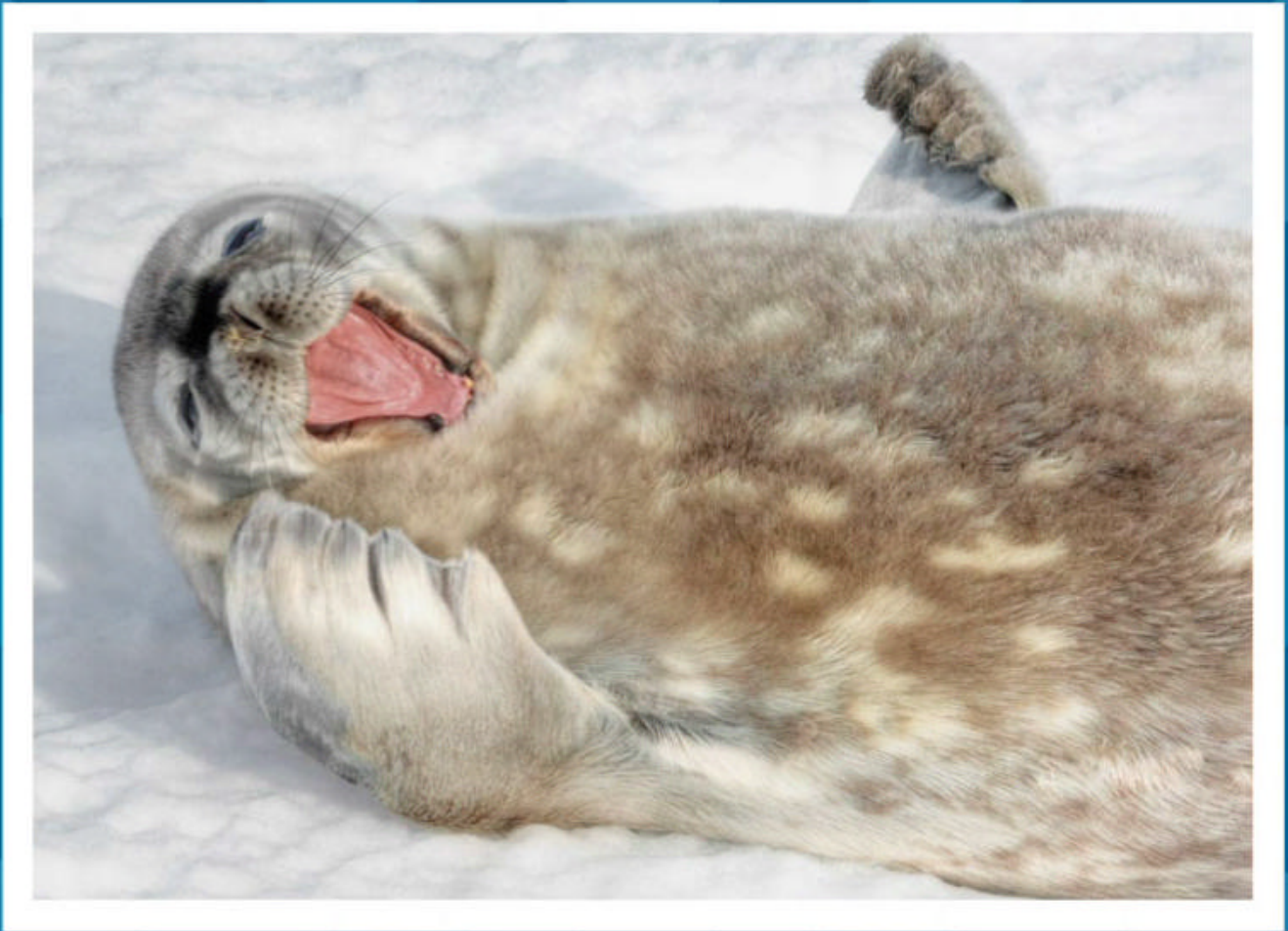


**OBSERVATION**

# Critter Corner

What do you think this seal is doing?



DMYTRO PYLYPENKO / SHUTTERSTOCK

A. Laughing   B. Getting ready for school   C. Yawning

Answer: C

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**LOOK INSIDE:  
ANIMAL CARDS!**

# Little **kids**



THE MAGAZINE FOR YOUNG EXPLORERS

## Little Ermines



# Why?

Why do you think bugs have antennae?

ANTENNA



This grasshopper's antennae are like a nose. They help it smell. Other insects may use antennae to feel and taste.

## SORTING

# What Is Different?

Look at each picture in the top row.  
Find the differences between it and the one below.



Find one  
difference.

Find two  
differences.

Find three  
differences.

# That's Cool!

Meet the eyelash viper.

The eyelash viper lives in trees in rain forests.

This snake hunts frogs, rodents, lizards, and bats.

The pointy scales above its eyes look like eyelashes.

