

LITTLE RED RIDING HOOD CSI

AGES

Children 8–12 years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Children explore their powers of observation and deductive reasoning to expose the truth about Granny! To her horror, Little Red Riding Hood walks into a crime scene in progress. She dons her investigative skills and scientific knowledge to uncover the truth. A similar idea could also be adapted for “Goldilocks and the Three Bears.” Suggested runtime: 60 minutes

As participants arrive, let them explore the crime scene and clues with magnifying glasses. You could also have volunteers in animal costumes as potential suspects. Then go through clue picture cards as a group, giving taxonomic information along the way. Optionally, end the program by reading a CSI-themed version of “Little Red Riding Hood” (such as *Little Red* by Bethin Woolvin or *Little Red Riding Hood* by Jerry Pinkney). Then point participants to the library’s other CSI-themed children’s resources.

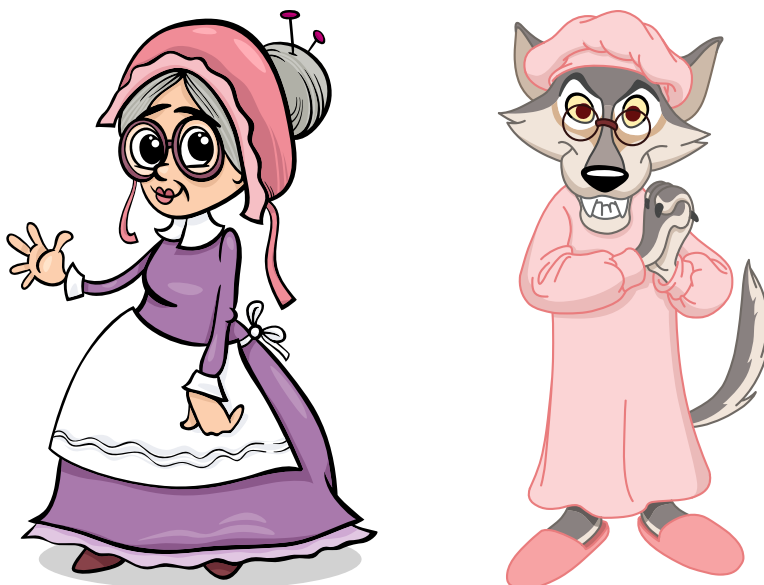


Image source: Shutterstock

Outcomes

- Learn principles of taxonomy
- Learn animal tracking and identification
- Make and record crime scene observations

TIP:

Older children might be bored by already knowing that the wolf killed Granny. To keep the CSI flavor, play the game with a twist: Have the clues point towards another predator (e.g., a bear or a lion) as the culprit.

TIP:

This could also be modified into a passive program. Set clues around the library or on a bulletin board for children to solve at their own pace.

TIP:

Little Red Rhyming Hood (2019) or any Mitzi Tulane: *Preschool Investigator* book are good options for early literacy variations on this program.

GAME/ACTIVITY

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Clue cards
- A crime scene area or bulletin board
- Crime scene clues (see below)
- Caution tape
- Magnifying glasses
- Taxonomic identification cards
- A digital camera and printer

Set up a crime scene (or a bulletin board) with props to look like Granny's house. Tracks, scratches, and teeth marks are the most important clues for later taxonomic identification. Other clues might include scattered fur, a broken dish, spilled tea, a drop of blood, torn curtains, torn clothes, or an unlocked door left open. Take before and after pictures of the crime scene. Remember the caution tape and magnifying glasses!

For group taxonomic identification, prepare large cards with different animal tracks, ears, eyes, and teeth. Prepare clue cards to go along with each characteristic (i.e., a close-up of claw marks on the door). These might include before-and-after pictures of the crime scene or close-ups of body parts, such as wolf teeth, ears, eyes, and fur (see Printables).

Helpful facts for taxonomic identification:

- You can tell animals apart by just a few characteristics. Animal tracks, eyes, ears, and teeth are used to classify species. It takes generations of gene errors and corrections, with changes to external conditions, for bones or features to change.
- What big feet you have: Wolf tracks show four distinct toes and claw marks. They are between four and five inches long and look similar to dog tracks.
- What big ears you have: Predator ears are directional and usually forward-facing. Animals that hunt using hearing must be able to hear very quiet sounds.
- What big eyes you have: Predator eyes are often placed forward on the face. Prey animals, on the other hand, need a wide range of vision and often have eyes on the sides of their heads. Cat eyes have a vertical iris, but goats have a horizontal iris. Wolves have a circular iris like humans.
- What big teeth you have: Many fossils are identified only by their teeth. Carnivores such as wolves have sharp, pointed incisors for cutting and tearing food. Carnivores also have canines for cutting and scraping. Herbivores have incisors as well as flat, broad molars for grinding and mashing food. Humans have all three types—incisors, canines, and molars.

TIP:

Consider making observation booklets for each participant. These could include spreads of animal tracks, eyes, ears, teeth, and fur; children circle the appropriate clue on each page.

TIP:

For wolf-loving audiences, consider inviting wolf education/resource groups, such as Ohio-based Ironwood Wolves at <http://www.ironwoodwolves.com/>. See Seacrest Wolf Preserve (www.seacrestwolfpreserve.org/resources) or Endangered Wolf Center (www.endangeredwolfcenter.org) for more resources.

GAME/ACTIVITY**UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS**

Volunteers could help set up the program or act as animal suspects.

RESOURCES**Little Red Riding Hood Fiction**

Honestly, Red Riding Hood Was Rotten! (2011) by Trisha Shaskan (picture book)

Little Red by Bethin Woollvin (2016) (picture book)

Little Red Rhyming Hood (2019) by Sue Fliess (picture book)

Little Red Riding Hood (2007) by Jerry Pinkney (picture book)

Ninja Red Riding Hood (2014) by Corey Rosen Schwartz (early reader)

Red Riding Hood (1993) by James Marshall (picture book)

Taxonomy/CSI NonfictionPicture Books

What Do You Do with a Tail Like This? (2003) by Steve Jenkins

Who Was Here? Discovering Wild Animal Tracks (2014) by Mia Posada

Early Readers

Everything Predators (2016) by Hoena Blake

Wanted! Criminals of the Animal Kingdom (2020) by Heather Tekavec and Susan Batori

What If You Had Animal Feet (What If You Had...#2) (2015) by Sandra Markle and Howard McWilliam

Middle Grade

CSI Expert! Forensic Science for Kids (2008) by Karen Schulz

How to Become a Crime Scene Investigator (2008) by Sue L. Hamilton (or any Crime Scene Investigation book)

Nose Knows: Wild Ways Animals Smell the World (2019) by Emmanuelle Figueras and Claire de Gastold

Wild Tracks: A Guide to Nature's Footprints (2008) by Jim Arnosky

GAME/ACTIVITY

Variations on the Theme/Animal DetectivesPicture Books

The Detective Dog (2017) by Julie Donaldson

The Secret Ingredient (2017) by Lauren McLaughlin (or any Mitzi Tulane, Preschool Detective book)

The True Story of the Three Little Pigs (1996) by Joe Scieszki

Whobert Whoever, Owl Detective (2017) by Jason June

Early Readers

Hamster and Cheese (Guinea Pig: Pet Shop Private Eye #1)
by Colleen AF Venable

The Lost Treasure of the Emerald Eye (Geronimo Stilton #1) (2004)
by Geronimo Stilton

The Nocturnals: The Mysterious Abductions (Nocturnals #1) (2017)
by Tracey and Kate Liebman

Spy Penguins (2018) by Sam Hay and Marek Jaguicki

What Really Happened to Humpty? (2010) by Jeannie Franz Ransom

Middle Grade

Dog Man (Dog Man #1) (2016) by Dav Pilkey

InvestiGators (2020) by John Patrick Green

Kat Wolfe Investigates (Wolfe and Lamb #1) (2019) by Lauren St. John

Mr. Penguin and the Lost Treasure (Mr. Penguin #1) (2019)
by Alex T. Smith

Owl's Outstanding Donuts (2019) by Robin Yardi

Woof (Bowser & Birdie #1) (2016) by Spencer Quinn

GAME/ACTIVITY

PRINTABLE

Wolf Granny
Coloring Sheet



PRINTABLE

Wolf Riding Coloring Sheet



GAME/ACTIVITY

RESIZABLE DOWNLOADS

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

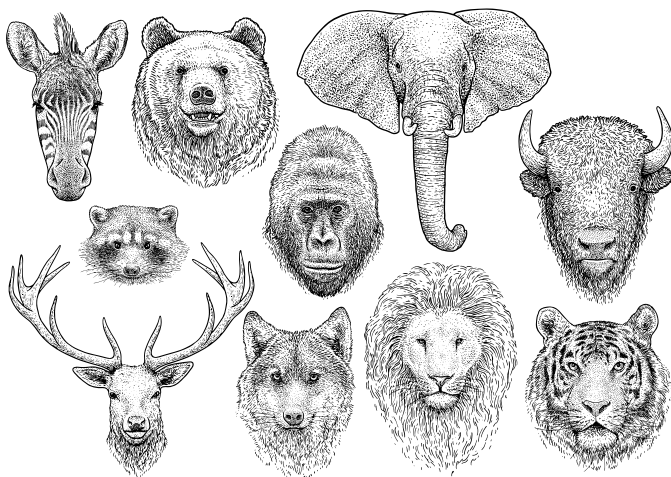
Predator Scratches



Animal Teeth



Animal Suspects



Wolf Granny



BEASTLY LETTERS

AGES

Children 4+ years

Adaptations for teens and adults

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Turn everyday letters into something beastly! Children turn the first initial of their names into animal drawings. Alternatively, they find an animal that begins with the same letter as their first initial, then draw and write about that animal. They might gather fun facts about that animal, or write a story about its best or worst day. Older children can create 3D letters/animals out of construction paper or cardboard. Teens and adults might be interested in creating their own fonts or learning calligraphy. A simple, inexpensive program that can be modified for any age group. Be sure to create a display for the finished letters! Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes

You could also run a passive bookmark contest for all ages. Supply paper with the letters of your library's acronym and ask contestants to morph them into an animal or animals. Have an outside organization or your library's teen group judge the winner. Remember to print real bookmarks from the winner(s) to hand out to patrons!

TIP:

Have children practice navigating the library by asking them to find a book on the shelf that features their favorite animal.



Image source: Maria Parker of Kenton County Public Library



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Materials depend on your chosen craft and what you have on hand. At a minimum, you need paper and drawing supplies. Also consider embellishments such as recycled materials, yarn, feathers, noodles, paint, beads, etc. 3D letters will require cardboard, glue, and tape. See Printables for a block letter template.

Teens might want to learn how to create an animal alphabet font or a font out of their own handwriting. Calligraphr.com is a great way to get started, with tips and a free downloadable template: <https://www.calligraphr.com/>

For adults, consider a hand-lettering or calligraphy tutorial. For calligraphy, you will also need fountain pens, brush pens, or paintbrushes and India ink. See Printables for a modern calligraphy template. Or have adults make animal centerpieces/wreaths out of 3D cardboard letters. For inspiration, see here: <https://bit.ly/2YWS1Kf>.

Calligraphy basics:

- use fountain pens, brush pens, or paintbrushes and India ink
- light pressure on the upstroke and firm pressure on the down stroke to make the line variation

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

You will need a knowledgeable person to run calligraphy, lettering, or font-making lessons (if you live near a college with a graphic design program, try soliciting student presenters).

RESOURCES

Web

Calligraphr font-making app and template: <https://www.calligraphr.com/>

Lettering Nonfiction

Draw Your Own Fonts (2017) by Tony Sedden (teen/adult)

Express Yourself: A Hand-Lettering Workbook for Kids (2018)
by Amy Latta (middle grade)

The Kids' Book of Hand Lettering: 20 Lessons and Projects to Decorate Your World (2018) by Nicole Santo Miyuki (middle grade)

The Non-Designer's Design Book, 4th edition (2014)
by Robin Williams (adult)

TIP:

For Disney fans, the program could be based on the castle that inspired many Disney castles (Neuschwanstein Castle).

CRAFT | LOW COST | PASSIVE | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

RESIZABLE DOWNLOADS

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Block Alphabet Letters



Modern Calligraphy Script



A TALE WITH TAILS

AGES

Children 8+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Have children supply the missing nouns, verbs, adjectives, etc. from the stories provided: "A Trip to the Zoo," "A Backyard Adventure," and "A Kooky Animal Tale." Then read the tale(s) out loud. This could be a fun icebreaker before another program, or copies could simply be placed with other library flyers. See Resources for a list of fiction with animal protagonists. Suggested runtime: 30 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Print a copy of the story for you to fill in, or print multiple copies for patrons.

RESOURCES

Animal Protagonist Fiction

Early Readers

Brambleheart (2016) by Cole Henry

Claude in the City (Claude #1) (2013) by Alex T. Smith

The Cookie Fiasco (Elephant and Piggie #1) (2016) by Mo Willems and Dan Santat

Duck, Duck, Porcupine! (*Duck Duck Porcupine #1*) (2016) by Salina Yoon

Frog and Toad Are Friends (1970) by Arnold Lobel

A New Friend (Adventures of Sophie Mouse #1) (2015) by Poppy Green and Jennifer A. Bell

The Party and Other Stories (Fox and Chick #1) (2018) by Sergio Ruzzier

Party at the Pond (Frog and Friends #1) (2011) by Eve Bunting and Josée Mass

Rafi and Rosi: Carnival! (*Rafi and Rosi*) (2016) by Lulu Delacre

Tiger vs. Nightmare (2018) by Emily Tetri

TIP:

For a twist, have children cut out words from old newspapers and magazines; they supply the missing words from their pile of clippings.

ADAPTATION:

Ask older children to make their own kooky tales! First have them write a simple animal story, then walk them through which words to remove. Test out their stories as a group. Talk about what makes a good story.

Middle Grade

The Bad Guys (2016) by Aaron Blabey

Bird and Squirrel on the Run (*Bird and Squirrel #1*) (2012) by James Burks

Cats Reporting on News That Matters to Cats (*Breaking Cat News #1*) (2016) by Georgia Dunn

The Cheshire Cheese Cat: A Dickens of a Tale (2011) by Carmen Agra Deedy, Randall Wright, and Barry Moser

Clyde (2019) by Jim Benton

Coraline (2002) by Neil Gaiman

Flora and Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures (2013) by Kate DiCamillo and K.G. Campbell

Korgi (*Korgi #1*) (2007) by Christian Slade

Lowriders in Space (*Low Riders in Space #1*) (2014) by Cathy Camper and Raúl the Third

Mutt's Promise (2016) by Julie Salamon and Jill Weber

The One and Only Ivan (2015) by K.A. Applegate and Patricia Castelao

Queen of the World! (*Babymouse #1*) (2005) by Jennifer Holm and Matthew Holm

Rabbit's Bad Habits (*Rabbit and Bear #1*) (2019) by Julian Gough

Snazzy Cat Capers (*Snazzy Cat Capers #1*) (2018) by Deanna Kent and Neil Hooson

The Tale of Despereaux (2003) by Kate DiCamillo and Timothy Basil Ering

Thundercluck! Chicken of Thor (*Thundercluck! #1*) (2018) by Paul Tillery IV and Meg Wittwer

Varjak Paw (2009) by S.F. Said

A Wolf Called Wander (2019) by Roseanne Parry and Mónica Armijo

A TRIP TO THE ZOO

It was a _____, _____ day. Willa and Jackson thought
adjective *weather adjective*
 it would be a great day to go to the zoo. They _____ into the
verb
 _____ and asked their mom if she would take them. "What
room in house
 a _____ idea!" she exclaimed. "Let's go!"
adjective

They approached the ticket window where they were greeted by a
 _____ zoo employee. "_____ tickets, please!" Jackson
adjective *number*
 said. The three enthusiastic visitors entered the main gate and headed
 straight toward the _____ house. After spending 20 minutes
animal
 _____ at the baby monkey jumping up and down in a
verb ending in -ing
 _____, they decided to go visit the _____ elephants.
noun *adjective*
 Seeing them eat the juicy _____ made Jackson and Willa very
type of fruit
 hungry! Mom took them to the snack bar where they ordered

_____, _____, and _____. "Let's get going!"
type of food *type of food* *type of drink*
 said Willa. We still have to see the _____, _____, and
animal, plural *animal, plural*
 _____.
animal, plural

As they left the zoo with _____ in hand, they thanked their
noun
 _____ for a _____ day at the zoo.
family member *adjective*



A BACKYARD ADVENTURE

Sam and Julia always enjoyed visiting their _____ because (he/
family member
she/they) always made the best _____ pie. (He/she/they) also
type of fruit
had a great big back yard with lots of _____ and _____.
noun *noun*

On one of their visits, Sam and Julia asked their _____ if
same family member as above
they could set tent and camp in the back yard. (He/she/they) said that
would be fine as long as it was not _____. After lunch, Sam and
type of weather
Julia set up a tent and their camping _____. They used their
piece of furniture
imagination to pretend they were explorers visiting _____.
a favorite place

The first animal they pretended to see was a _____ with
animal
_____ claws. Then they saw a _____ with
adjective *another type of animal*
_____ feathers and _____. Suddenly they heard
adjective *body part, plural*
something rustling in the _____ bush, and it was not their
same fruit as above
imagination! Sam and Julia thought for sure it must be a huge, scary
_____ with a thick, _____ coat. They were about to run
animal *adjective*
back into the house when they hear a familiar laugh. It was only
_____ ! All three of them went back inside to eat some
same family member as above
_____ *adjective* _____ *type of food*

A KOOKY ANIMAL TALE

I was out _____ in the forest on a _____ day
gerund (-ing verb) *weather adjective*

in _____. When I looked up, I was surprised to see _____
month *number*

_____ swinging on tree branches by their _____.
type of animal *animal body part, plural*

Then they took off _____. I followed them so far that I got lost
gerund (-ing verb)

and ended up in a field of _____. All of a sudden, they turned
noun, plural

from _____ to _____. Then they joined a huge
color *color*

group of _____ under a _____. By
gerund (-ing verb) *type of animal, plural* *noun*

the time a swarm of _____ joined in, I felt so _____
type of insect, plural *emotion*

that I wanted to go home. I decided that the next time I went

_____ in the forest, I'd be sure to bring a _____
gerund (-ing verb) *type of animal*

_____ on a leash to protect me.
adjective

GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST

STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

AGES

Children 3–8 years

Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A fun, low-cost event that is easy to modify to suit your library. Children come for a sleepover-themed storytime, bringing their favorite stuffed animal friends with them. They sign permission slips and name tags, and leave their stuffed animals overnight. After storytime, you might hold a stuffed animal show-and-tell, or have children draw portraits of their stuffed animals. When the children come back the next morning to pick them up, they see pictures of what their animal friends were up while they were gone. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes

The teen element to this program is an important part! Teens can be on hand to check-in animal guests and help children fill out permission slips. After the children leave, teen “babysitters” get creative in moving the animals around and taking pictures of their antics (e.g., hide-and-seek, climbing the stacks, watching DVDs, playing on tablets, drawing on the whiteboard, playing librarian, escaping the library, coloring, doing puzzles, reading books, etc.). Have teens compile and print a few pictures of each animal sleepover guest. Consider creating a slideshow of the pictures as well. The next morning, teens can talk about what the animals did and which animals were the troublemakers. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

This event is always a crowd-pleaser, so remember to post pictures on your library’s social media.

