

## GREY WOLF

Grey wolves can be found in the Rocky Mountains of the United States as well as in areas of Europe, Asia and Africa. They tend to live in remote areas because they do not like to be near humans. This is for a good reason: the only real threat they have is posed by humans, and occasionally tigers.

Grey wolves prey on animals of all sizes: large moose and elks, as well as rabbits and beavers. They even scavenge for dead animals. These carnivores can eat up to 30 pounds of meat in one meal! They are also capable of going without a meal for 2 weeks.

Contrary to their official name, these wolves can range in color from pure white to reddish-brown, and even black. Grey wolves are about the same size as a German Shepard dog, with large heads and feet. In fact, the grey wolf is the sole ancestor of the modern domesticated dog.

## BLIND CAVE FISH

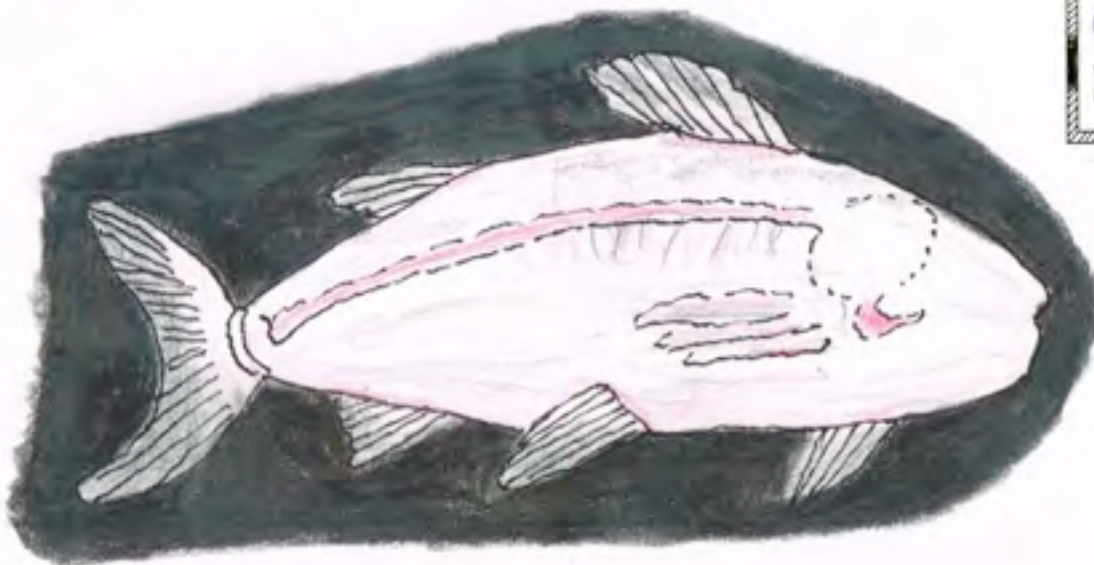
Just as their name suggests, the blind cave fish of the Rio Grande is an eyeless species.

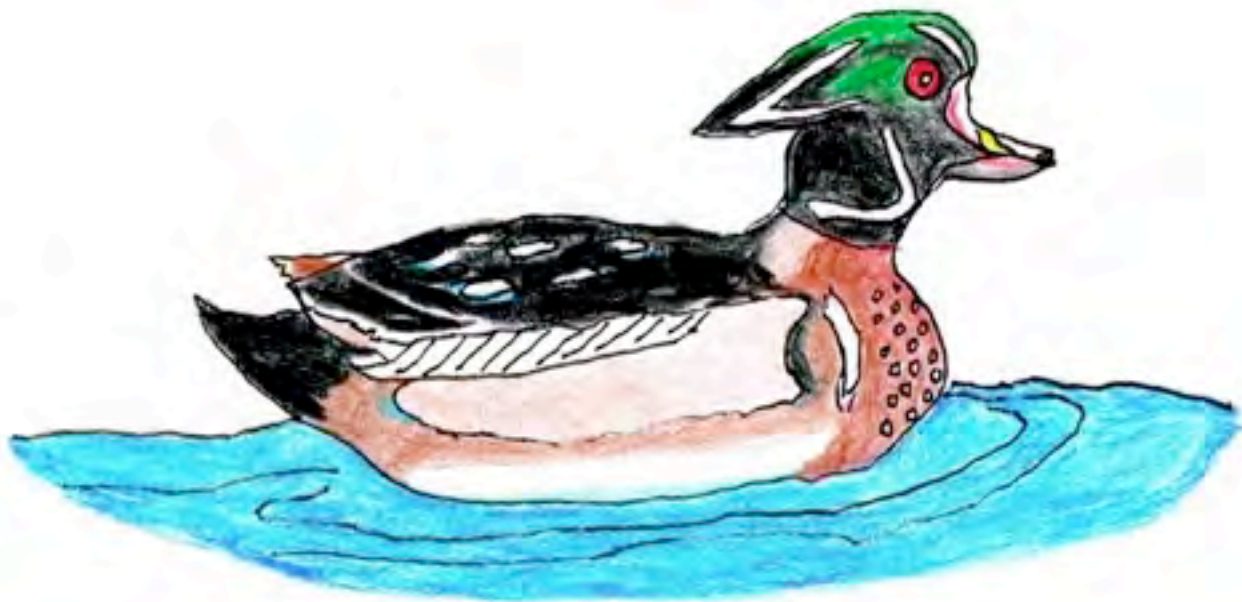
This unique fish, also known as Mexican tetra, has no need for eyes because it lives in deep dark caves.

Since they are not exposed to sunlight, they have no pigment in their skin and have a pale pinkish white color. These fish also have poor hearing so they navigate by sensing water current vibrations.

The blind Cave fish is a carnivorous scavenger that feeds on the carcasses of dead fish, aquatic insects and crustaceans.

Although they are relatively small, they have a strong bite for their size. This blind fish is an excellent example of how a species can evolve in response to its surroundings.





## WOOD DUCK

The coloration of the Wood Duck makes it one of the most striking of the waterfowl in North America.

These ducks can be found along the Mississippi River. The Wood Duck has iridescent green, blue and red plumage that creates its distinctive look.

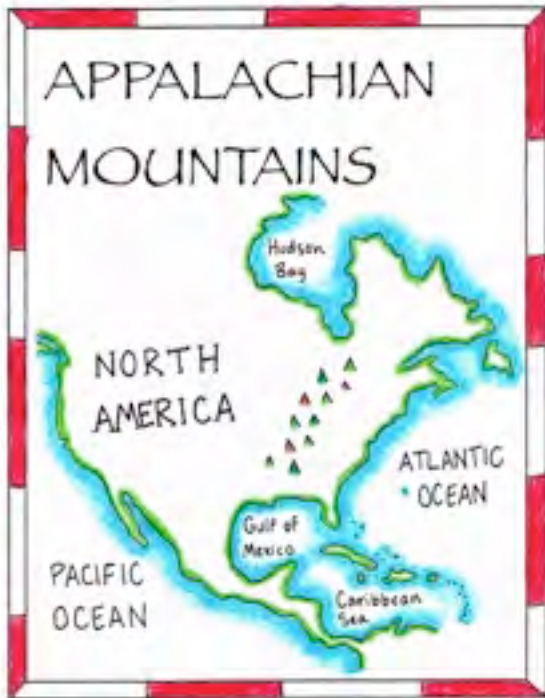
They are also unique because, unlike other ducks, they perch on tree limbs and are comfortable flying in and around wooded areas. They even build nests in tree cavities, setting them apart from other kinds of ducks. They are omnivorous, and feed mostly on aquatic organisms, including leeches, crayfish, lilies and algae. When food is not available in water, they will take to dry land to eat seeds and plants.

These timid creatures have a large number of predators, so they stay hidden most of the day.

They find cover in and among many varieties of water plants and shrubs.







## YONAHLOSSEE SALAMANDER

The Yonahlossee Salamander is found primarily in the southern Appalachian Mountains of the United States. They are a special type of salamander that has no lungs! They breathe through their skin and the tissue in their mouths. They are known by the large red blotches on their black bodies.