SCALES

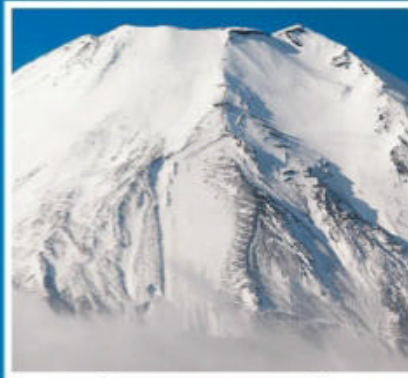


# NAMING

## What in the World Are These?



\_GLOO



\_OUNTAIN



\_NOWMAN



\_EAS



\_CE CREAM



\_ATER



\_ICLES



\_ROZEN POPS



\_CEBERG

NAME SOME OTHER COLD THINGS.

TOP ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): RADIUS IMAGES / GETTY IMAGES; YASUKO AOKI / A.COLLECTIONRF / GETTY IMAGES; SMIT / SHUTTERSTOCK. MIDDLE ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © ELISABETH COELFEN FOOD / ALAMY; DAN KOSMAYER / SHUTTERSTOCK; FOODCOLLECTION RF / GETTY IMAGES. BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): © OCEAN / CORBIS; © INDEXSTOCK / SUPERSTOCK; © STEVE ALLEN / DREAMSTIME.

# BUSY ERMINES



The ermine darts across the snow. It lives in fields and forests where it is cold most of the year.

An ermine is so light it can run across the top of the snow without sinking.

An ermine looks under rocks for food. It races up and down trees. It twists and turns around bushes.



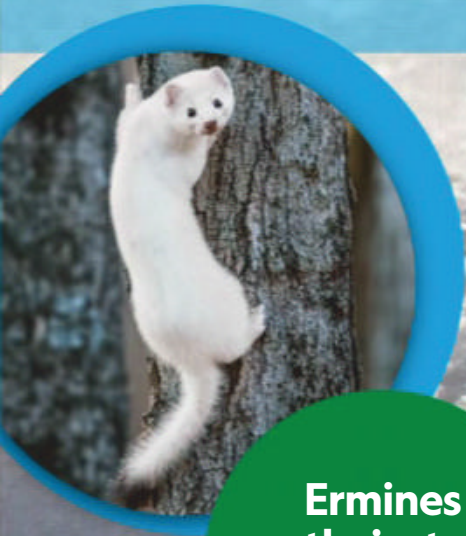
As the ermine runs, its tail swings behind it.

The tail's black tip confuses hawks that try to catch the ermine.



Ermines are busy hunters. They eat squirrels, birds, lemmings, and other small animals.

Most adult ermines are shorter than your arm.



Ermines use their strong claws to dig and climb.



Sometimes an ermine digs a tunnel under the snow. When it finds another animal's den, the ermine slips inside and catches its dinner.

In the summer,  
an ermine's  
fur blends in  
with plants  
and rocks.



**SUMMER COAT**

**SNOW DEN**



**WINTER COAT**

In the winter,  
it blends in  
with snow.

**Ermines  
sleep in dens in  
snow and under  
rocks. They also  
sleep in holes in  
trees.**

# NAME GAME

Point to each letter. Say the sound it makes. Then draw a line with your finger from each letter to the animal whose name starts with the same sound.



DRAGONFLY

B

M

What letter  
does your name  
start with?



SEAL

K

FISH



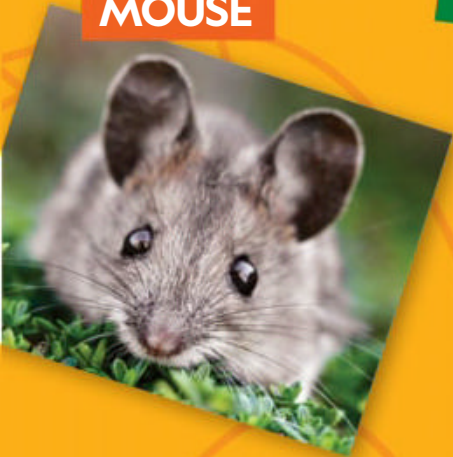
S

KANGAROOS



D

MOUSE



BEAR



F

PAUL REEVES PHOTO / SHUTTERSTOCK (DRAGONFLY); KLETR / SHUTTERSTOCK (FISH); IDIZ / SHUTTERSTOCK (KANGAROOS); ACHIM BAGUE / SHUTTERSTOCK (SEAL); © LUKAS BLAZEK / DREAMTIME (MOUSE); DEMON89 / ISTOCK (BEAR)

ANIMALS

MOUNTAIN

GORILLAS

NOW  
SHOWING!

GORILLA  
VIDEO

[natgeolittlekids  
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12 JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2019

Mountain gorillas live in family groups called troops. They live in mountain forests.


A baby gorilla rides on its mom's back until it is two or three years old.

Every morning the gorilla troop walks through the forest to look for food. The biggest and strongest adult male leads the way.



Adult males are called silverbacks because their fur is silvery gray.

**SILVERBACK**



Gorillas eat leaves, fruit, wild celery, tree bark, and roots.

A mountain gorilla troop can have up to 30 members.

In the afternoon, the adults relax together. The little gorillas play and climb trees. Sometimes the grown-up gorillas join the fun too.