TIP:

The show-and-tell component could also be a fun multigenerational/family event, or you can use it as outreach to a local nursing home or pediatric hospital.

TIP:

To add a safety lesson, consider having some animals escape overnight and “get lost.” A deputy can bring those animals back to the library the next morning and give a talk about safety and staying close to caregivers.

TIP:

Consider adding a pizza party with a movie night to the drop-off event, or donuts and juice to the morning pick-up.

GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Permission slips and name tags (see Printables)
- Safety pins (or string) for the name tags
- Phone/camera(s) and a printer
- Blankets, pillows, and/or a tent for sleeping
- Optional: Food (pizza, popcorn, donuts, juice), a slideshow and projector, puzzles, games, movies, coloring sheets



Image Source: The Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library



Image Source: The Erlanger Branch of the Kenton County Public Library

GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

If you do not use teen volunteers, staff members will need to rearrange the animals and take pictures of them.

RESOURCES

Web

Customizable template for participation certificate: <https://bit.ly/2T07fdF>

Picture Books

Bear Snores On (2005) by Karma Wilson and Jane Chapman

Bedtime for Sweet Creatures (2020) by Nikki Grimes

Chester Raccoon and the Almost Perfect Sleepover (2017) by Audrey Penn

Fancy Nancy: Saturday Night Sleepover (2016) by Jane O'Connor

Good Night Baby Dragons (2018) by Adam Gamble, Mark Jasper, and Suwin Chan

I Want My Hat Back (Hat Trilogy #1) (2011) by Jon Klassen

Maisy Goes on a Sleepover (2016) by Lucy Cousins

Mother Goose's Pajama Party (2015) by Danna Smith

Silly Lullaby (2019) by Sandra Boynton

Sleepover Duck! (2018) by Carin Bramsen

Time to Sleep, Sheep the Sheep! (2010) by Mo Willems

Uni's First Sleepover (2019) by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Where's My Teddy? (2017) by Jez Alborough

OFFICIAL PERMISSION SLIP
STUFFED ANIMAL SLEEPOVER

STUFFED ANIMAL NAME: _____

Age: _____

Allergies: _____

Favorite type of story: _____

Favorite game: _____

Special requests: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____

Phone number: _____

Hello! My name is

I belong to

ORIGAMI ANIMAL BOOKMARKS

AGES

Children 8+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Origami bookmarks! This is an easy program to modify for any age group or animal theme. Try combining with Chapter 01: Folded Book Animals for a multigenerational paper-folding party. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Scissors
- Tape or glue
- Construction paper
- Cardstock for bookmark variations
- Origami paper for complex folds

Print/photocopy stacks of instructions beforehand. Most origami bookmarks are the type that slide onto the corner of a book page. You can also glue or tape flat origami animals onto a piece of cardstock.

RESOURCES

Web

Woodland creature corner bookmark tutorial: <https://bit.ly/3bvldJD>

Butterfly corner bookmark tutorial: <https://bit.ly/3dyCEvw>

Koala corner bookmark tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2LmTAcj>

Origami Nonfiction

Easy Origami (1992) by John Montroll (middle grade)

Jungle Animals (2017) (or any Origami Fun book) by Robyn Hardyman (middle grade)

Origami Birds (2017) by Anne George (early reader)

TIP:

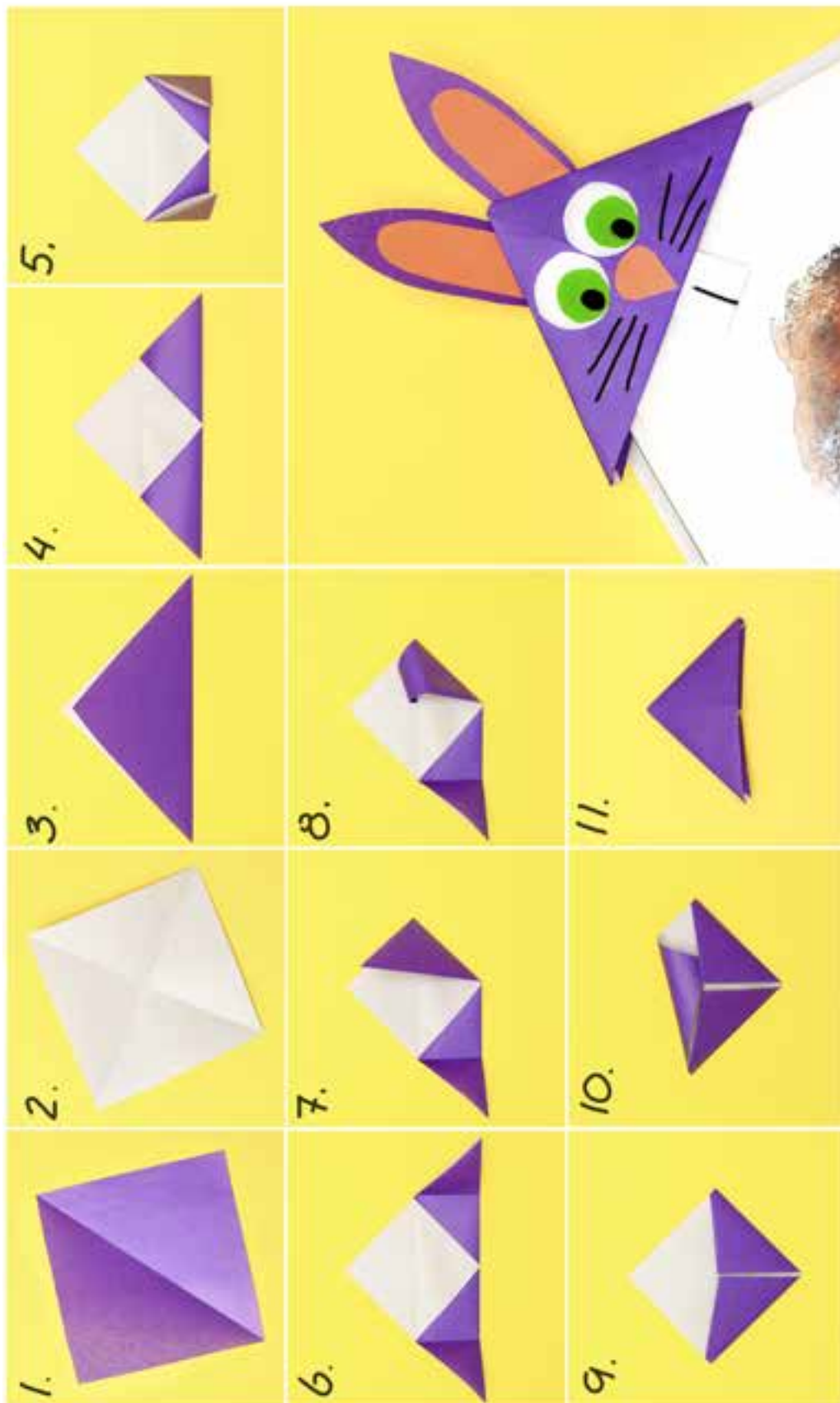
For Harry Potter fans, try *Harry Potter Origami* (2019) (not for beginners).

TIP:

For manga-loving teens, try the more complex *Manga Origami* (2016) by Márcio Hideshi Noguchi and Seth Friedman. See also Chapter 01: Animal Anime and Manga for an animal anime book list.

PRINTABLE

Bunny Corner Bookmarks



CREATING AND CODING AN ANIMATION

AGES

Children 10+ years

Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Using the free online coding program Scratch, teens create an animated cartoon featuring an animal sprite (computer graphic). Teens code instructions to populate their cartoon with words and characters. Scratch is easy to teach, even for non-coders. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- A computer lab or laptops
- A projector for the Scratch demonstration

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

You will need a computer lab or a room that can be adapted into a computer lab-like space with a projector. One or two Scratch-savvy volunteers are recommended to help with troubleshooting.

Possible partnerships:

- Code Ninjas (paid introductory class teaches Scratch)
- STEM outreach librarians (check your state libraries)
- Girls Code (free downloadable coding lessons and club templates)
- Prenda Coding (paid coding resource designed for libraries)

RESOURCES

Web

Scratch: <https://scratch.mit.edu/>

Code Ninjas: <https://www.codeninjas.com/>

Start a Girls Who Code club: <https://girlswhocode.com/clubs/>

Free coding lessons from Girls Who Code: <https://bit.ly/2LtfElv>

Prenda coding: <https://prendacodeclub.com/>

TIP:

Ask teens who have them to bring their own laptops; have extras on hand for teens who do not.

TIP:

To run this program with children 10+ years, just add more volunteers.

TIP:

Be sure to purchase the most recent editions of Scratch reference books. Earlier versions are obsolete, as the platform continues to change.

Middle Grade Nonfiction

Coding for Kids: Scratch: Learn Coding Skills, Create 10 Fun Games, and Master Scratch (2019) by Matthew Highland

Coding Projects in Scratch: A Step-By-Step Visual Guide to Coding Your Own Animations, Games, Simulations, and More! (2019) by Jon Woodcock

HUNGRY, HUNGRY HIPPOS

AGES

Children 4+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The hippos are hungry, hungry! Read a book about hippos, such as *Hilda Must be Dancing*, *Big Little Hippo*, or *The Hiccupotamus*. *Saving Fiona* is also a great nonfiction choice because you can also show children footage of Fiona from the Cincinnati Zoo website. Augment the program with a hippo sing-along or felt board. After storytime, children make a hippo puppet craft and/or play a fun twist on the classic Hungry, Hungry Hippo board game. Suggested runtime: 90 minutes

Wiggle Song: The Feet of a Hippo

To the tune of “The Wheels on the Bus.” Lyrics from *One Little Librarian* blog: <https://bit.ly/2LthtyR>

The feet of the hippo go thump, thump, thump,
Thump, thump, thump.
The feet of a hippo go thump, thump, thump, all day long.
The nose of a hippo goes snort, snort, snort,
Snort, snort, snort.
The nose of a hippo goes snort, snort, snort all day long.
The tail of a hippo goes swish, swish, swish,
Swish, swish, swish.
The tail of a hippo goes swish, swish, swish, all day long.

Felt Board Rhyme: One Hippo in the Bathtub

Lyrics from *SLC Book Boy* blog: <https://bit.ly/3fEFb9o>

One hippo in the bathtub going for a swim
Knock, knock (clap hands)
Splash, splash, (slap knees)
Come on in!
Repeat for up to six hippos.

TIP:

See also Chapter 02: Early Literacy for more hippo songs.

ADAPTATION:

For older children or teens, skip the storytime and make a full-body hungry hippo tournament where they roll around on skateboards or flat mechanic dollies. One idea here: <https://bit.ly/3fEESLM>

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For the paper bag hippo craft, you will need:

- Paper bags and paper plates
- Gray and pink construction paper or paint
- Googly eyes
- Glue sticks
- Marshmallows for teeth
- Markers
- Scissors

Example and instructions for a paper bag hippo puppet here: <https://bit.ly/3dDfKTS>

For the tabletop hippo game, you will need:

- One table with four chairs
- Plastic balls and a laundry basket
- Four shallow cardboard boxes and paint
- Construction paper
- Paper towel tubes
- Glue
- Velcro strips

Construct hippo hats from the shallow boxes (paint the boxes, use paper tubes for nostrils and eye support, insert strips of Velcro for adjustable sizing).

Hungry, Hungry Hippos



Image source: Danielle Marsh of Kenton Tipton County Public Library

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

While the storytime and craft could be held in your usual programming space, the tabletop hippo game is a great one to take outside.

RESOURCES

Web

The Fiona Show from the Cincinnati Zoo: <https://bit.ly/2y0byOU>

Memphis Zoo Hippo Cam: <https://bit.ly/2Tflhav>

“Five Hungry Hippos” is another great flannel story/song: <https://bit.ly/2AotROD>

Picture Books

Big Little Hippo (2019) by Valeri Gorbachev (F)

Duck and Hippo, Lost and Found (Duck and Hippo #2) (2017) by Jonathan London (F)

Elmer and the Hippos (2010) by David McKee (F)

Hello, Hippo, Goodbye, Bird (2016) by Kristyn Crow (F)

Here Comes Doctor Hippo (2012) by Jonathan London (F)

The Hiccupotamus (2006) by Aaron Zenz (F)

Hilda Must Be Dancing (2008) by Karma Wilson (F)

Hippos Are Huge (2017) by Jonathan London (NF)

One Red Sock (2019) by Jennifer Sattler (F)

Early Readers

The Case of the Missing Hippo (2019) by Laura James and Emily Fox (or any Fabio the World’s Greatest Flamingo Detective book) (F)

Hip, Hippo, Hooray for Fiona! (2017) by Jan Sherbin (NF)

Hippopotamister (2016) by John Patrick Green (F)

Hippopotamus (2017) by Grace Hansen (NF)

Hippopotamuses (2016) by Kate Riggs (NF)

Hippos (2005) by Conrad J. Storad (NF)

Huge Hippos/Grandes hipopótamos (2013) by Ryan Nagelhout (NF)

Saving Fiona: The Story of the World’s Most Famous Baby Hippo (2018) by Thane Maynard (NF)

The Truth About Hippos (2018) by Maxwell Eaton III (NF)

STORYTIME SAFARI

AGES

Children 4+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

After a wild animal storytime, children roam around a room that has been set up as a safari! Craft options include simple binoculars and paper plate masks. For the safari, you will need to print and display photos of the featured animals; puppets or stuffed animals could also be used instead of photos. Depending on time and resources, consider adding habitats for each animal.

For a passive component, make a safari-themed selfie backdrop. The backdrop could be as simple as sheets of brown craft paper decorated with safari animals and taped to the wall. Consider props such as animal masks or “grass” glued to piece of cardboard that children can crouch behind with their binoculars. Teen volunteers could create the display and/or take the younger children’s pictures.

Suggested runtime: 120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For the safari, you will need:

- Animal photos, puppets, or stuffed animals
- Animal facts for older children

For the paper plate lion mask, you will need:

- Paper plates
- Yellow and orange construction paper
- Glue
- Popsicle sticks (optional)

Cut a round hole out of the center of a paper plate. Glue strips of yellow and orange construction paper around the edges for its mane. Add a popsicle stick handle if desired. (Or see Program Documents for printable masks to color.)

For the binocular craft, you will need

- Toilet paper rolls
- Construction paper
- Tape or glue
- A hole punch and string
- Stickers (optional)

ADAPTATION:

For older children, display animal tracks around the room and have them match animals to tracks. This could also be a passive program. See online manual for Animal Tracks Scavenger Hunt PowerPoint, which features animals that live in North America.

TIP:

Older children might also like the animal poop angle. Instead of matching animal tracks, match animal scat. Also consider the board game Who Pooped?: A Matching and Memory Game.

CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST

Wrap two rolls together with a strip of construction paper. Tape or glue firmly. Punch one hole in the outside edge of each roll and thread a string through both holes to serve as a strap. More detailed instructions here: <https://bit.ly/2WUcOeG>

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Add one additional staff member or volunteer to each craft station.

RESOURCES**Web**

A storytime safari from *Miss Barbara at the Library*: <https://bit.ly/2WOR6sG>

More lion ideas from *Jen in the Library*: <https://bit.ly/3fIMdKf>

Parrot/jungle theme ideas from *Abby the Librarian*: <https://bit.ly/3flbOTI>

Animal poop quiz from *Boys Life*: <https://bit.ly/3fFUbnm>

Grossology classroom activities (with scat chart): <https://bit.ly/2WOXuQB>

Picture Books

Along the Tapajós (2019) by Fernando Vilela and Daniel Hahn

An Ambush of Tigers: A Wild Gathering of Collective Nouns (2015) by Betsy R. Rosenthal and Jago Silver

Camp Tiger (2019) by Susan Choi

Giraffes Can't Dance (2012) by Giles Andreae

If You Are a Kaka, You Eat Doo Doo (2016) by Sara Martel and Sara Lynn Cramb (NF)

Operation: Photobomb (2019) by Becky Cattie, Tara Luebbe, and Matthew Rivera

Professional Crocodile (2017) by Giovanna Zoboli and Mariachiara Di Giorgio

Way Far Away on a Wild Safari (2006) by Jan Peck

We All Went on Safari: A Counting Journey Through Tanzania (2004) by Laurie Krebs

What Do They Do with All That Poo? (2018) by Jane Kurtz (NF)

TIP:

For more preschool picture books, check out the Early Literacy Book List!

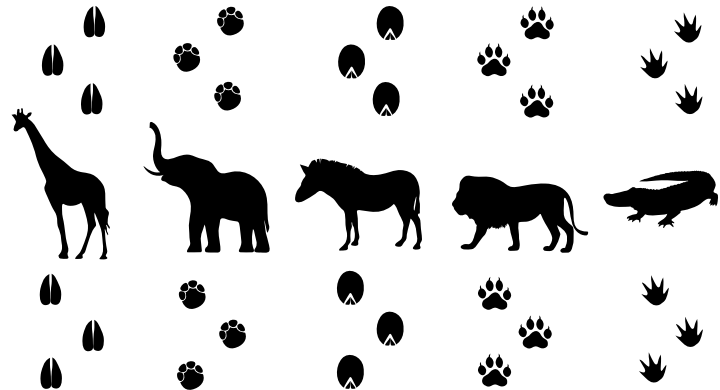
RESIZABLE DOWNLOADS

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Safari Animals



Safari Animal Tracks & Silhouettes



Safari Icons



Simple Safari Animal Masks



OWL PELLET DISSECTION

AGES

Children 8+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Find bones in owl puke! But first read some owl books and give some fun owl facts. Ask children to guess how many bones they think they will find, and give a prize to whoever is the closest to their guess. Teen volunteers or caregivers could assist in the dissection, working slowly to remove and identify bones as they go. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Owl pellets from Amazon or Carolina Biological (one per family)
- Tweezers
- White printer paper or paper plates
- Hand sanitizer and vinyl gloves
- USB microscope (optional)

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Optionally, invite guest speakers from a raptor center, Audubon Society chapter, or local zoo.