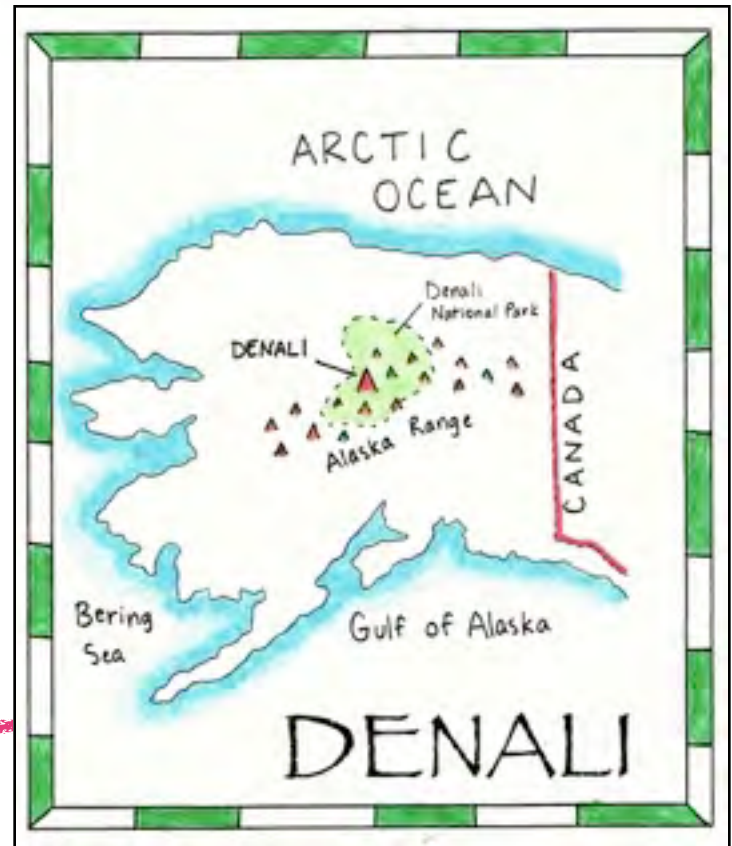
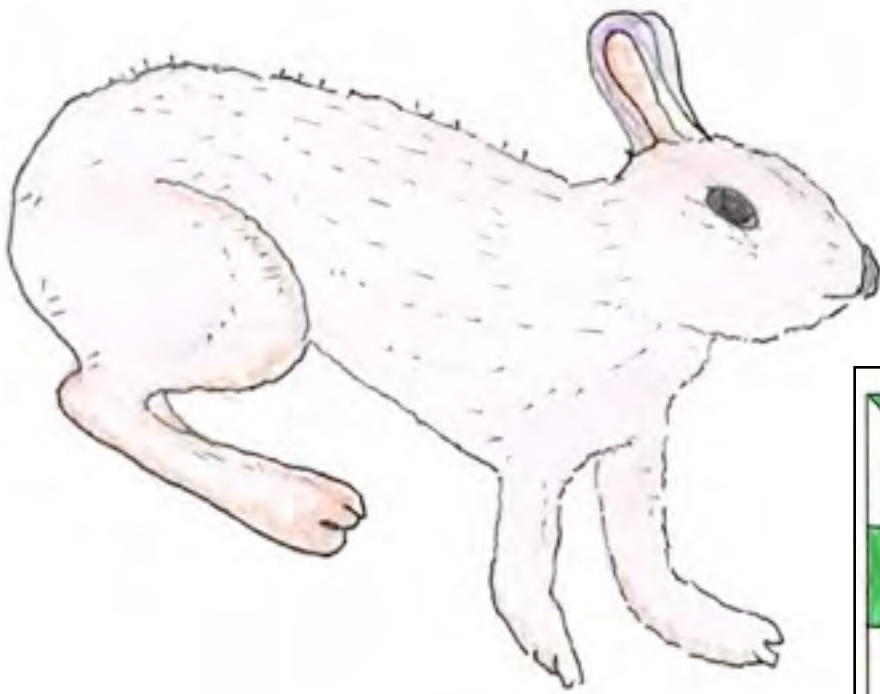
Younger salamanders usually have more red blotches.

Blotches in older salamanders tend to blur together into one large band. These red markings can be found on their bellies too!

They live in woodland areas, in logs, and stumps and burrows. These shelters provide protection from predators like birds and small mammals.

To escape from predators, they secrete a noxious substance that deters their enemies. These salamanders are carnivorous and feast on spiders, millipedes and earthworms!





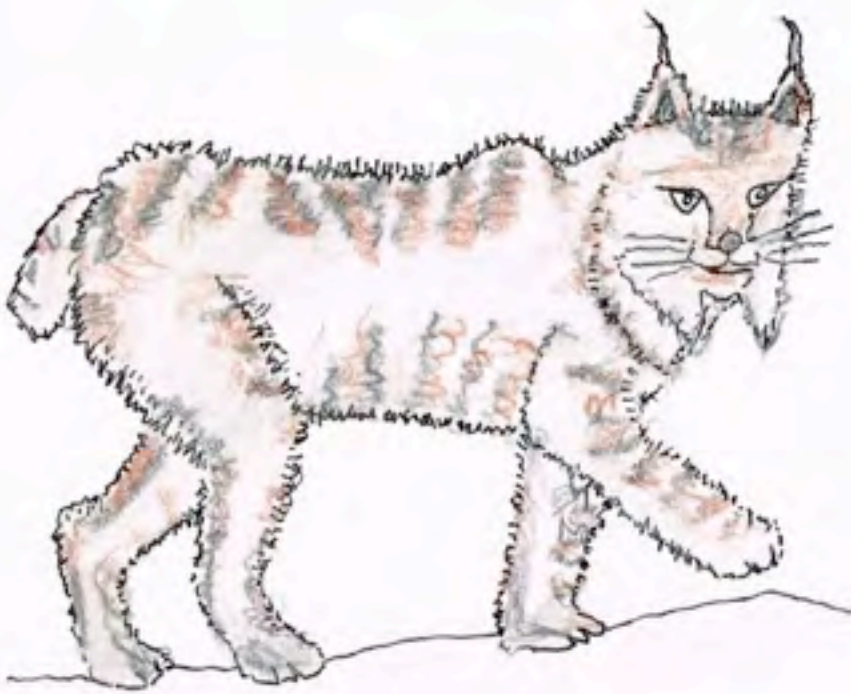
## SNOWSHOE HARE

The Snowshoe Hare is found throughout the northern regions of [North America](#). This Hare is slightly larger than a rabbit and they have longer ears and feet. Their fur, which changes color, allows them camouflage depending on season.

In the winter the Hare is snow white, and in summer they are brown. Their large feet have fur-coated soles, and this allows them to walk easily on ice and snow.

The Hares are very agile and move very quickly. They can leap up to ten feet in one jump! They are speedy too, moving as fast as 27 miles per hour.

These creatures have very short lifespans averaging only 1 to 3 years in the wild. Unlike some rare breeds of animal, the population of Snow Hare never dips too low, never near extinction, because they are prolific breeders.



## CANADIAN LYNX



Canadian Lynx are found around the Yukon River in northern Canada and Alaska. Compared to other large carnivorous cats like lions and tigers, Canadian lynx are smaller.

These medium-sized muscular cats have a coat of thick dense fur. This fur allows them to withstand the cold and snowy climate of their area. Their large paws enable them to walk easily on ice and thick snow banks. They are recognizable by their triangle shaped ears with distinctive black tufts of fur which help enhance the hearing of the animal. Along with a keen sense of hearing, they have advanced eyesight that makes it possible for them to spot prey from afar.

The Canadian Lynx is a specialist predator which means that it feeds mainly on a single species of prey. The Canadian lynx hunts mainly the showshoe hare, but also eats mice, squirrels and other small mammals.

These solitary nocturnal animals tend to hunt in forests where they can easily find their prey.





## Whiskered Auklet

The Whiskered Auklet is found exclusively around the Aleutian Islands.

This small scarlet-beaked seabird is characterized by white plumes or whiskers around its face.

The whiskers do more than give the Auklet a unique appearance: they help the bird sense their surroundings in the dark.

The Auklet is one of the rarest species of seabirds. Its behavior is hard to study since it is secretive and nocturnal.

These whiskered Auklets do not build nests, but instead use the rock crevices of the island for socializing and egg-laying.

