They are either black or brown, and some of them have orange or yellow bands. Some of them can grow to 30 centimetres long. Most predators do not eat them because they give off poisonous gases.

African Baobab Tree



The African baobab grows very tall, up to 25 metres. They lose their leaves for up to 9 months of the year, and their fat trunks store water. These strange-looking trees can live for an extremely long time, more than 1 000 years. Their long round fruit hangs on long stalks, and they are covered with soft hair. The soft white pulp inside the fruit is soaked in water to make a tasty drink. The leaves are used as a vegetable, and the bark is used for weaving and making rope.

Desert Date



These trees are spiky, but they do not have thorns. It is their young, new branches that are very sharp and pointy. The leaves always grow in pairs, and they are a grey-green colour. The fruit is like a date, and is yellow when ripe. Lots of animals eat the leaves and fruit, like goats, camels, and wildlife – especially giraffe. The roots and bark are used to treat malaria. The fruit is poisonous to freshwater snails and is used for the treatment of bilharzia.

Sycamore Fig



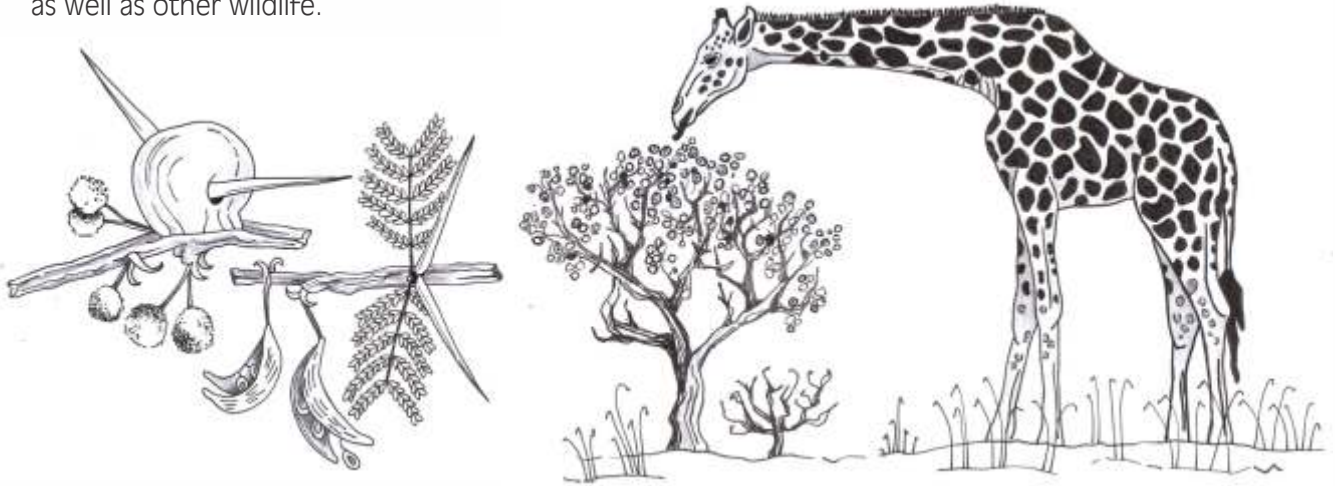
These fig trees become very tall and wide, they can grow up to 21 metres high. Their fruit, the figs, grow from the base of the leaf stalks or in bunches on the main branches and the trunk. The figs are shaped like pears and when they are ripe, they are yellow or red in colour. When the figs are ripe in summer, they are a very important food source for birds, monkeys and baboons.

Whistling-Thorn

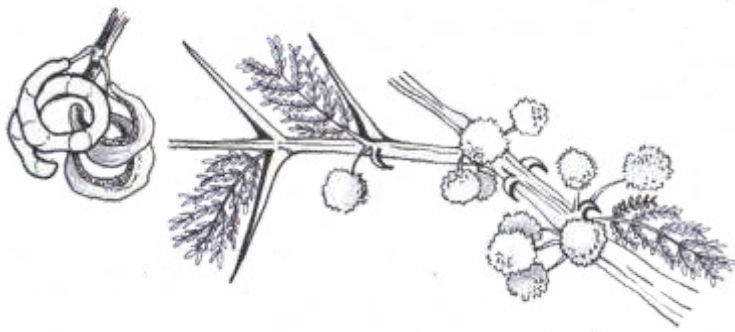
These trees are easy to recognise because they have strange round blister-balls which grow at the bottom of thorn-pairs. These blister-balls are hollow, and many ants live inside them. They have two kinds of thorns: pairs of small, hooked ones; and pairs of long, straight white ones.

Their fruit (pods) is brown or black, and shaped like a new moon. The pods split open while they are still attached to the branch, and their seeds hang out on thin little stalks.

In the summer season, the sweet-smelling creamy-white flowers bloom before the new green leaves appear. The flowers are eaten most especially by giraffe. The pods and leaves are also eaten by giraffe, as well as other wildlife.