RESOURCES

Web

Tips for owl pellet dissection: <https://bit.ly/2SVlvmM>

Source for owl pellets: <https://bit.ly/2WORw2e>

Facts about owl pellets from the International Owl Center: <https://bit.ly/2WIT8KE>

Ted-Ed: How Animals See in the Dark by Anna Stökl: <https://bit.ly/2YWUHrf>

Night vision article on *EarthSky*: <https://bit.ly/2T1m6o9>

Owl Research Institute <https://www.owlresearchinstitute.org>

13 Fun Facts About Owls by The Audubon Society: <https://bit.ly/2T0nes3>

Owls from The Cornell Lab: <https://bit.ly/3cn8qvn>

TIP:

Owl pellet dissection could also be part of a program about nocturnal creatures. Invite a guest speaker from your local Audubon chapter, zoo, or park; set up a simulation of owl and bat habitats in a darkened room, or build a bat house and discuss the importance of bats in managing the insect population. Recommended reference book: *Bats: An Illustrated Guide to All Species* (2018) by Marianne Taylor and Merlin Tuttle.

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, show pictures of various foods and ask children to guess what owls might choose. They can make a collage on a paper plate of things an owl might eat. You could talk about owl pellets, but skip the dissection for a younger crowd.

ADAPTATION:

For tweens or teens, provide bone charts for small animals and ask them to reconstruct their findings. If you do this, make sure to purchase pellets that have skeletons that can be reconstructed.

Owl BooksPicture Books

Glow: Animals with Their Own Night-Lights (2015) by W.H. Beck (NF)

Good Night Owl by Greg Pizzoli (2016) (F)

Greta the Great Horned Owl (2019) by Christie Gove-Berg (NF)

Little Owl's Night (2013) by Divya Srinivasan (F)

Owl Babies by Martin Waddell (2002) (F)

Owl Bat, Bat Owl (2017) by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick (F)

Owl Sees Owl by Laura Godwin (2016) (F)

Owls (2006) by Gail Gibbons (NF)

Prickly Hedgehogs (2018) by Jane McGuinness (NF)

Who Goes There? (2009) by Jennifer Ericsson and Bert Kitchen (NF)

Early Readers

Eva's Treetop Festival (2015) by Rebecca Elliott (or any Owl Diaries book) (F)

Hoot Owl, Master of Disguise (2015) by Sean Taylor (F)

Owls (2014) by Laura Mash (NF)

Book of Bones: 10 Record-Breaking Animals (2017) by Gabrielle Balkan and Sam Brewster (NF)

Middle Grade

Owl Puke, the Book (2013) by Jane Hammerslough (NF)

Owling: Enter the World of Mysterious Birds of the Night (2019) by Mark Wilson (NF)

Owl's Outstanding Donuts (2019) by Robin Yardi (F)

Owls: Strange and Wonderful (2016) by Laurence Pringle (NF)

Snowy Owl Invasion! Tracking an Unusual Migration (2018) by Sandra Markle (NF)

Bats: Learning to Fly (Science Comics) (2017) by Falynn Kock (NF)

SKYPE A SCIENTIST

AGES

Children 8+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Children learn from animal scientists during a Skype interview! From the Skype a Scientist website, choose from almost any kind of scientist, including zoologists, ecologists, marine biologists, evolutionary biologists, veterinarians, and paleontologists. Before the interview, consider reading a book related to your topic. Then lead a quick discussion to generate questions that the children might want to ask. If you have time, include a craft or experiment after the interview. For example, if you have a scientist discuss working with bats, do a simple bat craft and/or echolocation experiment. Or pass out coloring sheets to complete in the library or take home. You can tailor the content to any age group. The recommended donation for an interview is \$1. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Schedule the interview and discuss the topic with the scientist in advance. For the interview itself, you will need a computer hooked up to the internet and AV equipment. Do a trial run and make sure everything is running well before the program. Set up chairs and make sure the group understands how the program works before you dial in your scientist.

RESOURCES

Skype a Scientist: <https://www.skypeascientist.com/>

Children's Nonfiction

Picture Books

Trapped! A Whale's Rescue (2015) by Robert Burleigh and Wendell Minor

What Do You Do If You Work at the Zoo? (2020) by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page

Early Readers

Animals (Jobs if You Like...) (2012) by Charlotte Guillain

I Want to Be a Veterinarian (2018) by Laura Driscoll and Cataline Echeverri

If You Love Dolphins, You Could Be (2019) by May Nakamura (early reader)

TIP:

For older children and teens interested in marine biology, try these fun YouTube videos from Sea Kate Run (<https://bit.ly/3dGztCc>) and Sea & Me (<https://bit.ly/2y13opw>).

TIP:

Remember to prepare some age-appropriate questions in case you have a quiet group.

Middle Grade

Alex the Parrot (2012) by Stephanie Spinner and Meilo So

Big Blue Forever: The Story of Canada's Largest Blue Whale Skeleton (2017) by Anita Miettunen

Caring for Marine Animals (2016) by Richard Wunderlick

Heroes of the Environment (2009) by Harrier Rohmer and Julie McLaughlan

I Like Animals...What Jobs Are There? (2019) by Steve Martin and Roberto Blefari

Marine Biologist (2019) by William David Thomas

So, You Want to Work with Animals?: Discover Fantastic Ways to Work with Animals, from Veterinary Science to Aquatic Biology (2017) by J. M. Bedell

Winter's Tail: How One Little Dolphin Learned to Swim Again (2011) by Juliana Hatkoff, Isabella Hatkoff, and Craig Hatkoff

Zoo Scientists to the Rescue (2017) by Patricia Newman

Children's FictionPicture Books

Ida, Always (2016) by Caron Levis and Charles Santoso

Saving Samantha (2004) by Robbyn Smith van Frankenhuyzen and Gijsbert van Frankenhuyzen

Early Readers

Bad Kitty: Kitten Trouble (Bad Kitty #15) (2019) by Nick Bruel

A Piglet Called Truffle (Jasmin Green Rescues #1) (2020) by Helen Peters and Ellie Snowdon

Skunked! (Calpurnia Tate, Girl Vet #1) (2016) by Jacqueline Kelly, Teagan White, and Jennifer L. Meyer

Little but Fierce (2020) by Joan Emerson

Middle Grade

The Evolution of Calpurnia Tate (2009) by Jacqueline Kelly

Fight for Life (2007) by Laurie Halse Anderson (or any Vet Volunteers book)

A Home for Goddesses and Dogs (2020) by Leslie Connor

Ivy (2017) by Katherine Coville

Lila and Hadley (2020) by Kody Keplinger

The Purr-fect Scoop (2018) (Sprinkle Sundays #3) by Simon Coco

Snapdragon (2020) by Kat Leyh

Strays Like Us (2018) by Cecilia Galante

The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle (2019 [1922]) by Hugh Lofting

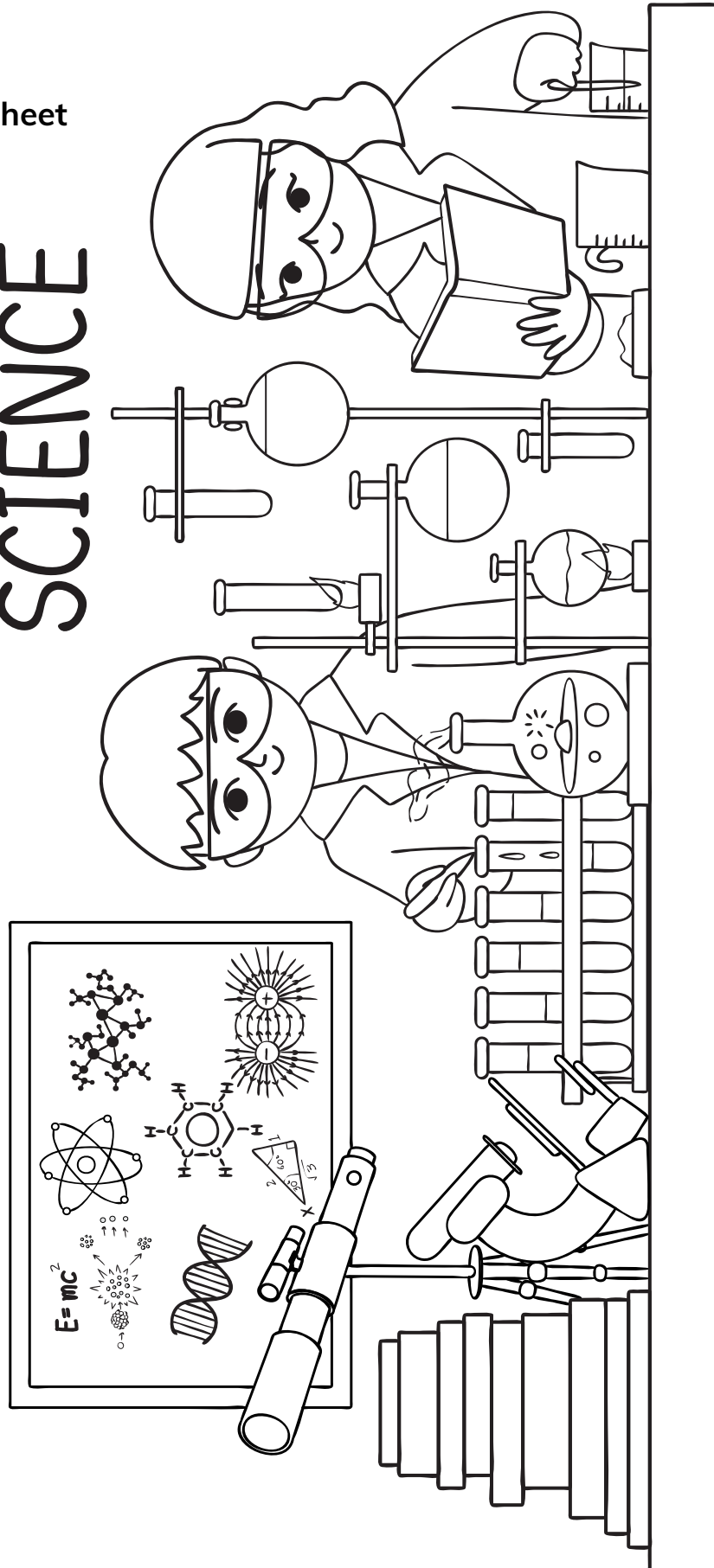
TIP:

For books about individual scientists, see Chapter 03: Who Helped Me?; for YA and adult books about working with animals, see Chapter 03: Teen Volunteer Fair.

PRINTABLE

Science Coloring Sheet

SCIENCE



PRINTABLE

Sleeping Bat Coloring Sheet



MARINE BIOLOGIST CRAFTS

AGES

Children 4–6 years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Shark teeth, snorkel gear, and a secret message in a bottle! Start this program with any ocean-themed books or a video, such as the five-minute “I Want to Be a Marine Biologist” on YouTube. Craft options include a snorkel mask, a shiny CD fish (or shark teeth), a simple origami turtle, a cut-and-glue shark, and a message-in-a-bottle coloring sheet. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes

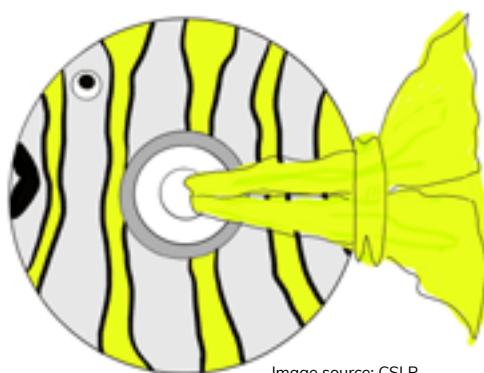


Image source: CSLP

TIP:

For craft ideas for older children, try ocean zones in a jar (<https://bit.ly/2yU5qle>) or ocean snow globes (<https://bit.ly/2YZnyLA> and <https://bit.ly/2xXuWvZ>).

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Snorkel Mask

You will need:

- Snorkel mask template (see Resources)
- Cardstock
- Markers and/or stickers
- Blue cellophane
- Construction paper and tape
- Elastic

Cut the snorkel masks out of cardstock before the program, or let children do this step themselves (remember to cut out the eyeholes!). Roll one piece of construction paper length-wise and tape the circumference to hold it in the shape of a breathing tube. Each child decorates their mask, then tapes a piece of blue cellophane to the back for the “goggles.” Use elastic for the head straps; to attach the breathing tube, poke two pen holes in the tube, then run the elastic through them before tying the elastic to both sides of the mask.

CRAFT

Shiny CD Fish

You will need:

- CDs
- Permanent markers
- Googly eyes (optional)
- Tissue paper or construction paper

Repurpose old CDs to make shiny fish or shark teeth. To make shiny shark teeth, draw triangles around the outsider perimeter of the CD. Then fill in the negative space (not the teeth!) with a dark color. For the fish, draw scales or stripes, and loop strips of tissue paper through the center hole for a tail and fins.

Cut-and-Glue Shark

You will need:

- Shark template (see Resources)
- Cardstock
- Coloring supplies
- Scissors and glue

For cutting practice, children cut out the pieces themselves and glue them onto the cardstock.

Simple Origami Turtle

You will need:

- Origami instructions (see Resources)
- Origami or printer paper
- Glue and markers, stickers, or sequins (optional)

This is preschool-friendly origami that only requires two folds. Embellishments are optional but recommended, especially if you do not provide colorful origami paper.

Message-in-a-Bottle Coloring Sheet

You will need:

- Coloring sheets (see Resources)
- Crayons

TIP:

Even if children cut out their own cut-and-glue sharks, you still might want to precut all the little teeth beforehand.

TIP:

To expand the message-in-a-bottle theme, ask children to imagine what might be written in a secret message. Or place a secret message in a real bottle to read at the end of the program.

CRAFT**UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS**

For large groups or to run more than one craft at a time, you will need need one additional staff member or volunteer per station.

RESOURCES**Videos**

"I Want to Be a Marine Biologist!": <https://bit.ly/361cwXO>

Earth Unplugged: <https://bit.ly/2zu00E3>

SciAll.org: <https://bit.ly/3cs3o0H>

Picture Books

Chomp: A Shark Romp (2019) by Michael Paul (NF)

Don't Worry, Little Crab (2020) by Chris Haughton

The Heart of a Whale (2020) by Anna Pignataro

Here Comes Ocean (2020) by Meg Fleming

The Ocean in Your Bathtub (2020) by Seth Fishman (NF)

Over in the Ocean in a Coral Reef (2004) by Marianne Berkes

Peppa Pig Visits the Great Barrier Reef (2017)

Turtle Tug to the Rescue (2017) by Michael Slack

TIP:

For ocean fiction for older children, see Chapter 06: Interactive Movie: Finding Nemo.