# HAWAIIAN HOARY BAT

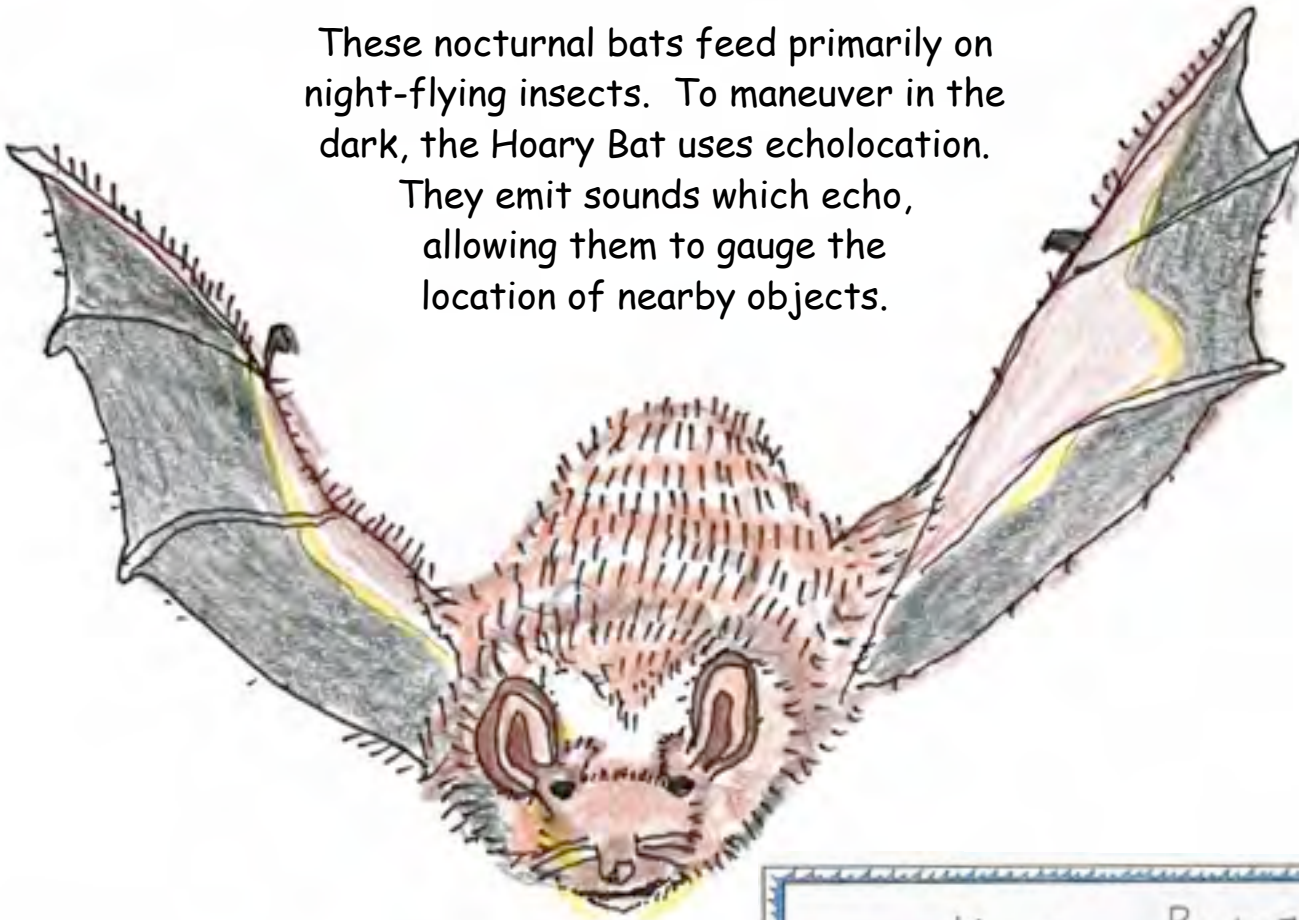
The Hoary Bat is the only animal native to the Hawaiian islands. Its coat is a mix of brown, white black and grey, contributing to its hoary appearance.

Its long narrow wings are usually about 12 inches in span, somewhat longer in the larger females.

They can usually be found from sea level to about 7500 feet, but they have also been observed as high as 13,000 feet on the summits of mountains.

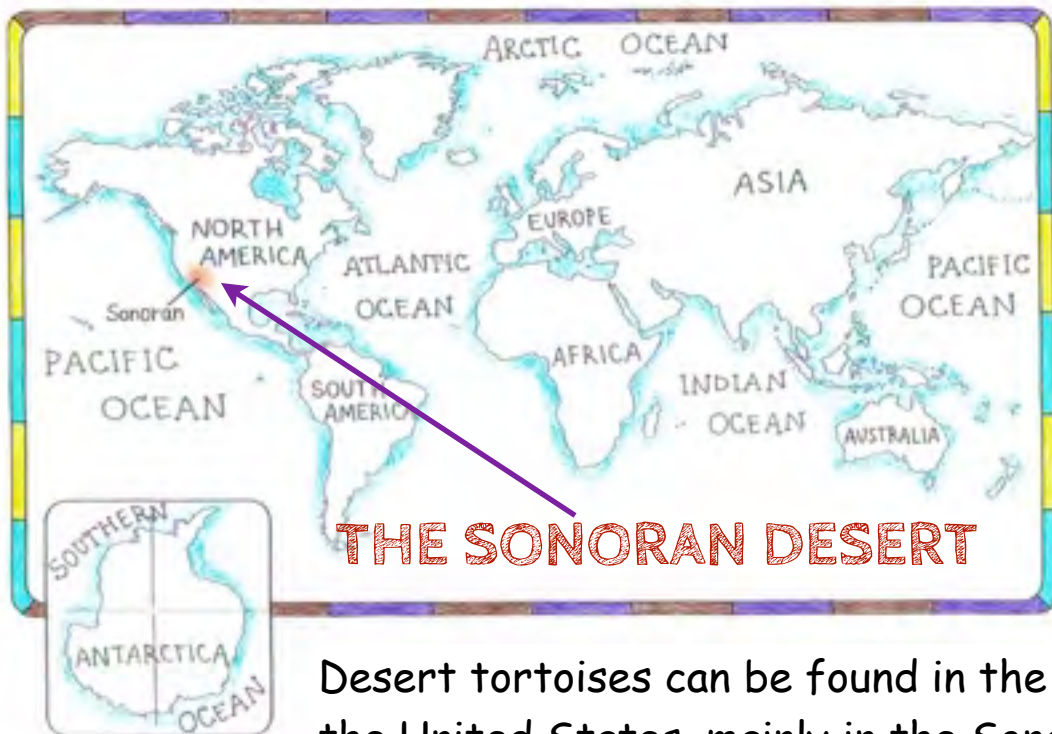
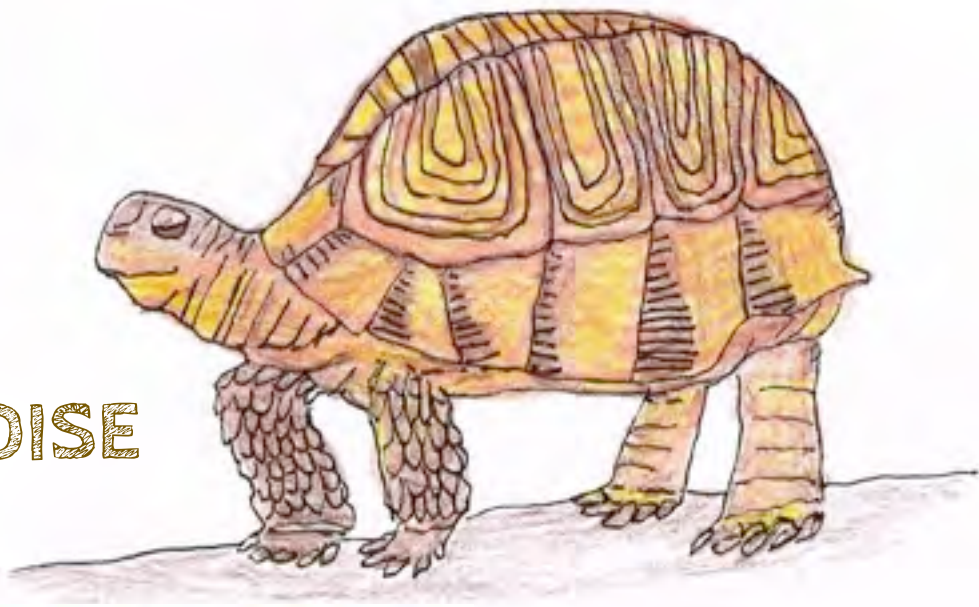
These nocturnal bats feed primarily on night-flying insects. To maneuver in the dark, the Hoary Bat uses echolocation.

They emit sounds which echo, allowing them to gauge the location of nearby objects.





# DESERT TORTOISE



Desert tortoises can be found in the western parts of the United States, mainly in the Sonoran Desert. These reptiles have been known to live up to 50 years in the wild. They live primarily in burrows, which are underground tunnels that they dig. Most of their lives are spent in these underground burrows in order to deal with the heat of the desert. Due to the lack of water in the desert, these tortoises can store large amounts of fluid in their bodies. They can actually survive up to a year without access to water. The tortoises forage in the spring and eat primarily grass and wildflowers. Since the 1950's, populations have decreased substantially, contributing to their vulnerable status.