**MEET  
MORE**

# **APES**



**ORANGUTANS**

Gorillas are apes.  
Here are a few  
other apes.



**BONOBO**

**CHIMPANZEE**





# NUMBER FUN

Smile **1** time when you see the zebra.

Clap **2** times when you find the birds.

Tug your ear **3** times when you find the elephant.

Touch your nose **4** times when you find the pig.

Blink **5** times when you see the giant panda.



GIANT PANDA



ZEBRA

BIRDS



PIG



ELEPHANT



PLOYPENUK / SHUTTERSTOCK (BIRDS); TALSEN / SHUTTERSTOCK (PIG); © HUPENG / DREAMSTIME (PANDA); FOUR OAKS / SHUTTERSTOCK (ZEBRA); © ISTOCK / NIGHTOWILZA (ELEPHANT)

# A POND FREEZES

1

In summer this pond is filled with water. Water gets colder as winter approaches.



2 The pond starts to freeze in winter. The water is turning from liquid water to solid ice.





3

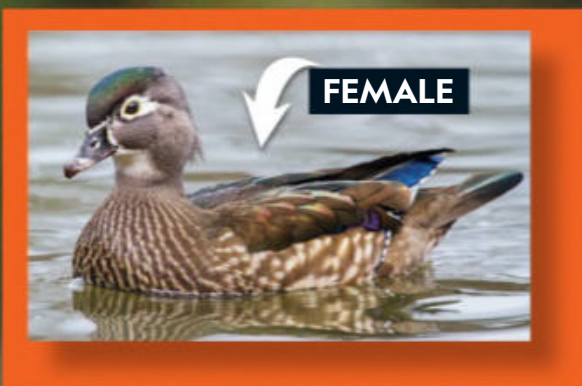
The weather stays cold. Now the entire top of the pond is frozen. When the ice gets thick enough, kids can ice-skate with their parents!



# WOOD DUCK!

Wood ducks live in swamps, ponds, and streams. They make their nests in trees. This bird has the perfect body for both water and trees.

Short, wide wings help it fly between tree branches.



Male wood ducks are more colorful than females.

The long, wide tail helps a wood duck balance in trees.



Big eyes help it see while it flies through shady forests.

Its wide, flat beak scoops up plants and seeds to eat.

**MALE**

Feathers keep wood ducks warm and dry.

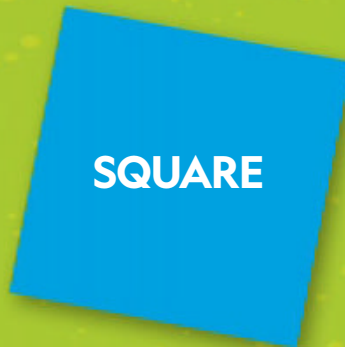
A wood duck can fly as fast as a car driving in a neighborhood.

**WEBBING**

Webbed feet help it swim. Sharp claws on its toes help it hold on to branches.

# LOOKING FOR

Trace each shape with your finger.  
Then match each shape to the  
object with the same shape.



FERRIS WHEEL



# SHAPES

**PIZZA**



**CIRCLE**



**WAFFLE**



RI:IMAGES / SHUTTERSTOCK (DOOR); VITALLY / SHUTTERSTOCK (FERRIS WHEEL); BESTV / SHUTTERSTOCK (PIZZA); GIGDEM SEAN COOPER / SHUTTERSTOCK (SEA STAR); PAULZHUK / SHUTTERSTOCK (WAFFLE); © THOMAS MANGELSEN / MINDEN PICTURES (COVER)

Look around. What shapes do you see in things around you?

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**WILD CARDS**



**ARCTIC FOX**

# arctic fox

---

## **FUN FACTS**

**This fox's white winter coat helps it blend in with snow. The arctic fox can sneak up on animals it hunts without being seen.**

---



VISCERALIMAGE / SHUTTERSTOCK

**WILD CARDS**



**OCELOT**

# ocelot

---

## **FUN FACTS**

**An ocelot is about as big as a medium-size dog. A young ocelot lives near its mother until it is two or three years old.**

---



# WILD CARDS



**SALLY LIGHTFOOT CRAB**

# Sally Lightfoot crab

---

## **FUN FACTS**

**Crabs use their claws to scoop, grab, and tear the food they eat. They also use claws to pinch any animal that attacks them.**

---



**WILD CARDS**



**RED SQUIRREL**

# red squirrel

---

## **FUN FACTS**

**In the fall, red squirrels collect pine cones. The squirrels hide the cones under logs. In the winter, they eat the seeds in the cones.**

---



VOJTA HEROUT / SHUTTERSTOCK



**WILD CARDS**



**GOLDEN SNUB-NOSED MONKEY**

# golden snub-nosed monkey

---

## **FUN FACTS**

**These monkeys live high in the mountains where it is often snowy. They have thick fur that helps keep them warm.**

---



# WILD CARDS



COMMON LOONS

# common loons

---

## **FUN FACTS**

**Baby loons sometimes ride on their parents' backs. This protects the little ones from hungry fish swimming underwater.**

---



MIKE NORKUM / SHUTTERSTOCK