CRAFT

PRINTABLE

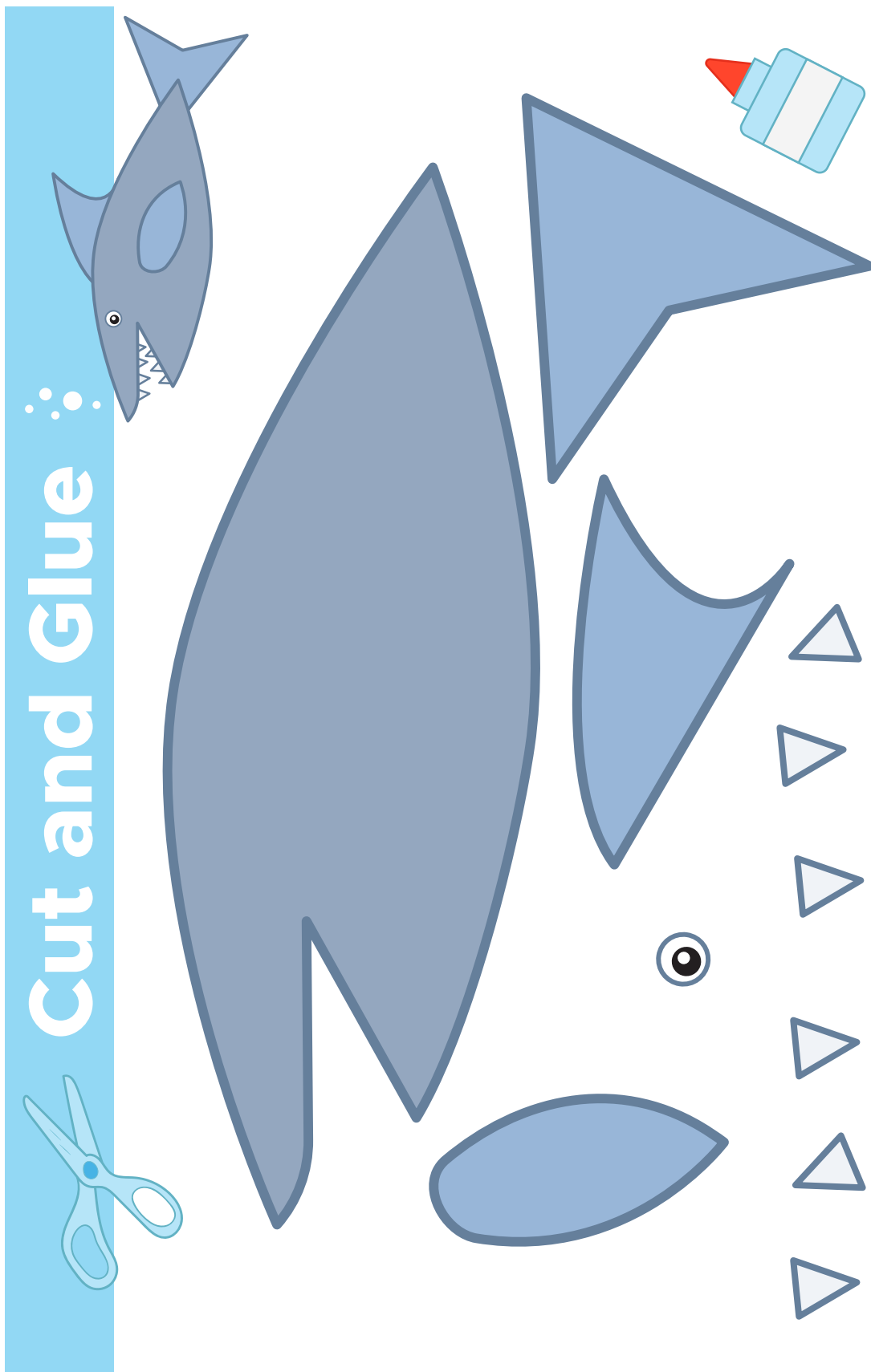
Snorkel Mask Template



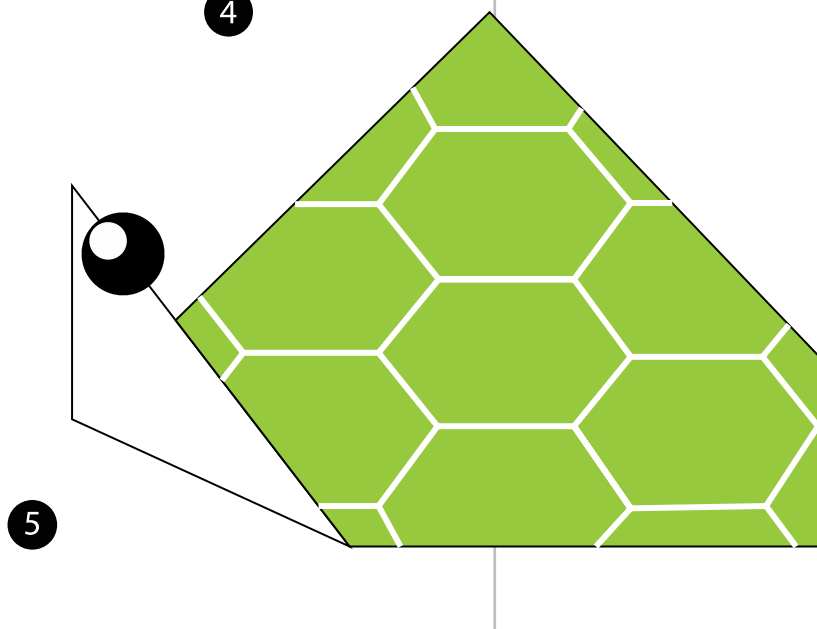
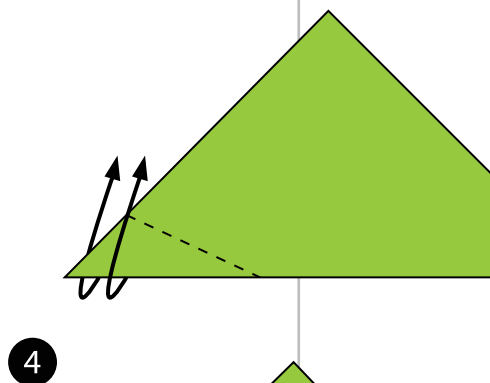
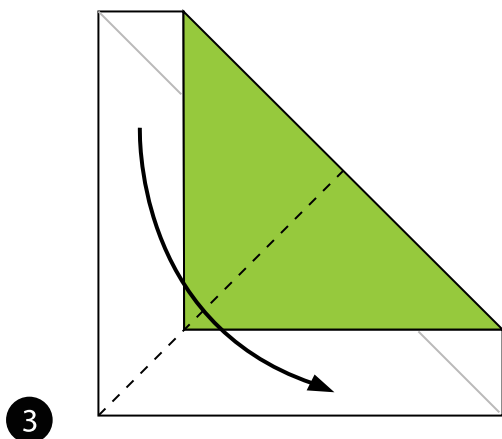
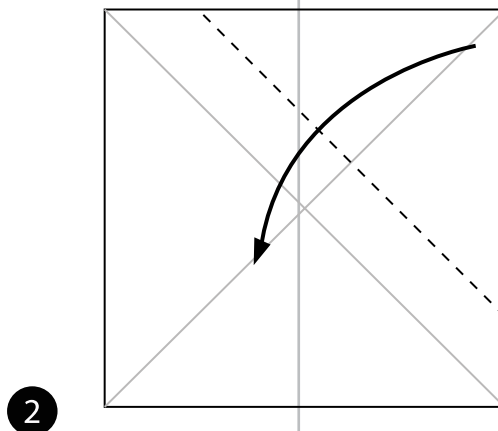
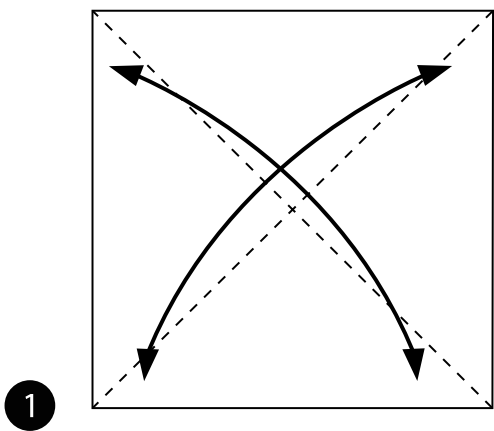
CRAFT

PRINTABLE

Cut and
Glue Shark



Simple Turtle Origami



A Turtle

PRINTABLE

Message in a Bottle
Coloring Sheet



SHELTER PET PORTRAITS

AGES

Children 6+ years

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Participants make portraits of adoptable pets to donate to the local animal shelter! Alternatively, each participant integrates a photo of a shelter pet into a collage. The shelter can display the pictures and give them to the pets' forever families when they get adopted. This is a great way for children to practice art and contribute to their communities; alternatively, they could create portraits of their own pets. This program is easily adapted to any age or artistic ability. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes

Adaptation ideas:

- Drawing and painting 101: Have an artistic volunteer or staff member give basic drawing tips.
- Paint-by-numbers: Create paint-by-numbers templates from shelter pet photos before the program, or show teens or adults how to do it themselves. See Resources for an online tutorial on how to use the free app PBNify.
- Library paint-along: A paint-along can be easily adapted to any animal theme but requires an artistic staff member, artist, or art teacher to run it. While fun, this adaptation is not suited to shelter pet portraits because everyone paints along to the same thing.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For shelter pet portraits, you will need:

- Reference photos of pets
- Drawing and painting supplies

For shelter pet collages, you will need:

- Printed pet pictures
- Pet clip art (see Printables)
- Old magazines
- Paper or tagboard
- Any craft supplies you have on hand (e.g., construction paper, markers, glue, sequins, feathers, pom-poms, etc.).
- Pet-themed scrapbook paper (optional)
- Stickers or gel pens (optional)

TIP:

Combine with Chapter 05: Pet Expo and partner with your local animal shelter for a pet adoption-themed event!

OUTREACH:

In addition to connecting with your local animal shelter, this program is portable and could be great outreach to senior centers or retirement homes.

TIP:

As an option or even a whole separate program, have participants make toys for shelter pets instead. Ask your local shelter about what kinds of toys they accept, and be aware of safety concerns regarding materials that pets can easily tear and swallow, such as socks or yarn.



Image source: Maria Parker of Kenton County Public Library

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Consider inviting a local artist or art teacher to lead the event.

RESOURCES

Web

Free paint-by-numbers app: <https://pbnify.com/>

Paint-by-numbers tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2SZ7Jke>

Pet toys inspiration here: <https://bit.ly/3bvfc0O> and <https://bit.ly/2Lp4Yoc>

Middle Grade Shelter Nonfiction

Humane Society (2016) by Katie Marsico

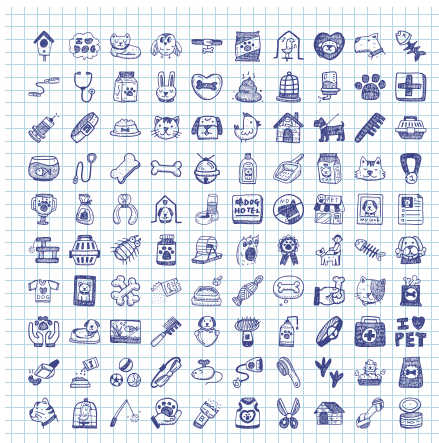
No Shelter Here: Making the World a Kinder Place for Dogs (2012) by Rob Laidlaw

Sweet Senior Pups (2018) by Kama Einhorn

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Collage Clip Art



TIP:

Even if your local shelter does not partner with you for the program itself, be sure to contact them for the most up-to-date pictures of available pets.

TIP:

See Chapter 04: We Rate Pets for pet fiction.

WHO HELPED ME?

AGES

Children 8+ years
Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Do your patrons love trivia? If so, they will get a kick out of this lift-the-flap display. Glue pictures of different animals on flaps; underneath each flap is a photograph of the scientist who helped them. More importantly, there is a list of books or movies about this scientist and/or animal based on your library's resources. Can be adapted for any age group.

Some animal scientists to consider:

- Temple Grandin (cows)
- Jane Goodall (chimpanzees)
- Steve Irwin (crocodiles)
- Dian Fossey (gorillas)
- Sangdean Lek Chailert (Asian Elephants)
- Paula Kahumbu (African Elephants)
- Rachel Carson (sea animals)
- Jacques Cousteau (sea animals)
- Eugenie Clark (sharks)
- Joan Proctor (reptiles)
- Timothy Treadwell (grizzly bears)
- Jack Hanna (zookeeper)
- Doug Peacock (grizzly bears)
- Kevin Richardson (lions)
- Lawrence Anthony (elephants)
- Archie Carr (sea turtles)

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Poster board
- Printer paper, tagboard, or cardboard
- A utility knife
- Printed pictures of animals
- Printed resource sheets to go under each flap
- Glue
- Laminator

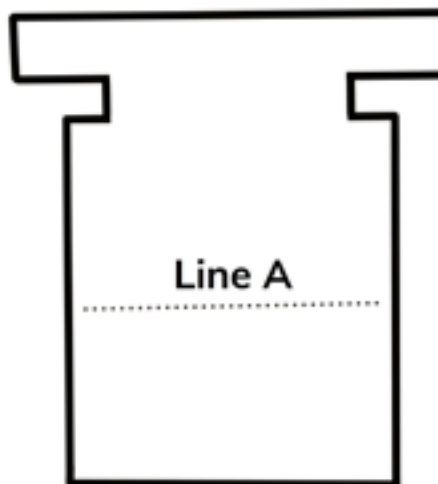
TIP:

Children will want to lift these flaps no matter what, so be sure to laminate them so they stand up to wear.

DECORATION/DISPLAY | LOW COST | PASSIVE | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

Choose wall space or gather an easel on which to display the poster board. Cut flaps out of 8.5 x 11" printer paper, tagboard, or cardboard, and glue one animal picture to each flap. Laminate if necessary.

With the utility knife, cut thin slits in the poster board. Each slit should be about ½" wider than the width of the body of the flap (line A). For each animal, glue a resource list and/or photos on the poster board (underneath where the flap will go). When finished, slide in the flaps from behind.



Flap Template. Image source: CSLP

RESOURCES

Web

“Top 15 Female Wildlife Conservationists and Animal Rights Activists”:
<https://bit.ly/2Ltp5Br>

About Sangdean Lek Chailert: <https://bit.ly/3csDbyX>

Nonfiction

Picture Books

The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Temple Grandin (2017) by Julia Finley Mosca

Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles (2018) by Patricia Valdez

Owen and Mzee: The True Story of a Remarkable Friendship (2006) by Isabella Hatkoff

Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean’s Most Fearless Scientist (2017) by Jess Keating

Spring After Spring: How Rachel Carson Inspired the Environmental Movement (2018) by Stephanie Ross Sisson

Swimming with Sharks: The Daring Discoveries of Eugenie Clark (2016) by Heather Lang

The Watcher: Jane Goodall’s Life with the Chimps (2011) by Jeannette Winter

Early Readers

I Am Jane Goodall (2016) by Brad Meltzer and Christopher Eliopoulos

The Fantastic Undersea Life of Jacques Cousteau (2012) by Dan Yaccarino

TIP:

For more children’s books about working with animals, see Chapter 03: Skype a Scientist.

Middle Grade

The Great White Shark Scientist (2016) by Sy Montgomery

Manfish: A Story of Jacques Cousteau (2015) by Jennifer Beren

Rachel Carson and Ecology for Kids: Her Life and Ideas, with 21 Activities and Experiments (2020) by Rae Rowena

Sea Turtle Scientist (2017) by Stephen R. Swinburne.

Super Women: Six Women Scientists Who Changed the World (2017) by Laurie Lawlor

Temple Grandin: How the Girl Who Loved Cows Embraced Autism and Changed the World (2014) by Sy Montgomery and Temple Grandin

Wild Horse Scientists (2014) by Kay Frydenborg

Young Adult

Black Pioneers of Science and Invention (1992) by Louis Haber

The Elephant Scientist (2016) by Caitlin O'Connell

Primates: The Fearless Science of Jane Goodall, Dian Fossey, and Biruté Galdikas (2015) by Jim Ottaviani

Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World (2016) by Rachel Ignotofsky

Adult

Animals Make Us Human (2010) by Temple Grandin

Elephant Whisperer: My Life with the Herd in the African Wild (2017) by Lawrence Anthony

A Forest in the Clouds: My Year Among the Mountain Gorillas in the Remote Enclave of Dian Fossey (2018) by John Fowler

The Grizzly Maze: Timothy Treadwell's Fatal Obsession with Alaskan Bears (2006) by Nick Jans

Grizzly Years: In Search of the American Wilderness (1996) by Doug Peacock

The Man Who Saved Sea Turtles: Archie Carr and the Origins of Conservation Biology (2007) by Frederick Rowe Davis

Part of the Pride: My Life Among the Big Cats of Africa (2016) by Kevin Richardson

The Sea Around Us, 3rd edition (2018) by Rachel Carson

Steve and Me (2008) by Terri Irwin

LOW COST | PASSIVE | OUTREACH | OUTSIDE PRESENTER

TEEN VOLUNTEER FAIR

AGES

Children 10+ years

Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Match teens with animal-related volunteer opportunities in your area, such as humane societies, animal shelters, or even veterinarian offices! Local organizations could give presentations about the work they do, then set up behind tables around the room with more information about how to start volunteering. This could also be a fully passive program in which you display local volunteer opportunities and information cards/flyers for teens to take. Suggested runtime: 120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For the passive program, you will only need to create a display and leave stacks of handouts for teens to take.

For the volunteer fair, you might need:

- Laptop and AV equipment
- A table for each organization

Contact local organizations to find out which ones need volunteers and/or might be willing to table or present. If possible, request promotional materials that these organizations already have.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

A large programming room for the volunteer fair.

RESOURCES

Web

Humane Society volunteering: <https://www.humanesociety.org/volunteer>

Humane Society International: <https://www.hsi.org/>

PetSmart charities: <https://petsmartcharities.org/pro>

YA/Adult Animal Careers Nonfiction

Young Adult

Careers if You Like Animals (2017) by Toney Allman

Career Opportunities Working with Animals (2011) by Shelly Field

Veterinarian (2003) by John Riddle and Rae Simons

ADAPTATION:

You could also focus on possible career paths instead. Bring in a local veterinarian to present and share stories about their work. They might also bring animals on which to demonstrate basic, health-related exams.

TIP:

Vocational high schools and local colleges with vet tech programs may be willing to give information about their programs or send students to present for extra credit.

TIP:

Remember to check with local pet and/or wildlife rehabilitation centers.

LOW COST | PASSIVE | OUTREACH | OUTSIDE PRESENTER

Adult

The Accidental Veterinarian: Tales from a Pet Practice (2019) by Philipp Schott

Animal Wise: The Thoughts and Emotions of Our Fellow Creatures (2013) by Virginia Morell

Lions and Tigers and Hamsters: What Animals Large and Small Taught Me About Life, Love, and Humanity (2019) by Mark Goldstein

YA/Adult Animal Careers Fiction

Young Adult

The Dog (2018) by David Paul Kirkpatrick and Steven James Taylor

Inubaka: Crazy for Dogs (Vols. 1–8) by Yukiya Sakuragi

Margaux With an X (2004) by Ronald Koertge.

Last Chance (A Robyn Hunter Mystery) (2012) by Norah McClintock

Stay with Me (2011) by Paul Griffin

The Unexpected Everything (2017) by Morgan Matson

Adult

All Creatures Great and Small (2014) by James Herriot

The Search (2010) by Nora Roberts

TIP:

For children's books on working with animals, see Chapter 03: Skype a Scientist.

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Pet Volunteer Poster Templates



LAND OF LADYBUGS

AGES

Children 4+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A fun, hands-on ladybug program! In a local park, read ladybug books and talk about where ladybugs live, what they eat, and their role in the ecosystem. Make simple ladybug masks if you have access to outdoor tables. Then each child releases their ladybugs. The best time for a ladybug release is in the early evening of May or June. Suggested runtime: 90 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For ladybug release, you will need:

- Ladybugs divided into individual cups (one per child)
- Water bottles (one per child)

Divide ladybugs into individual containers right before the program. Before children release their ladybugs, have them dampen the area with their water bottles, as the ladybugs will be thirsty after their long travel.

For ladybug masks, you will need:

- Red and black construction paper
- Popsicle sticks
- Glue

Cut out red ladybug masks (including eye holes) and black dots before the program. During the program, children glue black dots onto their masks and add popsicle stick handles.



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

Consider partnering with a local park to integrate a StoryWalk into this program. Instead of the self-information placards one might usually see along a trail, you make temporary placards out of pages from a single children's book. See the StoryWalk website for more: <https://www.kellogghubbard.org/storywalk>

ADAPTATION:

For older children, play an identification/ guessing game with red and black ladybug look-alikes.

ADAPTATION:

Have teens design and build their own ladybug boxes.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Hold program in a local park, forest, or nature preserve. Check with park naturalists before releasing thousands of ladybugs into the ecosystem.

RESOURCES

Web

StoryWalk information: <https://bit.ly/3btd89I>

Ladybugs for purchase (comes with lifecycle poster): <https://amzn.to/3bm-mLqA>

Ladybug house tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2WpbiSX>

Ladybug Picture Books

Are You a Ladybug? (2003) by Judy Allen (NF)

The Backyard Bug Book (2019) by Lauren Davidson (NF)

The Grouchy Ladybug (1999) by Eric Carle (F)

Hugs and Kisses for the Grouchy Ladybug (2018) by Eric Carle (F)

It's a Good Thing There Are Ladybugs (2014) by Joanne Mattern (NF)

Ladybug Girl (2008) by David Soman and Jackie Davis (F)

Lucy Ladybug (2016) by Sharon King-Chai (F)

What the Ladybug Heard Next (2018) by Julia Donaldson (F)

Yoo-Hoo, Ladybug! (2011) by Mem Fox and Laura Ljungkvist (F)

CREATE A CREATURE

AGES

Children 4+ years
Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

There is no place like home! And that home. And that home. In this program, children learn about habitats and how animals adapt to them. Read *Listen to our World* (2016) and/or show a brief video, such as “Animal Habitats” by Learning Junction. Show habitat cards and discuss which animals live in each habitat and why, then let participants get creative! Their task is to create a brand new animal that would thrive in a particular habitat. You can have them draw habitat cards, let them choose whichever habitat they like, or base the whole program around a specific habitat. Ask everyone to present their new animal—and describe what makes it perfectly suited to its habitat—at the end of the program. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Laptop and AV equipment
- A storytime-friendly book about habitats
- Habitat cards
- A variety of craft materials and tools (felt, cardboard, glue, clay, etc.)