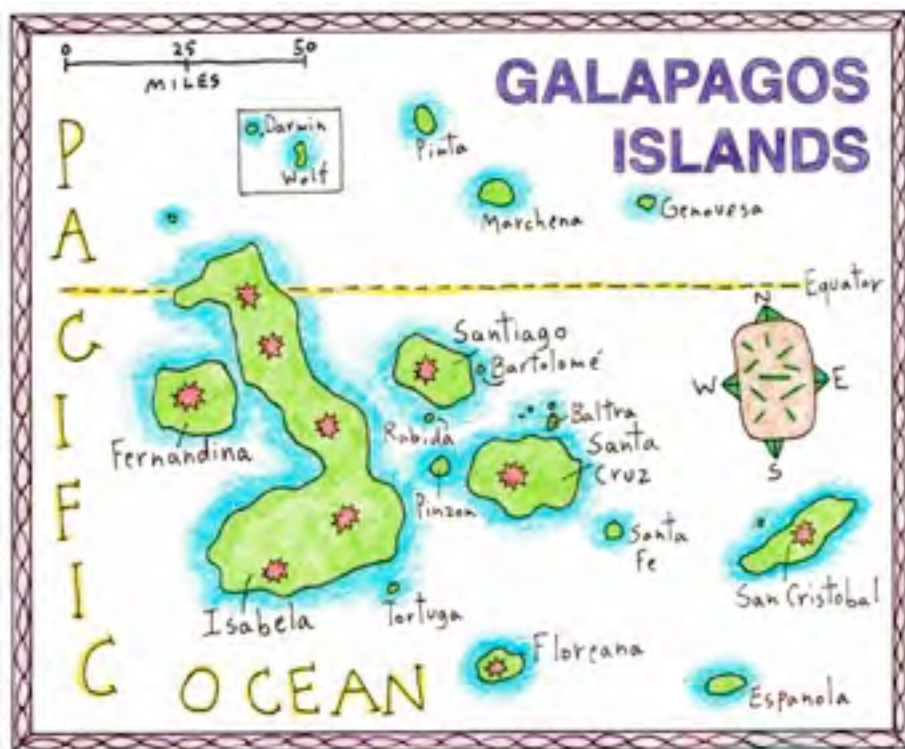
## A cartoon illustration of a penguin standing on a small patch of ice. The penguin is wearing a brown life preserver around its neck and blue flippers on its feet. It has a long, pointed beak and a small eye. The background is white.

The largest population is on the Galapagos Islands.

Their name originates from the Spanish word "bobo" which means clown. The first people who saw these birds remarked on their goofy way of strutting, and their unexpected confidence around humans!

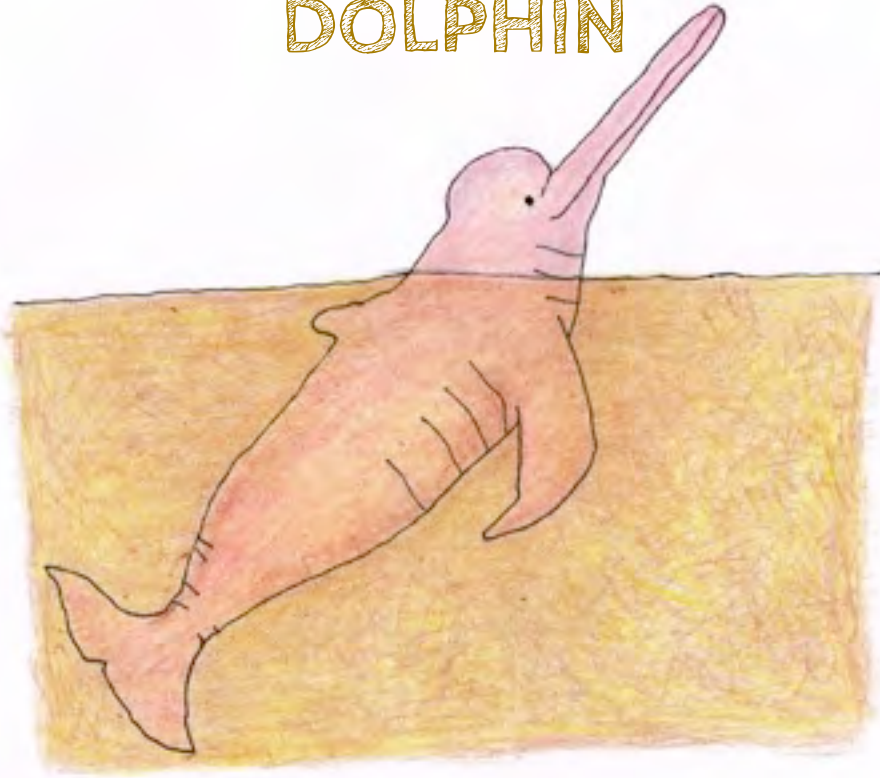
They can dive mid-flight into the ocean from heights of 80 feet, at the remarkable speed of 60 miles per hour!

Males and females can be differentiated easily:  
males have smaller pupils,  
lighter colored feet and are  
smaller in size than females.





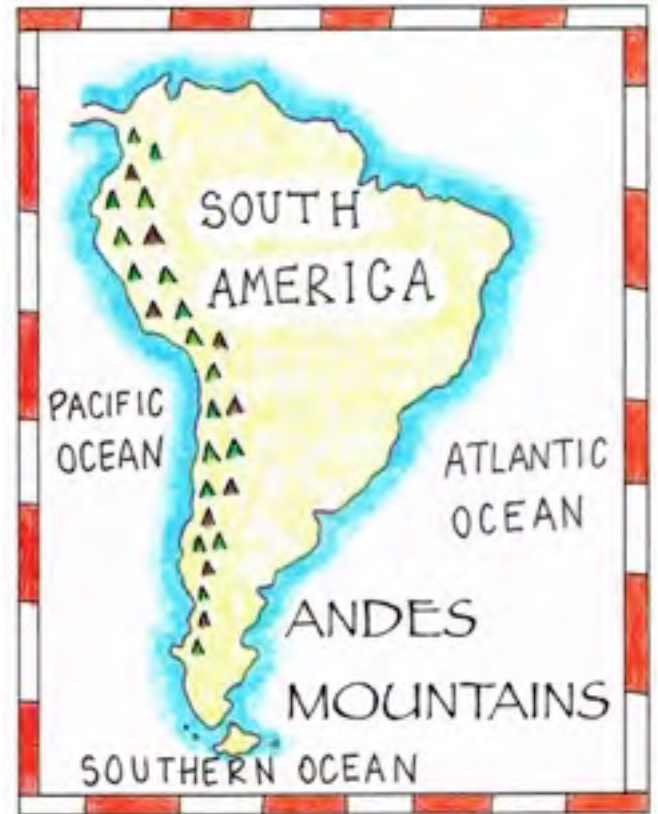
# AMAZON RIVER DOLPHIN



The Amazon River dolphin, or BOTO, is one of the five freshwater species of dolphin in the world. These dolphins can be either a light pink color, or a dull grey, a color we most often associate with dolphins. They can grow to be six feet in length and since they are very flexible they are very agile in the water. This compensates for their lack of speed of 1.5 miles per hour.

When hunting for food, they run their beak-like snouts through the sandy river bottoms to find crustaceans. They have coarse bristles at the end of their snouts that help them feel for prey. They also feed on a variety of fish found in the Amazon waters. To chew their prey, they use their 140 molar-like teeth. Unafraid of humans, these dolphins often swim up to boats out of curiosity.

Amazon river dolphins are highly respected by the local inhabitants and are the subject of many myths and legends. It is believed that if a person looks a BOTO in the eye, he or she will have nightmares for life!



## ALPACA

The Alpaca is has been a completely domesticated species for thousands of years, and for this reason there are no known wild alpacas in the Andes Mountains. These animals have valuable coats whose fibers can be transformed into fibers for weaving and knitting. Alpaca ranchers use shears to clip the coats from the alpacas.

These livestock animals resemble llamas but differ in that they are bred exclusively for their fibers. Llamas are used as pack animals.

Alpacas are gentle and intelligent creatures who seek companionship with their fellow herd members. They make humming sounds when happy. If they are separated from their friends, they become noticeably upset!



# Hairy Armadillo



The hairy armadillo is found in the Patagonian desert of South America.

Researchers believe that these creatures have inhabited this desert for over 60 million years!

Like other Armadillos, they possess bony plates that offer them protection. This armor acts as a defense mechanism when they curl up into it to avoid predators.