Umbrella-thorn



These trees are easy to spot, as they have the shape of an umbrella. They have two different kinds of thorns, straight ones and hooked ones. Their pods are pale brown and twisted, and often curled into rings. The pods are very rich in protein and are eaten by livestock and wild animals. The bark is made into a tea and used to treat malaria and stomach ache.

Hook-thorn



Their thorns are a pair of curved hooks, which are grey with black tips. This tree is often called the wait-a-bit thorn tree because when you get caught in their hooked thorns, it takes a lot of patience and waiting to untangle your clothes from them. Their pods are pale brown and thin, like paper. The pods, leaves and flowers are much eaten by livestock and wild animals. We use the wood for cooking and making charcoal. The leaves or bark is made into a tea and used as treatment for malaria and pneumonia.

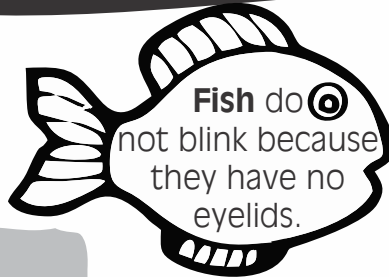
GLOSSARY

Adapt	To change in structure, behaviour or function in order to live in a certain environment.
Alien	Plants and animals that do not occur naturally in a certain area. They have been introduced from other countries and continents.
Atmosphere	The layer of gas that surrounds Earth. The atmosphere is the air that plants and animals breathe. Air is made up of many gases, but the two most important gases are oxygen and carbon dioxide.
Canopy	In rainforests, this is where the branches and leaves of the highest trees join together to form a kind of umbrella.
Carbon dioxide	A colourless gas that is important for all life on Earth.
Cathemeral	Animals that are active during the day and at night.
Consumers	Living things that eat other living things.
Decomposers	Bacteria, fungi and other small organisms that break down the tissue of dead animals and plants. They are the final stage in a food chain.
Deforestation	The loss of trees. This is usually caused by the cutting down of trees for firewood and timber for building, or by the clearing of land to grow crops and keep livestock.
Desertification	When an already dry area that was not originally a desert is turned into one. This usually happens as a result of people's actions, such as keeping too many animals in one area for too long, which then leads to overgrazing.
Diurnal	Animals that are active during the day.
Drought	A very long period of time without rain.
Ecosystem	All the living plants and animals and the non-living things that interact with each other in a particular environment.
Endemic	Plants and animals that are only found in a particular area and nowhere else in the world.
Environment	Everything around us, which includes living, non-living and man-made things.
Evaporation	When water in rivers, dams and the ocean is heated by the sun and then turns into a gas (water vapour) in the atmosphere.
Floods	Too much water in a particular area after unusually heavy rain.
Fog	A thick mist made up of tiny drops of water.

Food chain	The order in which living things eat one another, and it is the flow of energy from one level to the next in an ecosystem.
Fossil fuels	Fuel that is obtained from non-renewable fossil matter, which has been formed over millions of years from the remains of plants and animals deep inside Earth, for example, coal, oil and natural gas.
Global warming	The increase in the world's overall temperature.
Habitat	The environment in which a plant or animal lives.
Indigenous	Plants and animals that belong naturally in a particular area.
Industrial waste	Waste that is produced by factories, warehouses and mining operations.
Nocturnal	Animals that are active during the night.
Nutrients	All the important vitamins and minerals that are necessary to keep plants, animals and people alive, healthy and strong.
Overgrazing	When too many animals eat the grass and plants in an area that does not have enough, the grass and plants cannot grow faster than they are eaten, and the land becomes dry and damaged.
Oxygen	A gas in the atmosphere that is important for respiration (breathing).
Photosynthesis	The process through which plants use water and carbon dioxide to create their own food, to grow, and to release oxygen into the atmosphere. All living things need oxygen to breathe.
Poaching	The illegal practice of hunting and killing wildlife without permission.
Pollution	Harmful and poisonous waste substances that are introduced into the environment.
Producers	Plants are producers because they make their own food. Food chains always begin with plants, the producers.
Reproduce	The process of making new life. Humans and animals give birth to babies, other creatures lay eggs in a nest or in the water, and plants grow again from the seeds they make. Life can only come from life!
Ruminant	Animals such as cattle, sheep, antelope and giraffe that after swallowing a ball of chewed grass or plant matter, bring the food up from the stomach, chew it again, and then swallow it again. They do this several times.
Territory	The specific area that an animal will defend as its own.
Water vapour	When water is evaporated by the sun, it rises into the atmosphere as a gas. This gas is called water vapour. When water vapour cools down, it changes from a gas into water droplets, which then form clouds, and then they fall to Earth as rain.

FACTS FROM THE ANIMAL KINGDOM

There are **over 9 million animals** in the animal kingdom.



Fish do not blink because they have no eyelids.