Before the program, create large habitat cards with an image on one side and name (forest, jungle, wetland, etc.) on the other (see Printables). Set out craft supplies, and set up AV equipment if you plan to show a video.

RESOURCES

Web

Short habitat videos from PBS Learning Media: <https://bit.ly/2WJ2FkU>

Habitat lesson ideas from the Kennedy Center: <https://bit.ly/2Ag0XQu>

List of habitat websites/tools from Teach Hub: <https://bit.ly/3bt6gsX>

Habitat games from the Smithsonian: <https://ssec.si.edu/habitats>

“Animal Habitats” from Learning Junction: <https://bit.ly/3cnuDtc>

Habitat science from Home Science Tools: <https://bit.ly/2zAv7NX>

TIP:

This is a great program for family nights. Families can create new creatures together, or maybe even a family mascot.

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, make a game of matching animals to habitats.

TIP:

What are the four basic components of a habitat to consider?

TIP:

For more habitat resources, see Chapter 05: Recycling Olympics.

TIP:

For a board game, try EcoChains: Arctic Life, a multiplayer tabletop food web-building card game.

Habitat Books

Picture Books

Amazing Animal Homes (2018) by Chris Packham and Jason Cockcroft (NF)

Beehive (2020) by Jorey Hurley (NF)

Creature Features: 25 Animals Explain Why They Look the Way They Do (2014) by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page (NF)

Listen to Our World (2016) by Bill Martin Jr. and Michael Sampson (NF)

Lots of Spots (2010) by Lois Ehlert (NF)

My Very First Book of Animal Homes (2007) by Eric Carle (NF)

Over and Under the Pond (2017) by Kate Messner and Christopher Silas Neal (NF)

A Place to Start a Family: Poems About Creatures That Build (2018) by David L. Harrison and Giles Laroche (NF)

Step Inside!: A Look Inside Animal Homes (2012) by Catherine Ham (NF)

Through the Animal Kingdom: Discover Amazing Animals and Their Remarkable Homes (2019) by Derek Harvey and Charlotte Pepper (NF)

Walk on the Wild Side by Nicholas Oldland (F)

Waiting for Wings (2001) by Lois Ehlert (NF)

Welcome Home Bear (2015) by Il Sung Na (picture book)

We Build Our Homes: Small Stories of Incredible Animal Architects (2018) by Laura Knowles and Chris Madden (NF)

Early Readers

Animal Architects (2019) by Libby Romero (NF)

Around the Pond: Who's Been Here? (1996) by Lindsay Barrett George (or any *Who's Been Here* book) (F)

Homes in the Wild: Where Baby Animals and Their Parents Live (2019) by Lita Judge (NF)

Middle Grade

Animal Atlas (2019) by Anne Rooney and Lucy Rose (NF)

The Boreal Forest: A Year in the World's Largest Land Biome (2020) by L.E. Carmichael and Josée Bisailon (NF)

How Deep Is the Ocean? Ocean Animal Habitats (2018) by Monika Davies (NF)

Mez's Magic (The Lost Rainforest #1) (2018) by Eliot Schrefer and Emilia Dziubak (F)

Pax (2016) by Sara Pennypacker and Jon Klassen (F)

CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

Rewilding: Giving Nature a Second Chance (2017) by Jane Drake and Ann Love (NF)

Shell, Beak, Tusk: Shared Traits and the Wonders of Adaptation (2017) by Bridget Heos (NF)

The Water Bears (2020) by Kim Baker (F)

RESIZABLE DOWNLOADS

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Urban habitat



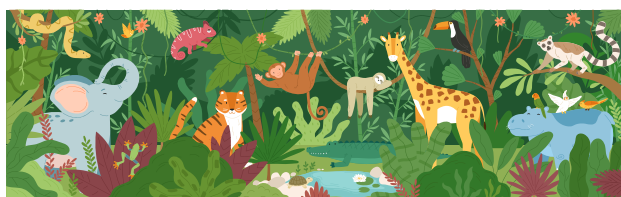
Arctic habitat



Forest habitat



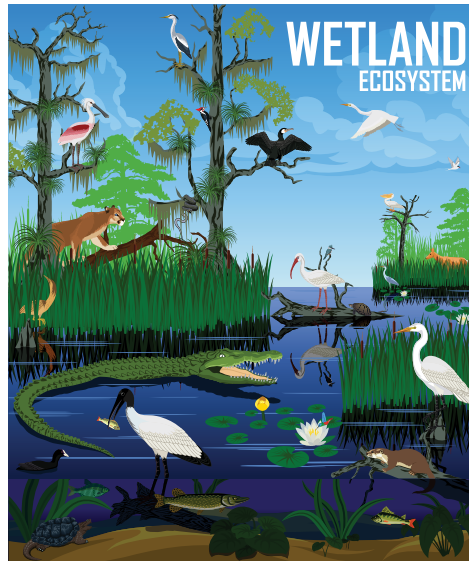
Jungle habitat



RESIZABLE DOWNLOADS

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Wetland habitat



Farm habitat



Ocean habitat



Desert habitat



BACKYARD HABITATS: BUG HOTELS, BIRD FEEDERS, AND BUTTERFLY PUDDLERS

AGES

Children 6+ years

Teens

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

A backyard habitat series for birds and pollinators! This program teaches participants the basics of backyard habitats: Project options include a bug hotel, a bird feeder, and a butterfly puddler. Build one habitat, or run a series to build all three. Modify habitat designs based on audience age and the supplies you have on hand; see Resources for more design ideas. Suggested runtime: 90 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION FOR BUG HOTELS

You will need:

- Recycled tin cans or plastic soda bottles
- Sticks, hollow bamboo, or bee tubes
- Leaves or pinecones
- Twine or string
- Something to punch holes in tin or plastic

Slice off the ends of recycled soda bottles, or remove the bottoms from tin cans. These will be used as outer wrappers for the bug hotels. During the program, participants bundle sticks into the cans or plastic bottle rounds. Punch holes in the plastic, and tie a string for hanging.

TIP:

Include a pollinator gardening component and give participants flower seedlings to take home and plant!

ADAPTATION:

For a fun twist, older children or teens could repurpose old Legos by turning them into bird feeder castles. Seed can be placed in a “moat” around the base.

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, pinecone bird feeders are an easy option. Tutorial here: <https://bit.ly/3dJpqMr>

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION FOR BIRD FEEDERS

You will need:

- Tin cans
- Craft sticks
- Paint and paint brushes
- String or twine
- Birdseed
- Small cups, soil, and flower seeds (optional)

Participants paint the outside of the cans and glue one craft stick for a perch. Punch holes and add string to hang.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION FOR BUTTERFLY PUDDLERS

- Pie tins or shallow dishes
- Sponges or flat river rocks
- Water and sugar (9:1 water to sugar ratio) or fresh fruit in water
- String or twine
- Decorative beads

Poke four evenly spaced holes around edge of the pie tin. Thread string through the holes, and add beads to the string for decoration. Tie all four strands together at the top, and add fruit or a sugar water mixture to attract butterflies.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION FOR BENEFICIAL PERENNIALS

You will need:

- Small cups with holes in the bottom or biodegradable pots
- Perennial seeds native to your area
- Soil (or peat pods for easier cleanup)

Start these before the program to make sure the seeds are viable, or let participants plant them themselves.

IMPORTANT:

Even in shallow dishes, butterflies need places to perch to drink the water, so remember the flat rocks or sponges.

SEEDY PERENNIALS TO ATTRACT BIRDS:

Alliums, sunflowers, coneflowers, poppies, cosmos, black-eyed Susans, etc.

SYRUPY PERENNIALS TO ATTRACT POLLINATORS:

Yarrow, bee balm, butterfly bush, lavender, nasturtiums, sage, hollyhocks, lupine, milkweed, etc.

TIP:

Be sure to choose non-invasive perennials for your area.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

One to three staff members depending on the size of your group/complexity of feeder design. You could also invite members of county or state agricultural extension offices to discuss local habitats and native plants. A good outdoor program.

RESOURCES

Web: General

Flowers for attracting pollinators: <https://bit.ly/365ePjv>

Attracting beneficial insects: <https://bit.ly/2zAvk3H>

Garden design tips from the National Wildlife Federation: <https://bit.ly/2LpQTXI>

Bird habitat basics: <https://bit.ly/2WSjv0S>

Web: Insect Hotels

Simple insect hotel tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2YVwcuA>

Insect hotels from UM Dearborn: <https://bit.ly/2WTYqDv>

Web: Bird Feeders

Pine cone bird feeders: <https://bit.ly/2TfU3Sf>

Tin can bird feeder: <https://bit.ly/2xTVkGS>

Craft stick bird feeder: <https://bit.ly/2WoaFZQ>

See Chapter 02: The Genius of Birds for more bird-related programming.

Web: Butterflies Puddlers

Butterfly puddler tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2zATyew>

Pie tin butterfly tutorial: <https://bit.ly/2Lm3bQy>

Bird and Pollinator Books

Picture Books

The Bee Book (2018) by Charlotte Milner (NF)

Common Critters: The Wildlife in Your Neighborhood (2020) by Pat Brisson and Dan Tavis (NF)

Crow Not Crow (2018) by Jane Yolen, Adam Stemple, and Elizabeth Dulemba (NF)

Hello, I'm Here! (2019) by Helen Frost and Rick Lieder (NF)

Save the Bees (2020) by Bethany Stahl (NF)

Early Readers

The Collectors (Cork and Fuzz #3) (2010) by Dori Chaconas and Lisa McCue (F)

The Real Poop on Pigeons (2019) by Kevin McCloskey (NF)

TIP:

Remember to check your county and state agricultural extension office websites for backyard gardening tips!

TIP:

For adult nonfiction, see Chapter 05: Backyard Animal Farming; for children's insect nonfiction, see Chapter 02: Creepy Crawlies.

CRAFT

Middle Grade

Coo (2020) by Kaela Noel (F)

Create Your Own Backyard Wildlife Habitat (2016) by Doris Dumrauf (2016) (NF)

The Girl Who Drew Butterflies: How Maria Merian's Art Changed Science (2018) by Joyce Sidman (NF)

Super Simple Backyard Projects: Fun and Easy Animal Environment Activities (2016) by Carolyn Bernhardt (NF)

The Triumphant Tale of the House Sparrow (2018) by Jan Thornhill (NF)

Wishtree (2017) by Katherine Applegate (F)

WE RATE PETS

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Participants share their funniest pet stories! They bring in pictures of their pets (or draw the pets they wish they had) and write funny captions. You can run this as a show-and-tell, or create a display and leave out templates and instructions for a passive program. Patrons vote on the funniest (or fluffiest/grumpiest/etc.) pets; the winners get pet-themed prize at the end of the summer. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Bulletin board or wall space
- Printed pet story templates (see Printables)
- Printed ballot slips (see Printables)
- Prize ribbons
- Ballot box
- Prizes

If running a passive program, remember to set a deadline by which all stories must be submitted. Open voting after the deadline. Prize suggestions: Gift certificates to a local pet store, pet toys, or pet-themed anything. Remember to add ribbons to the winning pictures.



Image source: Shutterstock

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Place templates and pens/pencils (or, when finished, ballot slips and a ballot box) on a table near the display.

TIP:

For an in-person program, begin by reading captions from the hilarious Twitter-feed-turned-book *We Rate Dogs* to inspire creative storytelling. You could also read a family-friendly picture book about a funny pet. For older children who might be into a codified rating system, consider the *We Rate Dogs* card game.

POTENTIAL QUESTIONS TO ASK:

What is the funniest thing your pet has ever done?

If your pet could talk, what would it say?

If your pet wrote a dating profile, what would they say about themselves?

ADAPTATION:

For ESL or adult literacy patrons, inform tutors of the competition and encourage them to work with their students to write captions. Library staff can also assist patrons by writing down captions that patrons dictate and/or reading captions out loud when requested.

RESOURCES

Web

Ballot box: <https://amzn.to/3fM9meL>

Funny animal stories: <https://bit.ly/2WtthYy>

About We Rate Dogs: <https://bit.ly/3dxb8yC>

We Rate Dogs card game: <https://amzn.to/2LptFkc>

Animal Jokes and Memes

Funny Animals: Critter Comedians, Punny Pets, and Hilarious Hijinks (2019) by National Geographic Kids (middle grade)

Laugh Out Loud (2017) by Jeffrey Burton (early reader)

We Rate Dogs (2017) by Matt Nelson (adults)

Pet Fiction

Picture Books

Can I Be Your Dog? (2008) by Troy Cummings

Dogosaurus Rex (2017) by Anna Staniszewski and Kevin Hawkes

Hey Little Rockaby: A Lullaby for Pet Adoption (2020) by Buffy Sainte-Marie

How to Walk an Ant (2019) by Cindy Derby

Ladybug Girl and the Rescue Dogs (2018) by Jackie Davis and David Soman

Lola Gets a Cat (2018) by Anna McQuinn

The Lost Kitten (2019) by Leyla Torres and Àngela Ruiz

Maisy Gets a Pet (2020) by Lucy Cousins

Philomena's New Glasses (2017) by Brenna Maloney

Some Pets (2016) by Angela DiTerlizzi

What Pet Should I Get? (2010) by Dr. Seuss

Who Wants a Tortoise? (2016) by Dave Keane

Won-Ton: A Cat Tale Told in Haiku (2011) by Lee Wardlaw and Eugene Yelchin

Early Readers

Dear Beast (2020) by Dori Hillestad Butler and Kevan Atteburry

The Dog Who Lost His Bark (2019) by Eoin Colfer and P.J. Lynch

The Great Pet Escape (Pets on the Loose #1) (2016) by Victoria Jamieson

Harry the Homeless Puppy (2015) by Holly Webb and Sophy Williams (or any *Pet Rescue Adventures*)

Mercy Watson to the Rescue (Mercy Watson #1) (2005) by Kate DiCamillo

Scruffy (1990) by Peggy Parish

Truman the Dog (2019) by Debbi Michiko Florence and Melanie Demmer

ADAPTATION.

For younger children, show pictures of pets and ask them to say what they like about them. Ratings could be done with sticky notes or on a white board. Encourage families to write pet stories/captions together!

ADAPTATION:

Patrons without pets or wished-for pets could still draw a portrait of an imaginary animal and think of a funny story or description to go with it.

TIP:

For YA and adult pet nonfiction, see Chapter 05: Pet Expo.

The World According to Humphrey (According to Humphrey #1) (2004)
by Betty G. Birney

Middle Grade

Almost Home (2012) by Joan Bauer

Because of Winn-Dixie (2010) by Kate DiCamillo

The Care and Feeding of a Pet Black Hole (2018) by Michelle Cuevas

A Dog's Life (2010) by Ann M. Martin

Everything for a Dog (2009) by Ann M. Martin

Good Dog (2018) by Dan Gemeinhart

Granted (2018) by John David Anderson

Lety Out Loud (2019) by Angela Cervantes

Rain Reign (2014) by Ann M. Martin

Road Trip (2014) by Gary Paulsen and Jim Paulsen.

Rover (2007) by Jackie French

Saving Marty (2017) by Paul Griffin

Saving Winslow (2018) by Sharon Creech

Stay (2019) by Bobbie Pyron

The Underneath (2008) by Kathi Appelt

Unfamiliar Magic (2010) by R.C. Alexander

When Friendship Followed Me Home (2016) by Paul Griffin

YA

The Astonishing Color of After (2018) by Emily X.R. Pan

Blanca and Roja (2018) by Anna-Marie McLemore

Children of Blood and Bone (2018) by Tomi Adeyemi

The Last (Ending Series #1) (2018) by Katherine Applegate

A Mango-Shaped Space (2005) by Wendy Mass

Notes from the Dog (2009) by Gary Paulsen

Pet (2019) by Awaeke Emezi

Rescued (2016) by Eliot Schrefer

Rotten (2013) by Michael Northrop

Straydog (2004) by Kathe Joja

Terrier (2006) by Tamora Pierce

Whippoorwill (2015) by Joseph Monninger

Your Robot Dog Will Die (2018) by Arin Greenwood

Adult Pet Fiction

The Dog Who Dared to Dream (2016) by Sun-mi Hwang

The Friend: A Novel (2018) by Sigrid Nunez

The Guest Cat (2014) by Takashi Haraide

Kafka on the Shore (2004) by Haruki Murakami

Spill Simmer Falter Whither (2017) by Sara Baume

TIP:

For YA fiction with animal protagonists, see Chapter 01: Animal Character Design.