They will sometimes choose to outrun attackers, and are able to seek refuge in thorny vegetation, where they are protected by their shells.

Unlike the common armadillo, this species possesses a furry underbelly and coarse hairs projecting through their plates. Hairy armadillos are skilled swimmers, and can swim underwater as well as float at the surface.

They can hold their breath for up to 6 minutes, and make themselves buoyant enough to float by gulping air into their intestines.

This species eats mostly insects and grubs that they dig for with their sharp claws. Digging also helps them create the burrows that act as their shelter in the Patagonian Steppe.

## GREENLAND SHARK

Unlike many other sharks, the Greenland Shark is mellow and virtually harmless to humans. For what they lack in speed, they make up for in size: their top speed is only 1.6 miles per hour, but they can grow to be over 21 feet, making one of the world's largest sharks. Although they eat primarily fish, they have been known to dine on carcasses of large mammals such as polar bears, horses and reindeer.

In Greenland and Iceland the meat of this shark is considered a delicacy. However, the raw flesh is poisonous, so the meat has to be prepared and cooked carefully. When sled dogs accidentally eat the flesh they act drunk and cannot stand up, being affected by the toxic chemicals in the uncooked flesh.

Many Greenland sharks are never alone: they have a parasite that lives in the eye of the shark and eats it!

Although it is unclear how long these sharks live, it is speculated that they can survive for several hundred years, maybe longer than any other animal.







## ICELANDIC HORSE

The breed of the Icelandic Horse has been said to have originated all the way back to the Vikings. Although they are referred to as "horses" they are in fact more pony-sized, about 54" high.

To brave the harsh Icelandic climate, these horses possess long thick manes and tails as well as dense coats. Their sturdy build allows for them to be very versatile. They are used for farming as well as leisure riding -- for these reasons that this wild horse is often domesticated.



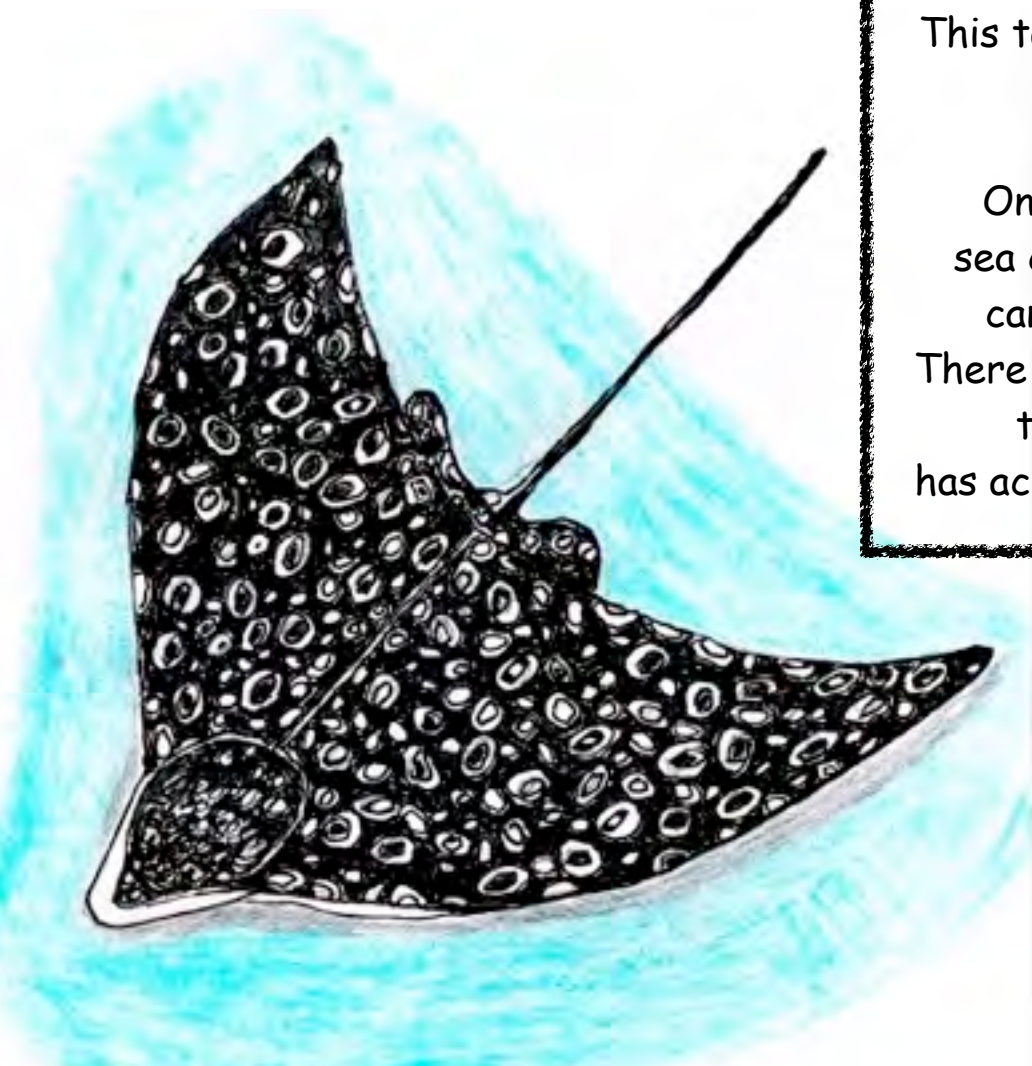
## SPOTTED EAGLE RAY

The Spotted Eagle Ray is a member of the ray family and is identified by its distinctive white spots and unique duck-like snout.

The Eagle Ray is found in tropical waters including those around the island of Bermuda.

Their tail can be up to 20 feet long, with venomous spines! This tail can be used as a weapon against predators.

One thing that makes this sea creature unique is that it can leap out of the water. There have been occasions where the Spotted Eagle Ray has accidentally landed on a boat!





## The Bee Hummingbird

The Bee Hummingbird is the world's smallest bird, measuring only 5-6 cm in length and weighing approximately 2 grams.

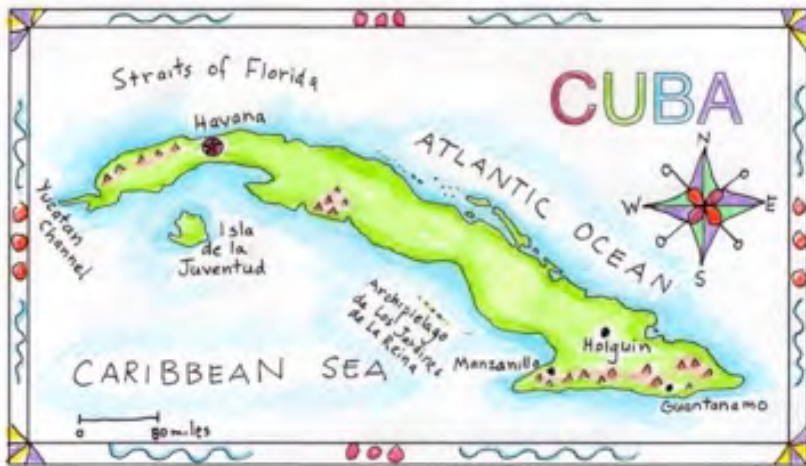
Its eggs are no larger than a pea!

Native to Cuba, these colorful hummingbirds have iridescent plumage making them look like tiny jewels. Unlike the slender appearance of most other hummingbirds, these are rounder and less streamlined.

These tiny creatures feed primarily on nectar and can visit up to 1,500 flowers in a single day.

In a short span of 24 hours the bee hummingbird can drink up to eight times its mass in water.

Skillful maneuvering skills help them to avoid predators -- these agile birds can even fly backwards! Appearing as just a blur to the naked eye, the hummingbird's wings can beat 80 times a second!





## CUBAN PAINTED SNAIL



Cuban painted snails are unique to Cuban coastal areas and are not found elsewhere in the world. These snails have a very hard shiny shell that is very brightly colored. The shells are usually about 3/4 of inch long. These snails eat lichen, moss and fungus that grow on tree bark and leaves.

Poachers seek out these snails to make jewelry and other small colorful items. This has made the Cuban painted snails an endangered species.

These snails are protected by the Cuban government. They cannot be taken from the country except if they are being used for scientific research.