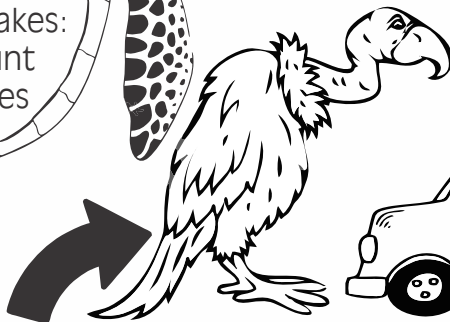
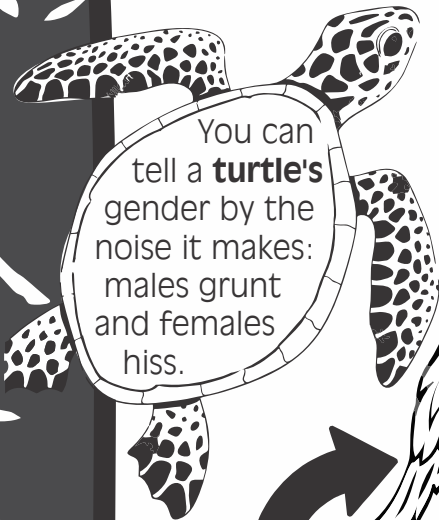
The **polar bear's** skin underneath its fur is black. The dark skin helps to soak up the sun and keep them as warm as possible.

There are no male and female **earthworms**. All earthworms have male and female parts, but it still takes two of them to reproduce.

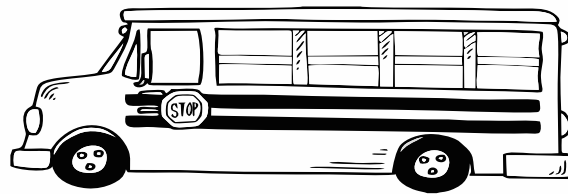
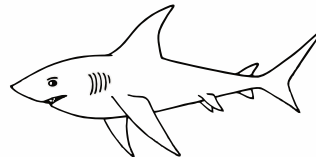
A **chameleon's** tongue is almost as long as its body. They can shoot their tongues out and can snatch insects in a fraction of a second.

Great white sharks live throughout all the oceans in cool water close to the coast. They can grow up to 6 metres long, which is half the length of a bus!

You can tell a **turtle's** gender by the noise it makes: males grunt and females hiss.



Vultures have very good eyesight. They can see a dead animal in an open area from up to 6 kilometres away.



The wrinkles on each **gorilla's** nose is different. They are known as '**nose prints**'.

0cm

1cm

2cm

3cm

4cm

5cm

6cm

7cm

8cm

9cm

10cm

11cm

12cm

13cm

14cm

15cm

16cm

17cm

18cm

19cm

20cm

21cm

22cm

23cm

24cm

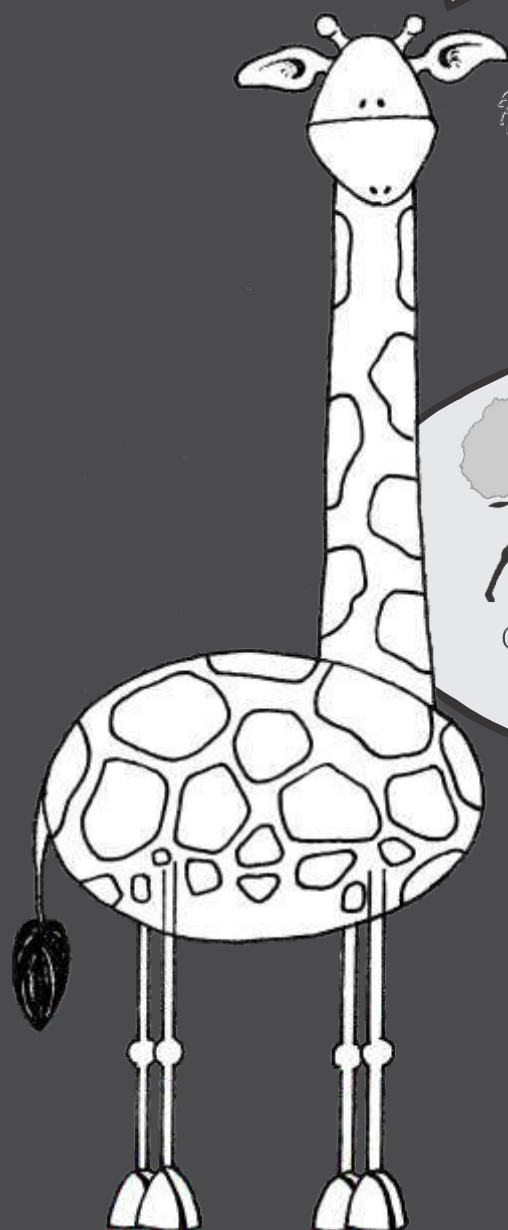
25cm

26cm

27cm

28cm

Goodbye!
Carry on looking!
Keep on learning!



GIRAFFE CONSERVATION FOUNDATION