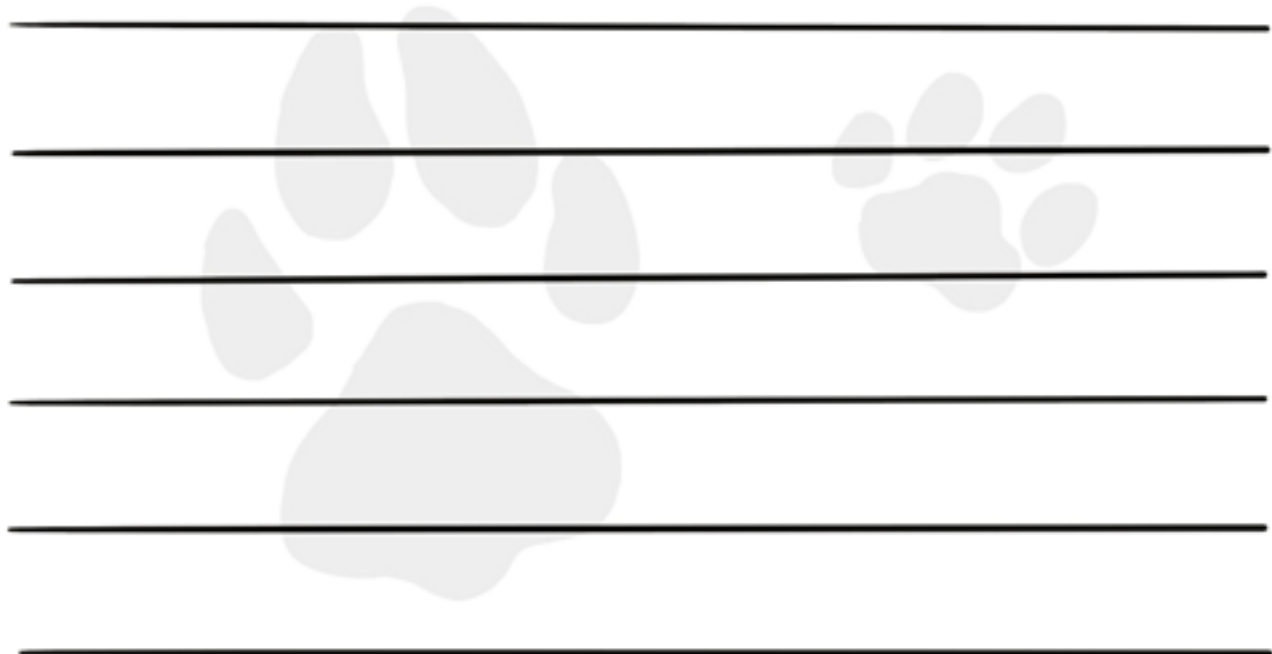
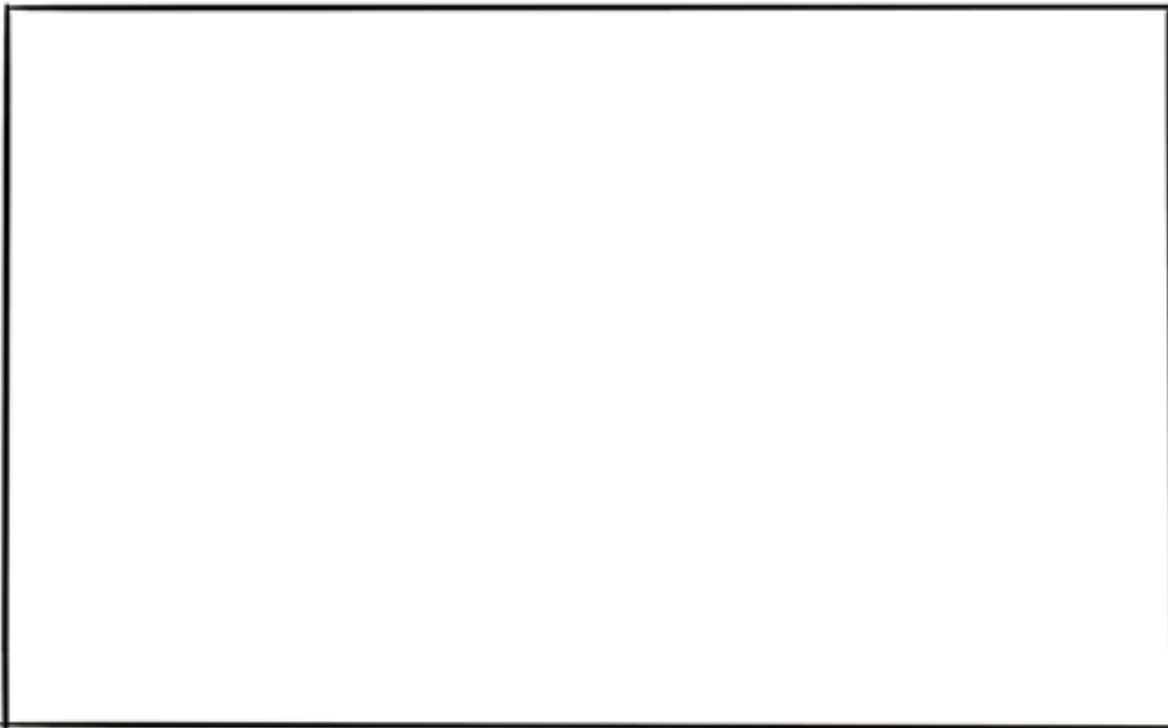
TIP:

For adult fiction with animal protagonists, see Chapter 01: Folded Book Animals

PRINTABLE

My Pet Is Awesome Template

Meet _____



PRINTABLE**Voting Slips****VOTES**

CUTEST _____
 FUNNIEST _____
 FLUFFIEST _____
 CUDDLIEST _____
 GRUMPIEST _____

**VOTES**

CUTEST _____
 FUNNIEST _____
 FLUFFIEST _____
 CUDDLIEST _____
 GRUMPIEST _____

**VOTES**

CUTEST _____
 FUNNIEST _____
 FLUFFIEST _____
 CUDDLIEST _____
 GRUMPIEST _____



PET BFF NECKLACES

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

BFF necklaces for pets and owners! Children or teens make bottle cap necklaces out of their favorite pet pictures. Alternatively, they can turn the photos in bottle caps into pins or magnets. For a passive display component, create an animal besties bulletin board where patrons post selfies with their pets. Suggested runtime: 60 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For pet BFF necklaces, you will need:

- Craft bottle caps (softened edges)
- 1" circle punch (for photos)
- 1" clear epoxy stickers
- Metal hole punch
- Jump rings
- Jewelry tweezers
- Necklace chain or cord
- Glue sticks
- Pet photos



Image source: Laura Shouse of Gallatin Public Library of Sumner County

Set up separate stations so participants can take turns with limited tools. Ask participants to bring a photo of their pet that they would not mind cutting up, or have them email their photos in advance. Resize images so pet faces are about 1" in diameter before printing. Print and punch out the photos using a 1" circle punch, or let participants do this themselves.

During the program, glue each picture to the insides of a bottle cap. Add an epoxy sticker to seal it. Punch a small hole in the edge of the cap using a metal punch, and use jewelry tweezers to open and thread a jump ring through the hole. Thread necklace cord through the jump ring.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Add additional staff members for large groups and younger children. If you include metal-punched ID tags, take the program outdoors.

TIP:

Make this a two-part (or longer) program by adding pet ID tags. After making necklaces for themselves, participants stamp metal ID tags for their pets. For supplies, you would need to add blank aluminum tags, a set of metal letter punch stamps (about \$20), and at least one hammer to your list.

TIP:

You can also make pet tags out of Shrinky Dink plastic and alcohol-based markers. If you do not have easy access to an oven, give participants instructions for how to shrink their own tags at home.

ADAPTATION:

For participants without pets, set out magazines to choose pictures from.

TIP:

You can also use Modge Podge or resin to seal the pictures instead of stickers, but be forewarned that these might have a strong smell.

RESOURCES

Web

Bottle cap necklace tutorial #1: <https://bit.ly/3dEKUtV>

Bottle cap necklace tutorial #2: <https://bit.ly/2zxhPSu>

Craft bottle caps for purchase: <https://amzn.to/2YTXSA5>

Epoxy stickers for purchase: <https://amzn.to/2WqLCFt>

TIP:

See Chapter 04:
We Rate Pets for
fiction lists.

RECYCLING OLYMPICS

AGES

Children 8+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Run a weekly program in a local park or forest! Families meet to hear stories about animals and ecosystems, to engage in fun recycling games, or to clean up the trail or area. If you can partner with a park, have a park ranger or volunteer give talks about local wildlife and environmental concerns. The program can also be adapted to a cleanup walk near the library if a local park is not an option.

Recycling game ideas include a sorting race, a water bottle toss, and a litter relay, all well-suited for teams of five players or fewer. You might also make simple modifications to these games to suit your local environment. For example, if wetland turtles in your area can

choke on plastic bags or rings, set up the relay with those items instead of paper. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For the recycling race, each team will need:

- Assorted recyclables
- Three recycling bins (paper, plastic, and cans)

The first team to sort correctly wins.

For the water bottle toss, you will need:

- Silicone or steel reusable water bottles
- Water
- A target (rope, spray paint, or poster board)

Fill the water bottles with water (fill only partway for young children). You can make the target out of interlocking circles of rope or spray paint, or draw the circles on poster board. Each player tries to hit the target on the ground; award points based on proximity.

TIP:

You can also create instructions for crafts made out of recycled materials for participants to take home. See Chapter 04: Backyard Habitats for some ideas.

For the trash relay, each team will need:

- A reusable shopping bag
- Five scraps of paper or other recyclables
- Two traffic cones to mark the start and end lines (optional)

To play, the first team member runs to the end line, picks up one piece of paper and puts it in the bag, then runs back to the start line. Repeat until all team members have gone. The first team to finish wins.

For the park or neighborhood cleanup, you will need:

- Plastic gloves
- Trash bags
- Buckets for sharp objects
- Water
- Insect repellent
- First aid supplies

For the program overall, you could add:

- A whistle
- Prizes such as reusable bags and water bottles
- Certificates of achievement

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

If possible, partner with a local park for access to local habitat information and activities adapted to your specific ecosystem.

RESOURCES

Books

Picture Books

Bathing in the Forest (2020) by Marc Ayats and Nívola Uyá (NF)

Mother Earth's Lullaby: A Song for Endangered Animals (2018) by Terry Pierce and Carol Heyer (NF)

A Peek-Through Pages Book of Endangered Animals (2019) by Tim Flach (NF)

Room on Our Rock (2019) by Kate Temple et al. (F)

Early Readers

Join the No-Plastic Challenge!: A First Book of Reducing Waste (2019) by Scot Ritchie (NF)

APP SUGGESTION:

Try JouleBug, a free sustainability game by Cleanbit Systems (12+ years).

Middle Grade

All that Trash: The Story of the 1987 Garbage Barge and Our Problem with Stuff (2018) by Meghan McCarthy (NF)

Earth-Friendly Earth Day Crafts (2019) by Veronica Thompson (NF)

Me and Marvin Gardens (2017) by Amy Sarig King (F)

Trash Revolution: Breaking the Waste Cycle (2018) by Erica Fyvie (NF)

What a Waste (2017) by Claire Eamer and Bambi Edlund (NF)

YA

Cast Away: Poems for Our Time (2020) by Naomi Shihab Nye (F)

Tracking Trash: Flotsam, Jetsam, and the Science of Ocean Motion (2010) by Loree Griffin Burns (NF)

The Wondrous Workings of Planet Earth: Understanding Our World and Its Ecosystems (2018) by Rachel Ignotofsky (NF)

SCRUB A DUB DUB

AGES

Children 4+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Oil spill sensory play! Discuss pollution and demonstrate an “oil spill,” followed by a cleanup effort to clear the polluted water. This is a great way to show how our actions affect the environment, including animal habitats. Another activity demonstrates how polar bears stay warm in water. Children stick their bare fingers in ice water, then dip their fingers again after coating them in Crisco. Discuss how blubber keeps polar bears warm.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For the ocean sensory bin, you will need:

- One plastic tub filled with water
- Plastic aquatic animals, seashells, and toy boats
- Cocoa power
- Cooking oil
- Small jars or bottles for sample
- Coffee grounds (optional)
- Shredded plastic (optional)

During the program, take a sample of the clean water. Add toy boats and cocoa power mixed with oil. You can also add coffee grounds and shreds of plastic for more gritty water. Compare a sample of the dirty water with the clean water.



Image source: Shutterstock

ADAPTATION:

If you live near water, consider a field trip!

TIP:

For older children, show some examples of ingenious environmental cleanup: <https://bit.ly/2z91Fin>

For the “oil spill” cleanup, you will need:

- One plastic tub filled with clean water
- Latex gloves (one pair per child)
- Cotton balls and sponges
- Toothbrushes and soap
- Coffee filters

Children try to extract the oils from the sensory bin. Untangle the animals and scrub them with toothbrushes and soap over a bin of clean water. If you used coffee grounds, you can also filter the water using a coffee filter. Afterwards, the sample bottle from the filtered water will show that messes we leave can make irreversible damage to aquatic habitats (i.e., the water is still not clear).

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

This potentially messy program is a good one to take outdoors.

RESOURCES

Books

Picture Books

Hey, Water! by Antoinette Portis (2019) (NF)

I Can Save the Ocean! (2010) by Alison Inches and Viviana Garofoli (NF)

If Polar Bears Disappeared (2018) by Lily Williams (NF)

Save the Arctic (2019) by Bethany Stahl (NF)

The Pout-Pout Fish Cleans Up the Ocean (2019) by Deborah Diesen and Dan Hanna (F)

Save the Ocean (2019) by Bethany Stahl (NF)

Sea Bear: A Journey for Survival (2019) by Lindsay Moore (NF)

What’s That Noise? (2020) by Naomi Howarth (F)

Early Readers

Mr. Popper’s Penguins (1938) by Richard Atwater and Florence Atwater (F)

River Rescue (2019) by Jennifer Keats Curtis and Tammy Yee (NF)

What a Waste (2019) by Jess French (NF)

TIP:

In case of latex allergies, purchase vinyl gloves for children to wear.

TIP:

See also Chapter 06: Preschool for more water sensory bin ideas.

WILD JEOPARDY

AGES

Children 6+ years

Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Run a game of Jeopardy using a free online template! You can adapt the questions for any age group or animal theme. The rules follow the traditional TV game show, and contestants get points for every correctly answered question. Remember prizes for the winning teams. Suggested runtime: 60 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- PowerPoint template
- Laptop and AV equipment
- Jeopardy theme song
- Buzzers or handheld signs
- Prizes

Download the free PowerPoint template and fill in the blanks with age-appropriate questions related to your animal theme. On game day, set the tone by playing the Jeopardy theme song as contestants arrive. Divide them into teams, and give each team a buzzer (or sign).



Image source: Shutterstock

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Only one staff member is needed operate the game, read the questions, and keep score. Add more staff for larger groups. This game can get loud, so it is best to run it in an enclosed meeting room.

TIP:

For a premade bookish beasts-themed Jeopardy game for teens, see <https://bit.ly/2TgBTjd> (password: summer)

ADAPTATION:

For younger children, you can use the animal silhouettes as the “question” and ask them to answer with the name of the animal.

TIP:

To even the playing field, you can also ask teams to write and hold up their answers at the same time and award points to every team with the correct answer.

TIP:

Introduce the game like Alex Trebek: “Thank you all very much ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of all of us, welcome to America’s favorite answer-and-question game, Jeopardy!” Just like in the TV show, give each contestant exactly 30 seconds to tell the most interesting story or fact about themselves.

RESOURCES

Web

Free Jeopardy PowerPoint template: <https://bit.ly/2zbS5Lz>

YouTube tutorial on how to use the template: <https://bit.ly/2TgC91F>

10 easy animal trivia questions: <https://bit.ly/3dWyvBN>

15 animal questions from Useful Trivia: <https://bit.ly/3bN3NcJ>

30 science trivia from Science Kids: <https://bit.ly/2TeniEM>

Animal trivia for teens from Pub Quiz Questions HQ: <https://bit.ly/36bA8Jb>

Animal Fact Books

Humanimal: Incredible Ways Animals Are Just Like Us (2019) by Christopher Lloyd and Mark Ruffle (middle grade)

Terrific Tongues! (2018) by Maria Gianferrari and Jia Liu (picture book)

The Surprising Lives of Animals: How They Can Laugh, Play, and Misbehave (2020) by Anna Claybourne and Stef Murphy (middle grade)

ANIMAL TRIVIA BOARD GAMES TO TRY:

- The Animal Trivia Challenge Game from MindWare: <https://amzn.to/2Xa06c4>
- Brainbox: A Box of Animals: <https://amzn.to/2z8Pimt>

TIP:

For more children's nonfiction about weird and/or amazing animals, see Chapter 06: Axolotl and Other Weirdos and Chapter 06: Terrific Tardigrades.

ENDANGERED SPECIES STOP MOTION ANIMATION

AGES

Children 10+ years

Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In this two-part program, teens create simple stop motion videos about endangered animals. Ask them to advocate for their animals through their videos, such as by showing habitat destruction and how to help; alternatively, adapt this program for any animal theme. In the first part, show stop motion animation clips and discuss basic storyboarding. Teens choose and/or create their animals and backgrounds, and plan their shot lists (see Printables). In the second part of the program, teens learn how to use Stop Motion Studio (a free app) and begin production. Screen everyone's videos at the end of the program. Suggested runtime: 120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For backdrops:

- Premade backdrops
- OR
- 11x14" paper and coloring supplies

For endangered animals:

- Photos and reference material
- Animal figurines
- OR
- Animal-making materials (Legos,
- modeling clay, pipe cleaners,
- or construction paper and brads)

For stop motion animation:

- Sample stop motion videos
- Storyboarding worksheets (see Printables)
- Tablets or smartphones with the Stop Motion Studio app
- Multiple tripods or book stands to hold devices in place



Image source: Shutterstock

TIP:

What is stop motion animation? It is a video made from photos played in quick succession. Five frames (photos) per second is a good starting point.

TIP:

Remember to get permission to post some of these videos on your library's social media!

TIP:

If you combine these sessions into a single program, you may want to limit video lengths (a 30-second video x 5 frames per second = 150 frames!). To save time, you can also provide animal figurines and backdrops instead of asking teens to make their own.

TIP:

For a longer, more involved program, combine with Chapter 01: Animal Character Design, Chapter 04: Create a Creature, or Chapter 06: Break It, Remake It. Children or teens make stop-motion videos out of the creatures they created.

ADAPTATION:

For the endangered species component, have younger children choose animals from a deck of printed endangered animal photos. Then discuss what each animal needs to survive (e.g., habitat, specific food) and what makes it endangered.

GAME/ACTIVITY | STEM

Gather endangered species reference materials, stop motion animation clips to show, art supplies, and storyboarding worksheets. Teens draw simple backgrounds and make their endangered animals out of Legos, modeling clay, pipe cleaners, or torn construction paper (with articulated limbs fastened with brads). Be sure to play around with the Stop Motion Studio app before the program so you can help troubleshoot any problems. Encourage teens to use their own devices, but you will also need tablets with the app that others can share.

RESOURCES

Web

Species directory (World Wildlife Federation): <https://wwf.to/2Ti689w>
 Endangered species (National Wildlife Federation): <https://bit.ly/3bKo7f5>
 Endangered species (Animal Welfare Institute): <https://bit.ly/36bzefK>
 Photo Ark by Joel Sartore (National Geographic): <https://bit.ly/2Zn4R4u>

Stop Motion Videos

Basic stop motion tips: <https://bit.ly/2WKWH4x>

Endangered Species Nonfiction

Middle Grade

Condor Comeback (2020) by Sy Montgomery and Tianne Strombeck (2020)

The Great Penguin Rescue: Saving the African Penguins (2017) by Sandra Markle

Sea Otters: A Survival Story (2020) by Isabelle Groc

A Wild Child's Guide to Endangered Animals (2019) by Millie Marotta

YA

Back from the Brink: Saving Animals from Extinction (2018) by Nancy F. Castaldo

The Race to Save the Lord God Bird (2010) by Phillip Hoose

Wild Ocean: Sharks, Whales, Rays, and Other Endangered Sea Creatures (2014) by Matt Dembicki

Adult

100 Heartbeats: The Race to Save Earth's Most Endangered Species (2011) by Jeff Corwin

Cat Tale: The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther (2020) by Craig Pittman

The Last Elephants (2019) by Don Pinnock and Colin Bell

TIP:

Turn off auto exposure to avoid a flicker when the movie plays back.