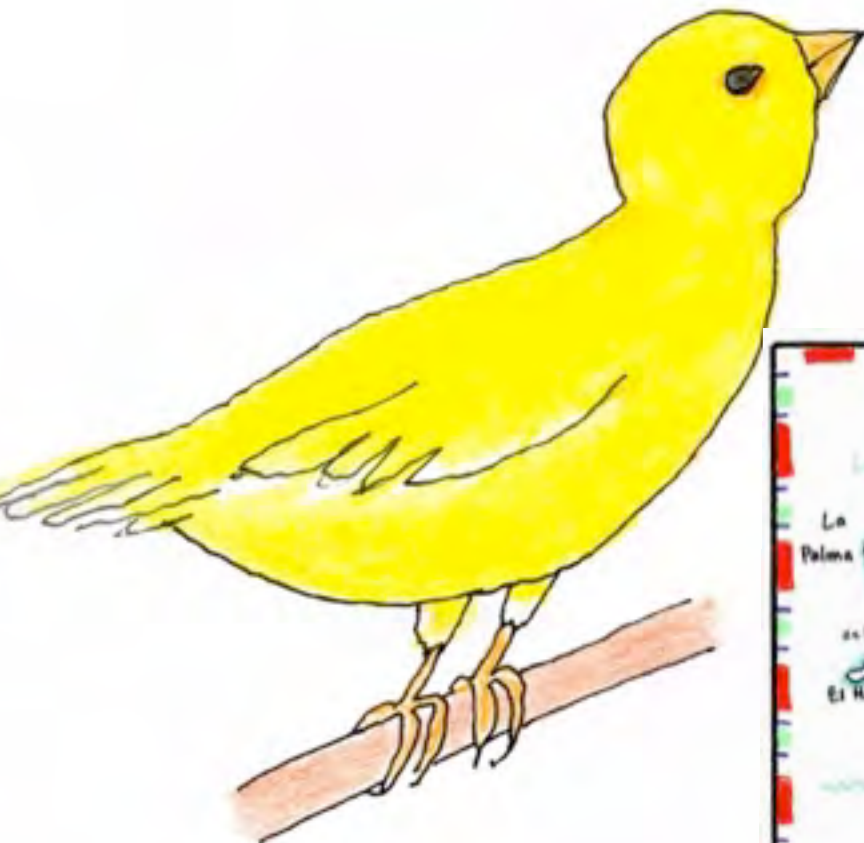
## CANARY

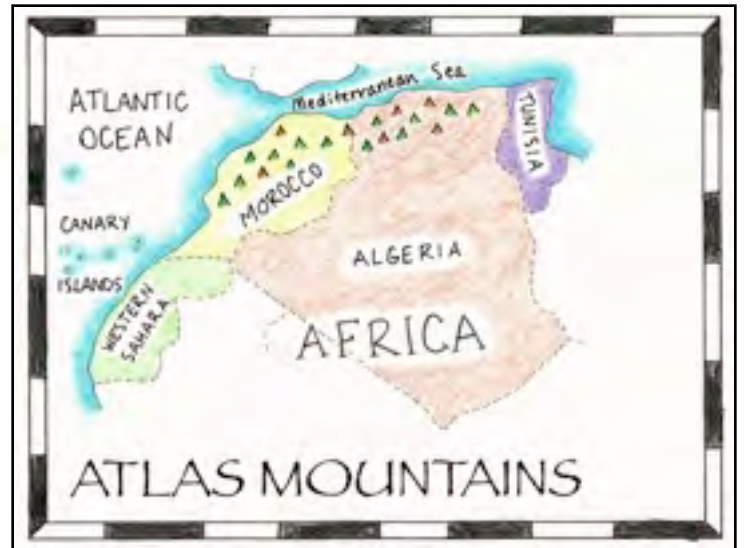
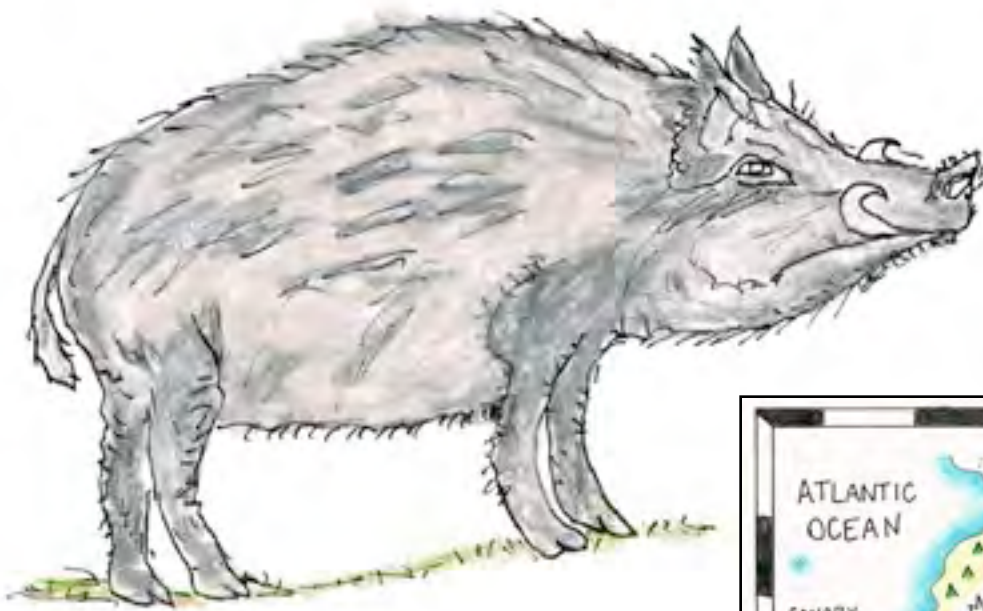
Popular as pets for their gorgeous bright yellow coloring and melodious song, canaries originated in the wild on the Canary Islands. They can live up to an age of eight in the wild.

An adaptive creature, the canary can survive in many different habitats, including forests and woodlands.

These birds are herbivores and forage for seeds and flower buds.

At certain times of the year, the canaries congregate in flocks containing hundreds of individuals. Luckily there are few threats to this species and they are not in danger of extinction. Although you might think the islands are named after this common bird, it is the opposite -- the bird is named for the islands.





## WILD BOAR

Wild boars can be found in the Atlas Mountains, but they are not restricted to that area! In fact, wild boars are found on every continent except Antarctica. They are, besides human beings, the most widely distributed mammal on earth. They live in groups called sounders.

Wild boars inhabit forests and tend to gather around streams and ponds-- they can swim too! Unlike the smaller domestic pig, the wild boar can grow up to 5 feet long and can weigh, on the average, about 200 pounds. They have bristly fur, sharp tusks and large snouts.

A wild boar diet consists largely of acorns, plants and even some small animals. They use their snouts to sniff out food. Because of their rough foraging and digging, they are often considered to be pests. They kill many native plant species and deplete acorn stashes that deers feed on.

Because of the damage they cause, wild boars are often hunted to reduce their numbers.



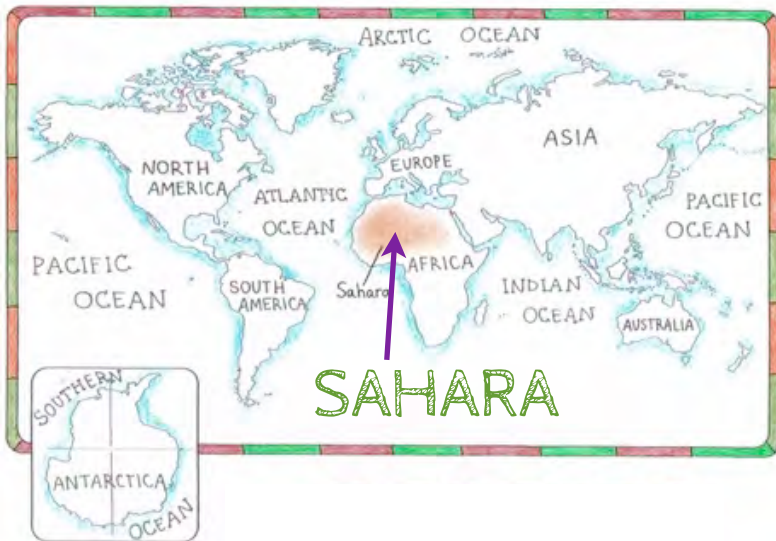
# DESERT HORNED VIPER

The desert horned viper, found in the Sahara, is the most commonly found snake in North African deserts. This species dwells in sandy habitats, and prefer temperatures that range around 68 degrees Fahrenheit.

The sandy terrain of the desert provides camouflage while hunting prey (such as rodents, birds, and small reptiles). The snake can even sink into the sand to disguise itself. Another hunting advantage can be found in the the set of horns located above its eyes. In addition to offering their eyes protection from blowing sand, the horns break up the silhouette of the snake's head, giving them even more stealth when stalking prey.