TIP:

Remember tripods or book stands for recording. The camera should not be moved in between shots. For this reason, be sure that teens sharing a device have extended turns and are not passing it back and forth.

TIP:

For professional stop motion videos, try *Wallace and Gromit*, *Shaun the Sheep*, or *Corpse Bride*.

GAME/ACTIVITY | STEM

The Photo Ark Vanishing: the World's Most Vulnerable Animals (2019) by Joel Sartore and Elizabeth Kolbert

Rare (2010) by Joel Sartore

The Seabird's Cry: The Lives and Loves of the Planet's Great Ocean Voyages (2018) by Adam Nicolson

Stop Motion Nonfiction

Animation Lab for Kids (2016) by Laura Bellmont and Emily Brink (2016) (YA)

Brick Flicks (2014) by Sarah Herman (YA)

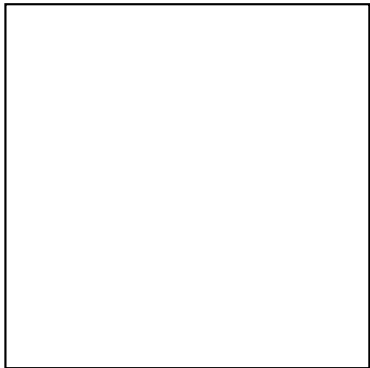
Filming Stop-Motion Animation (2018) by Zöe Saldana (early reader)

Safari Claymation (2016) by Sarah Herman (middle grade)

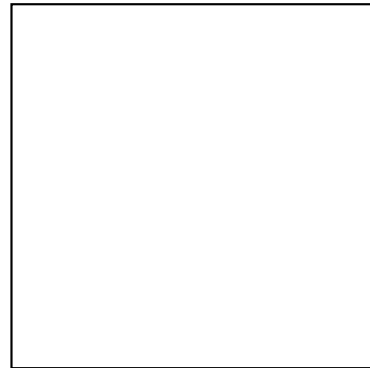
Stop Motion Filmmaking: The Complete Guide to Fabrication and Animation (2019) by Christopher Walsh (YA)

PRINTABLE

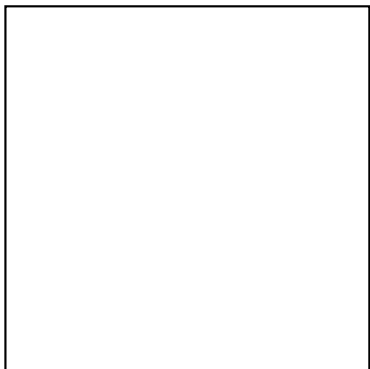
STOP MOTION STORYBOARD



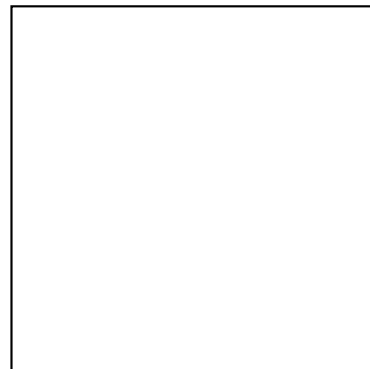
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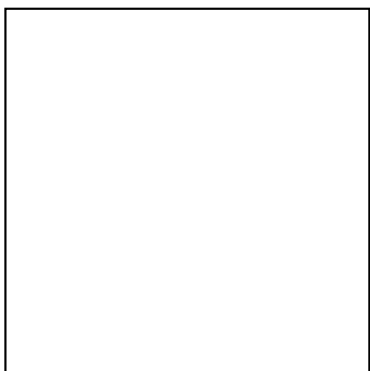
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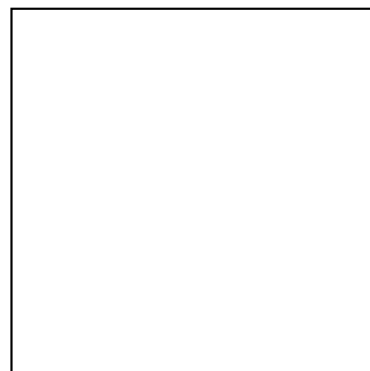
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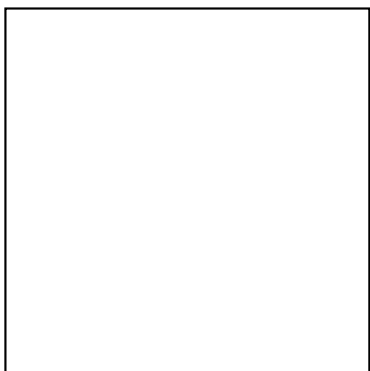
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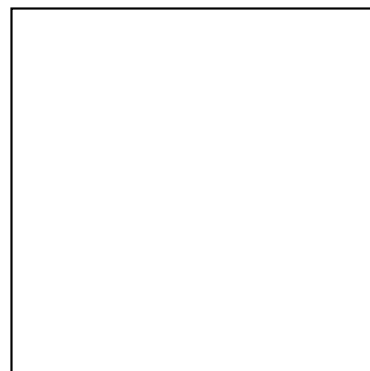
Three vertical lines for writing a description of the scene.



Three vertical lines for writing a description of the scene.



Three vertical lines for writing a description of the scene.



Three vertical lines for writing a description of the scene.



ANIMAL HEROES SCAVENGER HUNT

AGES

Children 6+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Animal heroes everywhere you turn! Every week or two, hide a new animal hero somewhere in the library. When children find that animal, they take one of its trading cards (see Printables for template). They must come to the library throughout the summer to collect the whole set. You can also have them vote for their favorite animal hero, which you can display at the end of the summer. This is a great program to adapt to whichever animal heroes you have in your collection.

Animal Hero Ideas

- Mzee, the 130-year old tortoise who adopted an orphan hippo
- Scarlett, the homeless cat who saved her kittens from a burning building
- Dewey, the library cat who came through the book drop as a kitten
- Paddy, the retired police horse in Australia
- Joey, the WWI war horse
- Jake, the 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina search and rescue dog
- Stubby, the pit bull mix who warned of gas attacks
- Gustav, the first pigeon to relay information in WWII
- Cher Ami, the WWI homing pigeon
- Togo, the Alaskan sled dog

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Next to the book display, leave slips of paper with the picture and name of the current week's animal. Add a clue to direct children to its location.

For each scavenger hunt location, make a poster with a large picture of the animal hero as well as a few facts for older children to read. Make sure the text is big enough to be read from a distance. Fill a pocket with copies of the week's animal trading card, and remember to list library materials related to that animal hero.

You can make the trading cards yourself or order them online. To make your own, download the PowerPoint slides (Animal Hero Trading Card Templates) from the online manual. Fill in the blanks and/or modify the cards to suit your vision, then print them nine to a page to make 2.5 x 3.5" trading cards. Optionally, laminate each sheet before you cut them.

ADAPTATIONS:

You could also apply the trading card idea to animal scientists (Chapter 03: Who Helped Me?) or ugly animals (Chapter 06: Axolotl and Other Weirdos). See Printables for a simple animal scavenger hunt.

TIP:

Add fun facts or an animal texture to the back of your trading cards.

RESOURCES

Web

Online trading cards: <https://bit.ly/3bPGZcJ>

Time Magazine's Top 10 Heroic Animals: <https://bit.ly/3dV7vTe>

On Paddy, the Australian police horse: <https://bit.ly/369Bynw>

On Jake, the Hurricane Katrina rescue dog: <https://nbcnews.to/3clHCpJ>

Animal Heroes Nonfiction

Picture Books

Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library (2009) by Vicki Myron et al.

My Little Golden Book About Balto (2019) by Charles Lovitt and Sophie Allsopp

Poop Detectives: Working Dogs in the Field (2016) by Ginger Wadsworth

Swift (2007) by Robert J. Blake

Togo (2002) by Robert J. Blake

Middle Grade

Avalanche Dog Heroes: Piper and Friends Learn to Search the Snow (2018) by Elizabeth Rusch

Cher Ami: WWI Homing Pigeon (2011) by Joeming Dunn and Ben Dunn

Finding Gobi: A Little Dog with a Very Big Heart (Young Readers Edition) (2017) by Dion Leonard

Navy Seal Dogs: My Tale of Training Canines for Combat (2013) by Mike Ritland

No Better Friend: A Man, a Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in WWII (Young Readers' Edition) (2018) by Robert Weintraub

Owen and Mzee (2016) by Isabella Hatkoff et al.

Pet Heroes (2011) by Nicole Corse

Search and Rescue Dogs on the Job (2017) by Mirella S. Miller

Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I's Bravest Dog (2018) by Ann Bausum

Wildlives: 50 Extraordinary Animals That Made History (2020) by Ben Lerwill and Sarah Walsh

TIP:

For YA and adult books about animal heroes, see Chapter 03: Career Dogs.

Animal Heroes Fiction

Picture Books

Hero Cat (2006) by Eileen Spinelli and Jo Ellen McAllister Stammen (picture book)

Early Reader

Sidekicks (2011) by Dan Santat

Time Dogs: Balto and the Race Against Time (2020) by Helen Moss and Misa Saburi

Middle Grade

Bunnica: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery (Bunnica and Friends #1) (2011) by Deborah Howe et al.

Dogs of War (2013) by Sheila Keenan and Nathan Fox

Ellie's Story by Bruce W. Cameron

Letters from Wolfie (2004) by Patti Sherlock

Max: Best Friend, Hero, Marine (2015) by Jennifer Li Shotz

Mountain Dog (2013) by Margarita Engle, Aleksey Ivanov, and Olga Ivanov

Rescue on the Oregon Trail (2015) by Kate Messner (or any book in the Ranger in Time series)

War Horse (2010) by Michael Morpurgo

Woof (Boswer and Birdie #1) (2016) by Spencer Quinn

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Animal Heroes Trading Card PowerPoint

PRINTABLE

LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT		
#	TASK TO COMPLETE	ANSWER
1	Find a book with "dinosaur" in the title.	
2	Find a book about your favorite animal.	
3	Take a picture in front of the computer you use to find books.	
4	Find a book about any creature that lives in the ocean.	
5	Which astronaut has a NASA portrait with two rescue dogs?	
6	Find a novel with "dog" or "cat" in the title.	
7	Find a comic about a dog or a cat (hint: 741).	
8	Find a book with a bird on the cover.	
9	Ask any library staff member to name their favorite animal. Staff initials _____	

DECORATION/DISPLAY | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST
 PASSIVE | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

AXOLOTL AND OTHER WEIRDOS

AGES

Children 6+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Passive games about weird animals! Children can either hunt for axolotl or answer T/F facts about weird animals to decode a secret word. For the axolotl-only version, hide four axolotl pictures throughout the library, one fact associated with each picture. After children fill in their answer keys with all four facts, they bring their finished sheets to a librarian for a small prize.



Image source: Shutterstock

For a more challenging, multiple-animal version, children decide whether a series of animal facts are true or false; the right answers decode a special word. Once they complete the word, they get a small prize.

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

For either version, gather small prizes such as stickers, special bookmarks, buttons, small animal figurines, etc.

For Find Axolotl

From the Find Axolotl PowerPoint (see online manual or USB), print the four axolotl fact pages on separate sheets of paper; laminate them for durability before hanging them around the children's section. Hang the Find Axolotl poster next to a stack of printed answer sheets.

For Weird Animal Facts

On legal-size paper (8.5 x 14"), print the first 13 pages from the True or False PowerPoint file, modified as desired (see online manual or USB). Laminate the pages for durability. Punch holes and add a ring make a booklet out of these 13 pages (one directions page, six animal fact pages, and six decoder pages). If you have wall space, you could also hang the pages in a row. Print a stack of page 14 for children to take, and keep page 15 for your reference.

TIP:

Make yourself a key to remember where you hid the axolotls!

NOTE:

All weird animal facts in the PowerPoint were taken from *Weird Animals* (2019) by Mary Kay Carson or *Weird Sea Creatures* (2013) by Erich Hoyt.

DECORATION/DISPLAY | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST
PASSIVE | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

You will need a place to keep prizes behind the desk and wall space in the children or teen sections.

RESOURCES

Web

Axolotl facts: <https://factanimal.com/axolotl/>

Axolotl and Other Weird Animal Books

Picture Books

The Most Amazing Creature in the Sea (2015) by Brenda Z. Guiberson and Gennady Spirin (NF)

Early Readers

Cute as an Axolotl (2018) by Jess Keating and David DeGrand (NF)

Dewdrop (2020) by Katie O'Neill (GN)

Freak Out! Animals Beyond Your Wildest Imagination (2009) by Ginger Clarke (NF)

My Encyclopedia of Very Important Animals (2017) from DK (NF)

Weird Sea Creatures (2012) by Laura Marsh (NF)

Middle Grade

A Curious Collection of Peculiar Creatures (2020) by Sami Bayly (NF)

Weird but True Animals (2018) by National Geographic Kids (NF)

Weird Sea Creatures (2013) by Erich Hoyt (NF)

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Find Axolotl PowerPoint

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

True or False Weird Animals PowerPoint

TIP:

For more books about amazing animals, see Chapter 06: Break It, Remake It

BLOBFISH SLIME

AGES

Children 8+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

After a blobfish storytime, give children premeasured ingredients to make their own slime! This program's slime innovation is to add googly eyes, which turn your ho-hum mound of slime into a quivering blobfish. Suggested runtime: 60–90 minutes

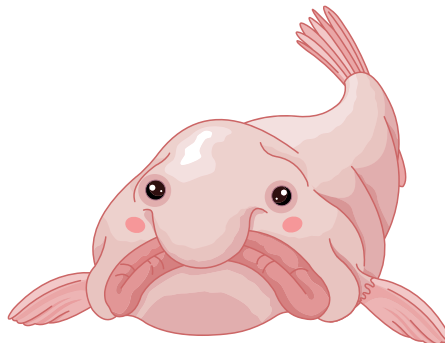


Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Slime ingredients:

- White school glue
- Shaving cream
- Baking soda
- Saline solution
- Food coloring
- Lotion
- Googly eyes

Other:

- Measuring cups and spoons
- Mixing bowls and spoons
- Plastic table cloths
- Hand wipes
- Baggies for taking the slime home
- Blob fish reference photos

Slime Recipe

Step 1: Mix 1 cup of white glue and 1½ cups of shaving cream into a bowl.

Step 2: Add ½ teaspoon of baking soda and stir.

Step 3: Add 3 drops of food coloring.

Step 4: Add squirts of saline solution until the slime is no longer sticky.

Step 5: Add 2 tablespoons of lotion to make the slime stretchy.

Step 6: Add googly eyes to finish.

Make an example blobfish. Divide children into small groups to make the slime recipe, or give out premade slime and let them add their own googly eyes.

ADAPTATION:

Let younger children play with premade blobfish slime.

TIP:

Remember plastic baggies for taking home the slime!

DECORATION/DISPLAY | GAME/ACTIVITY | LOW COST
PASSIVE | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

If weather allows, this potentially messy program is a good one to take outdoors. Enlist volunteers or additional staff members for younger children and/or large groups.

RESOURCES

Books

Blobfish Book (2016) by Jessica Olien and Margaret Caton (early reader NF)

Blobfish Throws a Party (2017) by Miranda Paul (picture book)

Everything Is Connected (2019) by Jason Gruhl and Ignasi Font (picture book NF)

Pink Is for Blobfish (2016) by Jess Keating (early reader NF)

TERRIFIC TARDIGRADES

AGES

Children 8+ years
Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

What are tardigrades? They are microscopic water bears! This program requires some prep but is a fun multigenerational event. Read a book about tardigrades, such as *My Tiny Pet* by Jessie Hartland, share photos and facts, or show brief YouTube videos. Then let participants cycle through the stations you have set up from the following options:

- Station 1: Gummy Water Bears
- Station 2: Tardigrade Watercolors
- Station 3: Microscope
- Station 4: Tardigrade Buttons
- Station 5: Tardigrade Shrinky Dinks

Suggested runtime: 120 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Station 1: Gummy Water Bears

You will need:

- Gummy bears
- Baking trays
- Water
- Hand wipes

At least three hours before the program, cover gummy bears with a layer of water on a baking tray. They will bloat to look like water bears. Participants can feel their squishiness. Remember the hand wipes, and leave out a few dry bears for comparison.

Station 2: Tardigrade Watercolors

You will need:

- Watercolor paper or cardstock
- Printed tardigrade silhouettes (optional; see Printables)
- Paintbrushes and watercolors
- Cups of water

ADAPTATION:

For preschoolers, read a version of “Goldilocks and the Three Bears,” but replace bears with water bears. You could do this by printing photos and laminating them to create a felt board set, then send children to the gummy water bears and watercolor stations (with crayons instead of watercolors). Talk about how water bears are also known as tardigrades and moss piglets, and be sure to set out photos!

ADAPTATION:

Teens could make the buttons or Shrinky Dinks themselves. You could also turn the tardigrade theme into a “paint and partake” program in which teens follow along to paint the same picture.

CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY

Set out paper and watercolor supplies. Optionally, print tardigrade silhouettes on the watercolor paper or cardstock.

Station 3: Microscope

You will need:

- A microscope
- Tardigrade slides

Prepare individual slides before the program.

Station 4: Tardigrade Buttons

You will need:

- A button maker
- Button-making supplies
- Printed images at the correct scale (see Printables)

Station 5: Tardigrade Shrinky Dinks

You will need:

- Shrink film (#6 plastic)
- Tardigrade images (see Printables)
- Toaster oven (325 degrees)
- Cookie sheet
- Two pieces of cardstock
- An oven mitt
- A spatula
- A trivet for the hot cookie sheet
- A hole punch or peel-and-stick pins
- Set out precut plastic, printed tardigrade images, and alcohol-based markers. Participants draw or trace a tardigrade on the plastic.
- Punch holes in the plastic before baking.
- Line the cookie sheet with cardstock, place the tardigrades on top (not touching each other), and cover with the second piece of cardstock.
- Baking time: 2–4 minutes at 325 degrees. Watch carefully!
- Put the hot cookie sheet on a heat-resistant surface or trivet.
- As soon as they are out of the oven, use your spatula to peel off the top layer of cardstock and flatten each tardigrade individually. If they do not flatten, put them back in the oven to reheat and redo.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

You will need one staff member or volunteer for each station. The microscope station could be a great partnership opportunity with a local biology teacher or science enthusiast. If you do not have a microscope, you could also try a local park, which might have one available for outreach programming.

TIP:

If you divide the participants into groups, consider making tardigrade buttons in different colors, one for each group to wear.

TIP:

You can also purchase printable plastic on which to print the tardigrade images (see Printables). Participants color the tardigrades before shrinking.

WARNING:

#6 plastic leeches styrene, a known carcinogen, when heated. Using a craft-only toaster oven and a disposable cookie sheet and spatula is recommended.

CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY

RESOURCES

Web

Tardigrade YouTube videos:

- <https://youtu.be/eXBkmLzBHZk>
- <https://youtu.be/-irqb99btZY>
- <https://youtu.be/Ysu0Ex2l4JE>
- <https://youtu.be/TSaVEEXEZnw>

Purchase tardigrades here: <https://bit.ly/2X6gri0> or here: <https://bit.ly/2TiIYkk>

Basic shrink film: <https://amzn.to/2ZhBOzA>

Printable shrink film: <https://amzn.to/2Zg1qwl>

Tardigrade Books

Picture Books

My Tiny Pet (2019) by Jessie Hartland (F)

Willow the Water Bear (2018) by Houston Kidd (F)

Early Readers

Extreme Survivors: Animals That Time Forgot (2017) by Kimberley Ridley (NF)

Middle Grade

Leaf Litter Creatures (2018) by Leslie Bulion and Robert Meganck (NF)

Unseen Worlds: Real-Life Microscopic Organisms Hiding All Around Us (2019) by Hélène Rajcak and Damien Laverdunt (NF)

Unusual Creatures: A Mostly Accurate Account of Some of Earth's Strangest Creatures (2014) by Michael Hearst et al. (NF)

Amazing/Extreme Animals Nonfiction

Picture Books

Cuddly Critters for Little Geniuses (2018) by Susan Patterson et al.

Gross as a Snot Otter (2019) by Jess Keating

Look at Me! Wild Animal Show-Offs (2018) by Jim Arnosky

Weird Animals (2019) by Mary Kay Carson

Early Readers

Actual Size (2004) by Steve Jenkins

Extreme Survivors (2014) by Connie Roop and Peter Roop

Stinkiest! 20 Smelly Animals (2018) by Steve Jenkins

Teensy, Weensy Animals (2015) by Joan Emerson

CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY

Middle Grade

Deadliest Animals (2011) by Melissa Stewart

Encyclopedia of Strangely Named Animals (2019) by Fredrik Colting

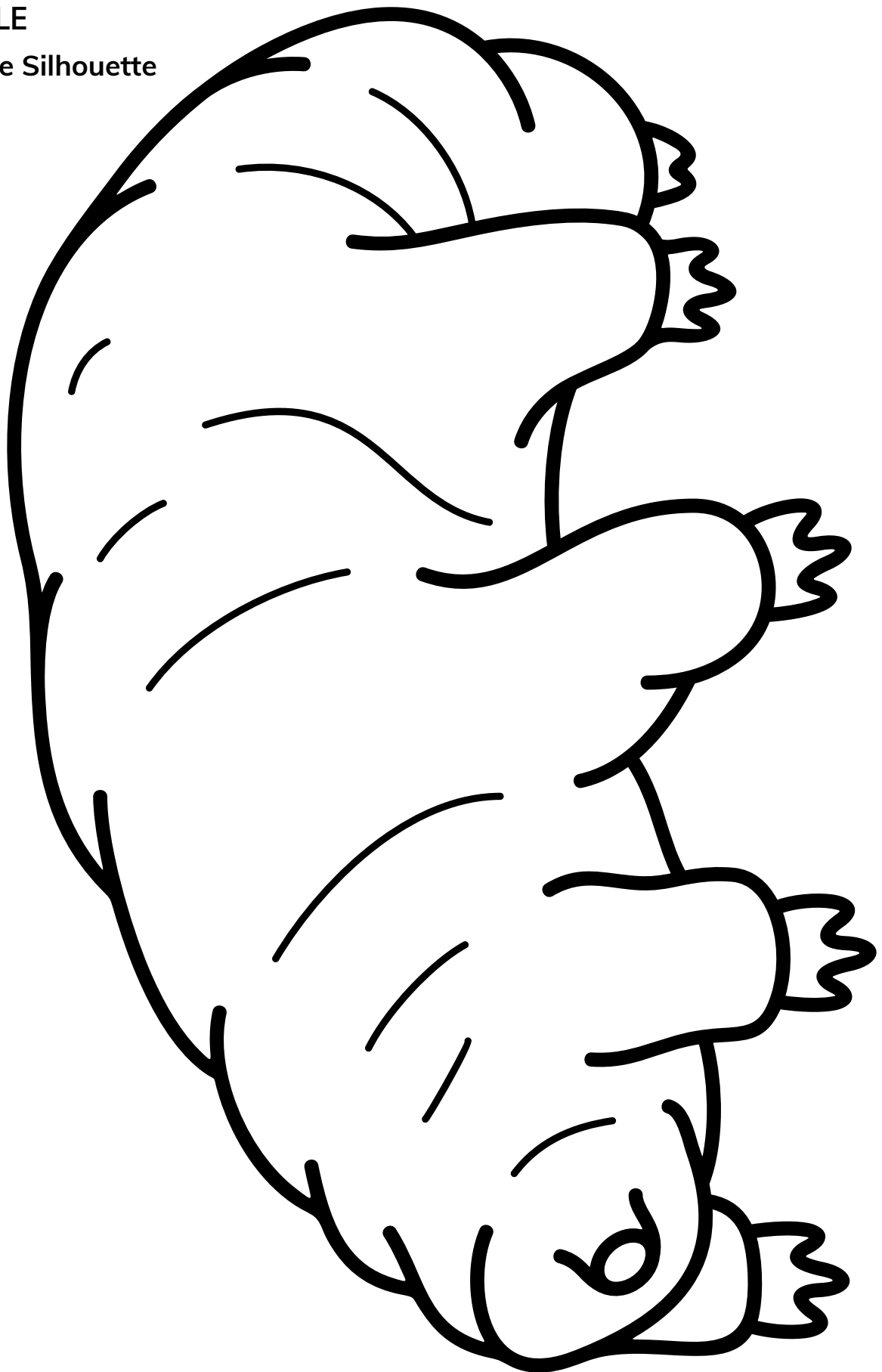
Giant Squid (2016) by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann

Masters of Disguise: Amazing Animal Tricksters (2016) by Rebecca L. Johnson

CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY

PRINTABLE

Tardigrade Silhouette



CRAFT | GAME/ACTIVITY

PRINTABLE

Tardigrade 2.5" Inkjet Button Template



ANIMAL HEROES MOVIE FUNDRAISER

AGES

Children 6+ years
Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Help your local animal shelter or Humane Society and entertain families at the same time! Contact the shelter to see what types of items they need. Then screen a fun movie that features pets or animal heroes; encourage patrons to donate one item from the shelter's list of needs. Remember the book display related to the movie, animal heroes, and/or shelter pets. Suggested runtime: 120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- A licensed movie, a laptop and AV equipment, and audience chairs
- Snacks (optional)
- A list of donation items for the local shelter
- A large container to collect donations as people arrive

Be sure to advertise the list of suggested donations before the screening.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

A room or space large enough for attendees to sit and watch the movie.

RESOURCES

Animal Hero Movies

Balto (1995) G, 71 min
Bolt (2018) PG, 96 min
Dolphin Tale (2011) PG, 113 min
Free Willy (1993) PG, 112 min
G-Force (2009) PG, 88 min
Homeward Bound (1993) G, 85 min
Madagascar (2005) PG, 86 min
Rango (2011) PG, 107 min
Sgt. Stubby (2019) PG, 85 min
Underdog (2007) PG, 84 min

TIP:

To take this program outdoors, screen the movie at a local park. Try partnering with your municipality if they screen outdoor movies during the summer.

ADAPTATION:

For teens, consider starting a "Film Friday" series to screen a new animal movie (PG-13) every week.

MORE FAMILY-FRIENDLY ANIMAL MOVIES:

- *Because of Winn-Dixie* (2005) PG
- *A Dog's Purpose* (2017) PG
- *Doolittle* (2020) PG
- *Lady and the Tramp* (2019) PG
- *Marley and Me* (2008) PG
- *Max* (2015) PG
- *Red Dog* (2011) PG
- *Togo* (2019) PG
- *We Bought a Zoo* (2011) PG

Disneynature Documentaries

African Cats (2011) G, 89 min

Born in China (2017) G, 76 min

Chimpanzee (2012) G, 77 min

Earth (2009) G, 90 min

Monkey Kingdom (2015) G, 81 min

Books

Strongheart: Wonder Dog of the Silver Screen (2018) by Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann (middle grade)

TIP:

See also Chapter 06: Animal Hero Scavenger Hunt for animal hero books and Chapter 04: We Rate Pets for pet books!

CRAFT | SOLO-LIBRARIAN FRIENDLY

AIR-DRY ANIMAL MAGNETS

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Teens make mini animals out of clay, then turn them into magnets, pins, or earrings! This program is easily adapted to any animal theme. The clay does not take long to dry for small pieces, but make it a two-part program if you will be using paintable clay (paint animals and add backings during the second session). Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Air-dry clay
- Pin backs, earring backs, or magnets
- Hot glue gun and glue sticks
- Paint and paintbrushes (optional)
- Paper plates
- Sample animals or picture ideas

Give each teen a paper plate with small pieces of clay. While their animals dry, play quick games such as animal trivia or jeopardy (see Chapter 05: Wild Jeopardy for ideas).

RESOURCES

Web

Simply air-dry clay earrings tutorial: <https://bit.ly/3fZxHOp>

Middle Grade Nonfiction

Clay Lab for Kids: 52 Projects to Make, Model, and Mold with Air-Dry, Polymer, and Homemade Clay (2017) by Cassie Stephens

Modeling Clay With 3 Basic Shapes: Model More Than 40 Animals with Teardrops, Balls, and Worms (2016) by Bernadette Cuxart

CRAFT

BREAK IT, REMAKE IT: FREAKY ANIMALS

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens

DESCRIPTION

Older children take apart their old toys and put them back together again!

Asking participants to bring their old toys from home will minimize costs, but be prepared with extras on hand for those who do not bring any. Give out nametags for both participants and the monstrosities they create. For younger children or quicker programs, disassemble toys beforehand. Suggested runtime: 90–120 minutes



Image source: Martha Matthews of MidPointe Library System

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Make or gather pictures of examples (search “frankentoys”) to help spark their imaginations. You might also provide reference books of different animals.

For tearing toys apart, you will need:

- Scissors
- Pliers
- Clamps (optional)

For putting toys back together, you will need:

- Hot glue
- Superglue
- Duct tape
- Needles and thread
- Whatever craft materials you have on hand (e.g., markers, ribbons, feathers, felt, beads, wire, etc.)

You will also need:

- Plastic bins to sort the supplies
- Extra toys (thrifted stuffed animals, toy cars, robots, etc.)
- Wooden plaques
- Nametags

ADAPTATION:

Teens could also make cute and/or franken-crochet creatures.

Super Easy Amigurumi: Crochet Cute Animals (2017) by Mitsuki Hoshi is a good how-to book for beginners.

ADAPTATION:

For teens or adults, partner with a Makerspace (or local equivalent) and have teens or adults break/remake their old electronics. This adaptation would require more complex supplies, such as hand tools, work gloves, eye protection, a first aid kit, and a soldering iron. Be aware that some electronics may contain hazardous components, such as heavy metals.

TIP:

Modify materials based on audience age; you might also let younger children create creatures out of Lego or Duplo blocks.

CRAFT

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

Volunteers are recommended to help take difficult things apart. If you use hot glue guns, you will need outlets nearby.

RESOURCES**Web**

Frankentoys from *Teen Services Underground* blog: <https://bit.ly/2LGmgNK>

Bulk wooden plaques: <https://amzn.to/2WlwKTd>

Tech Take Apart from *School Library Journal*: <https://bit.ly/3clwdWF>

Tech Take Apart *The Travelin' Librarian* blog: <https://bit.ly/2yhq84l>

FictionMiddle Grade

Brilliant (2015) by Roddy Doyle and Emily Hughes

YA

Alice In Wonderland (1865) by Lewis Carroll

Beast Heart (*Steambound* #1) (2020) by Kyle Richardson

The Beast Is an Animal (2017) by Peternelle Van Arsdale

The Beast Player (2019) by Nahoko Uehashi

Beastly Bones (*Jackaby* #2) (2015) by William Ritter

Unhooked (2016) by Lisa Maxwell

Some Kind of Animal (2020) by Maria Romasco Moore

Adult Nonfiction

The Big Book of Hacks (2018) by Popular Science

Crap Taxidermy (2014) by Kat Su

Unscrewed (2011) by Ed Sobey

INTERACTIVE MOVIE: FINDING NEMO

AGES

Children 8+ years

Teens

Multigenerational

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Most older children and teens are familiar with *Finding Nemo*, but playing along with the movie is a new twist! Everyone gets an interactive script and a bag filled with props and snacks. Before you start the movie, practice the bonus actions as a group warm-up. This is a fun multigenerational program. Be sure to ask for help with cleanup after the screening. Suggested runtime: 120 minutes

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

You will need:

- Laptop and AV equipment
- Printed scripts
- One goodie bag per participant
- Finding Nemo (and a screening license)

Each goodie bag should contain:

- One script
- One blank piece of paper
- One pencil
- One mint
- One pack of gushers
- One balloon
- One glow stick
- One tube of bubbles
- One small bag of goldfish crackers
- One mini flashlight keychain

Request that participants sign up before the event so you know how many goodie bags to make.

ADAPTATIONS:

If you have children or teens with mobility issues, you may want to modify the script to minimize jumping and chair-switching. Remember closed captioning to include deaf patrons. You could also hold up number cards to prompt participants when to join in.

UNIQUE SPACE AND PERSONNEL NEEDS

To make room for the actions, you will need a space big enough to leave room between the chairs. Alternatively, screen this movie outdoors and ask participants to bring their own chairs and blankets.

RESOURCES

Children's Ocean Fiction

Early Readers

The Shark Report (Benny McGee and the Shark #1) (2020) by Derek Anderson

Narwhal: Unicorn of the Sea (2016) (or any Narwhal and Jelly book) by Ben Clanton

Middle Grade

The Line Tender (2019) by Kate Allen

The Shark Whisperer (Tristan Hunt and the Sea Guardians) (2014) by Ellen Prager and Antonio Javier Caparo

YA

The Beast of Cretacea (2015) by Todd Strasser

Dept.H (2019) by Matt Kindt and Sharlene Kindt

The Gracekeepers (2015) by Kristy Logan

The Light at the Bottom of the World (2019) by London Shah

The Salt to the Sea (2016) by Ruta Sepetys

Adult Ocean Nonfiction

The World Beneath: The Life and Times of Unknown Sea Creatures and Coral Reefs (2019) by Richard Smith

The Soul of an Octopus (2016) by Sy Montgomery

The Sea Around Us, 3rd ed. (2018 [1951]) by Rachel Carson

Far From Land: The Mysterious Lives of Sea Birds (2018) by Michael Brooke and Bruce Pearson

TIP:

See also Chapter 03: Marine Biologist Crafts for ocean picture books and early readers.

PRINTABLE

FINDING NEMO INTERACTIVE SCRIPT

SCENE	ACTION
1. When you see a big shark in the reef...	1. Run around your chair yelling "Aaahh, shark!"
2. When Marlin tells Nemo to brush his teeth...	2. Eat your mint.
3. When the fish asks Marlin to tell a joke...	3. Tell your neighbor a joke.
4. When they make Pearl squirt...	4. Eat your gushers.
5. When Nemo touches the butt...	5. Poke your neighbor's shoulder and whisper, "He touched my butt."
6. When Marlin swims after the boat that took Nemo...	6. Do jumping jacks until he loses the boat.
7. When Dory crashes into Marlin...	7. Fall down dramatically.
8. When they pass the "balloons"...	8. Blow up your balloon.
9. When Bruce introduces himself...	9. Say, "Hi, Bruce."
10. When Nemo wakes up in the fish tank...	10. Draw a picture of a fish tank.
11. When Deb introduces Flo...	11. Yell "Flooooooo!"
12. When Nemo gets unstuck...	12. Move to a new chair.
13. When they lose the mask...	13. Yell "Nooooooo!"
14. When Dory starts singing "just keep swimming"...	14. Sing along.
15. When Marlin and Dory see the pretty light...	15. Break your glow stick.
16. When Dory reads the mask...	16. Pretend to study your fish tank.
17. When they turn on the "ring of fire"...	17. Blow your bubbles.
18. When the school of fish gives them directions...	18. Draw a map with directions.
19. When Dory gets shocked by the jellyfish...	19. Shake and sizzle like you've been zapped.
20. When Merlin and Dory hop on jellyfish...	20. Jump up and down in front of your chair.

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FINDING NEMO INTERACTIVE SCRIPT

SCENE	ACTION
21. When Nemo tries to put the pebble in the fan...	21. Blow on your balloon and try to keep it in the air as long as possible.
22. When the baby turtles crowd Merlin...	22. Hug someone in the room.
23. When the birds call "Mine!"...	23. Yell "Mine!" with them.
24. When Gill tells everyone to be dirtier...	24. Throw everything on the floor (then pick it back up).
25. When Dory and Merlin are eaten by the whale...	25. Eat all but one of your goldfish.
26. When the tank turns green...	26. Scribble all over your picture of the fish tank.
27. When Nemo gets in the plastic bag...	27. Gasp.
28. When Darla shakes Nemo...	28. Shake your bag with the single goldfish.
29. When Dory realizes who Nemo is...	29. Gasp as loud as you can.
30. When Nemo, Marlin, and Dory save the fish...	30. High-five your neighbor.
31. When the rest of the fish escape in plastic bags...	31. Pop your balloon and eat your last goldfish.

BONUS! WHENEVER THIS HAPPENS...	DO THIS
1. When Dory forgets what she's doing...	1. Say "Wait, what?" in a confused voice. Light your flashlight above your head when she figures it out.
2. When something chases Dory and Marlin...	2. Run around your chair.
3. When Crush says "Dude"...	3. High-five at least one person.
4. When they mention Darla...	4. Yell, "Oh, no!"
5. When Dory speaks Whale...	5. Speak Whale with her.
6. When someone says "P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney."	6. Say "P. Sherman, 42 Wallaby Way, Sydney."