The horned viper is able to acquire a sufficient amount of freshwater in the desert, where water is not easily accessible. They trap morning dew in their scales, which is crucial to their survival.

These snakes have venomous bites, but pose little threat to humans due to their non-aggressive nature.



## Nile River Hippopotamus

The Nile River Hippopotamus can be found in Africa around the Nile River.

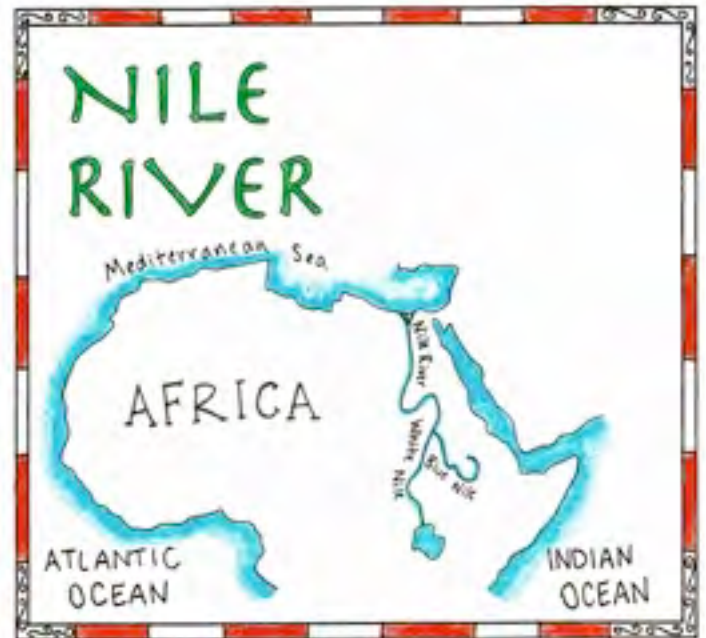
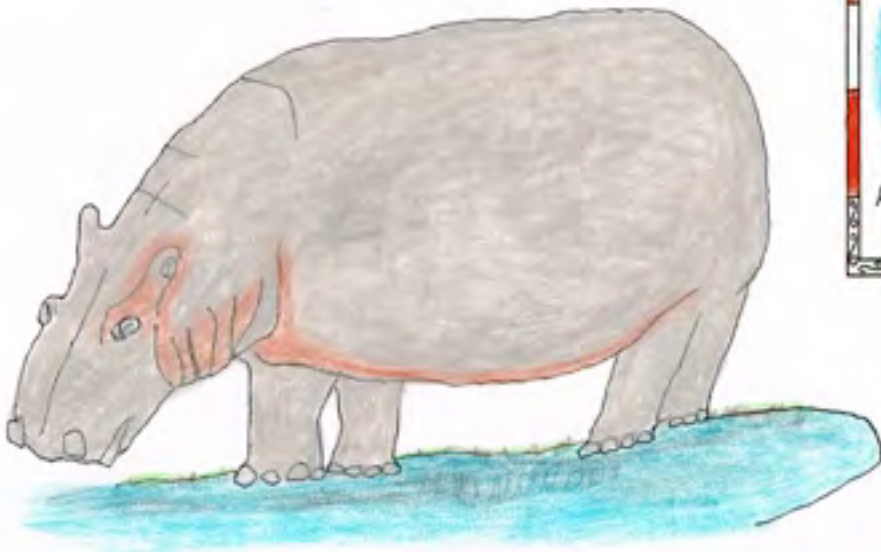
These giant mammals are amphibious creatures, meaning they live both on land and in the water. The large animals grow up to be up to 6 feet long and can be anywhere from 5,000 to 8,000 pounds.

In their hot African habitat, they submerge themselves in the river to keep themselves cool. Interestingly hippos have nostrils on the top of their heads which help them to breathe while almost totally under water.

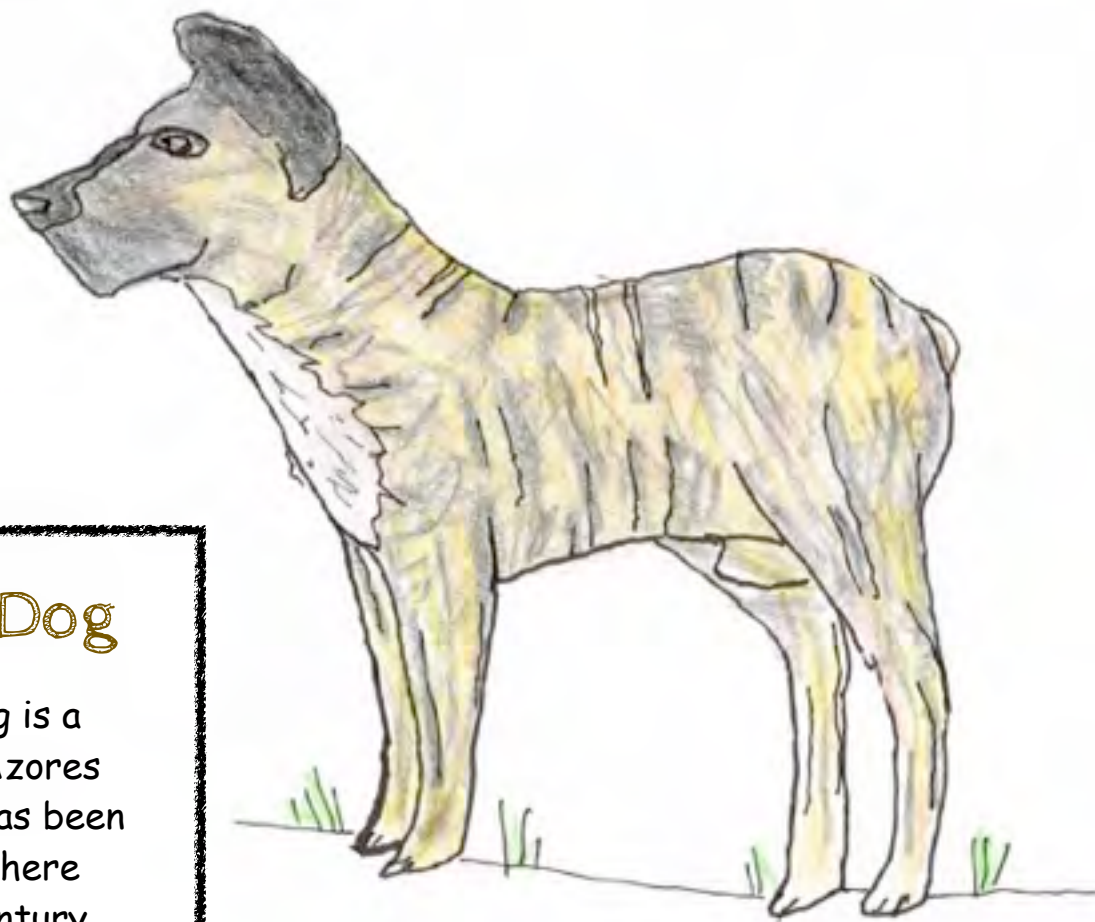
As another way of protecting themselves from the hot African sun, they secrete an oily substance that prevents their skin from burning.

Hippos graze on the banks of the river eating mostly grasses.

Even though they are herbivores, these creatures are surprisingly aggressive. They have been known to attack humans without any provocation. Despite their massive size, they are able to run at a speed of 30 miles per hour when threatened.







## Azores Cattle Dog

The Azores Cattle Dog is a working dog from the Azores Islands in Portugal. It has been documented as living there since the early 19th century.

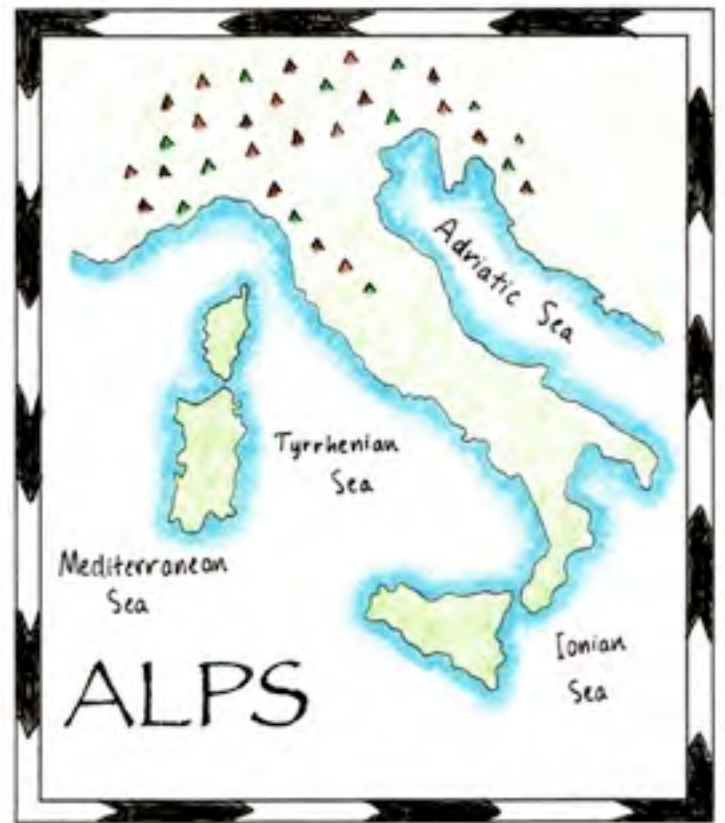
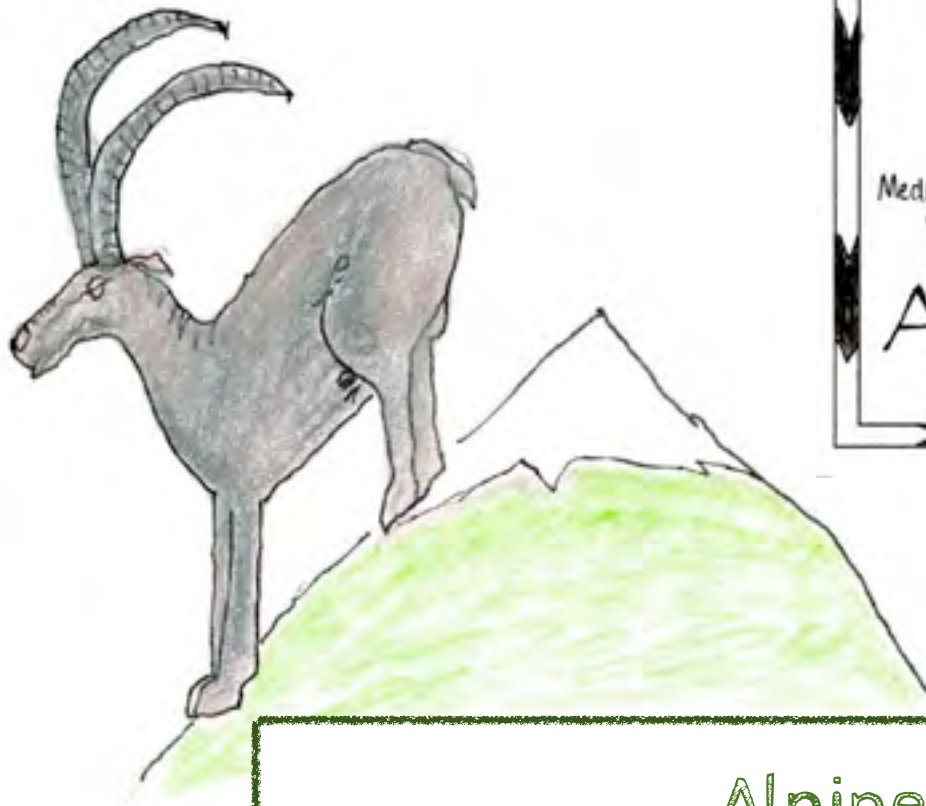
This breed is also called  
**Cão Fila de São Miguel.**

These medium-sized dogs are muscular and grow to be 23 inches tall to their withers. The coat can be brown or grey with black marbling throughout the body.

Thanks to their aggressive nature, they once acted as an integral part of herding the abundance of cattle on the islands.

The demand for the herding of cattle has decreased on cattle farms, but this breed continues to be a popular pet with people all over the world.





## Alpine Ibex

The Alpine Ibex, also known as the Steinbock, is found in the mountain range of the Alps in Eastern Europe. These wild goats are characterized by their long curving horns and their amazing ability to climb. In males, horns can grow to be 27 to 39 inches.

The smaller horns of the females measure only 7 to 14 inches.

The Ibex are able to scale rock faces that are almost vertical. This can be attributed to their multi-surfaced cloven hooves: hard around the edges, soft and smooth in the center.

Found in mountainous areas with sparse vegetation, the ibex spends most of its days foraging for and eating plants.

By the beginning of the 19th century, the Alpine Ibex were almost extinct. They were hunted for their horns, which people believed they had magical and curative powers.



# GREAT BRITAIN and IRELAND

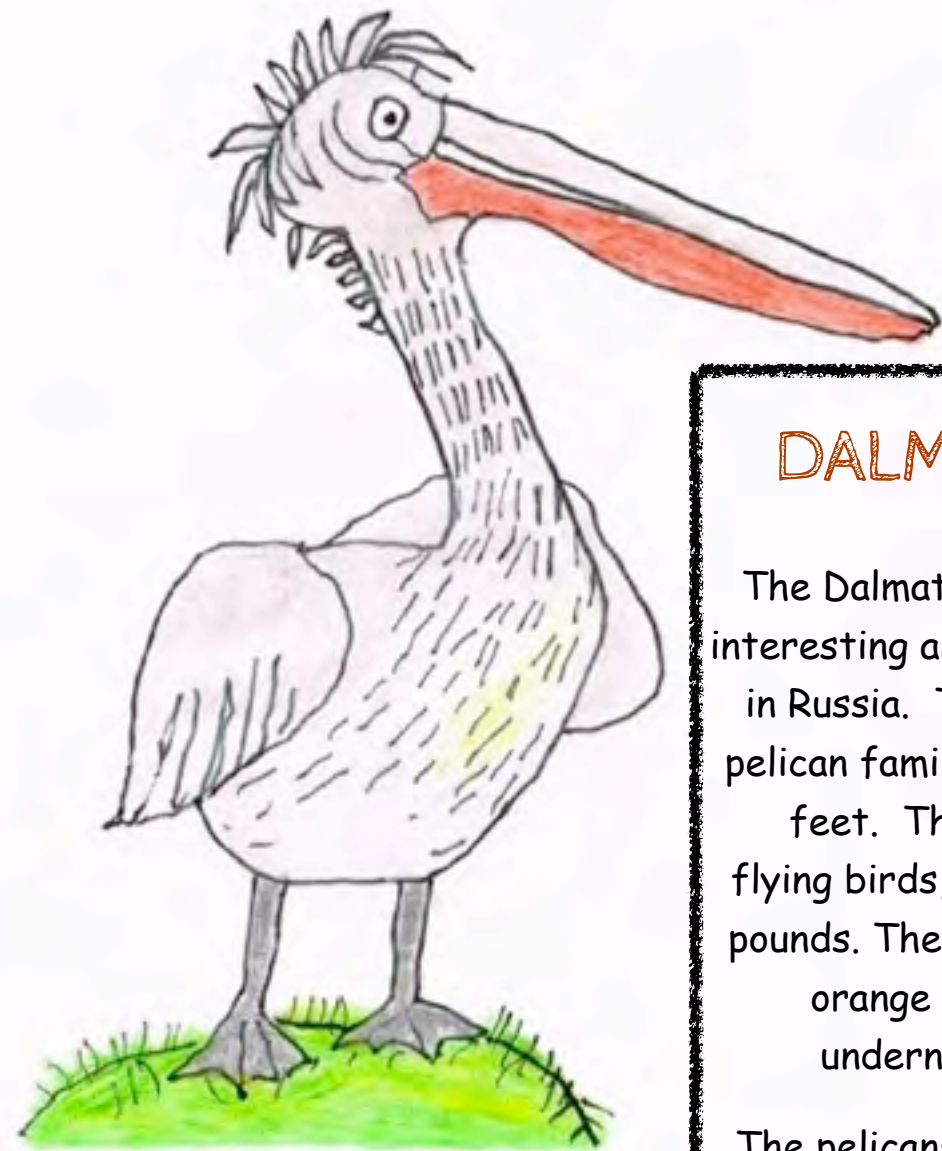


Unlike the grey squirrels we are familiar with in America, the Red Squirrel is found exclusively in Europe and Asia.

Their reddish coats and furry ear tufts give them their unique appearance.

These squirrels are found primarily in forests and woodlands and dine on seeds fungi, berries and nuts. After gathering their food, excess is often stored away in caches. However, unlike the grey counterpart, the Red Squirrel's memory is not so reliable. Often some caches are never recovered.

These squirrels don't scurry along on just land: they are also able to swim!



## DALMATIAN PELICAN

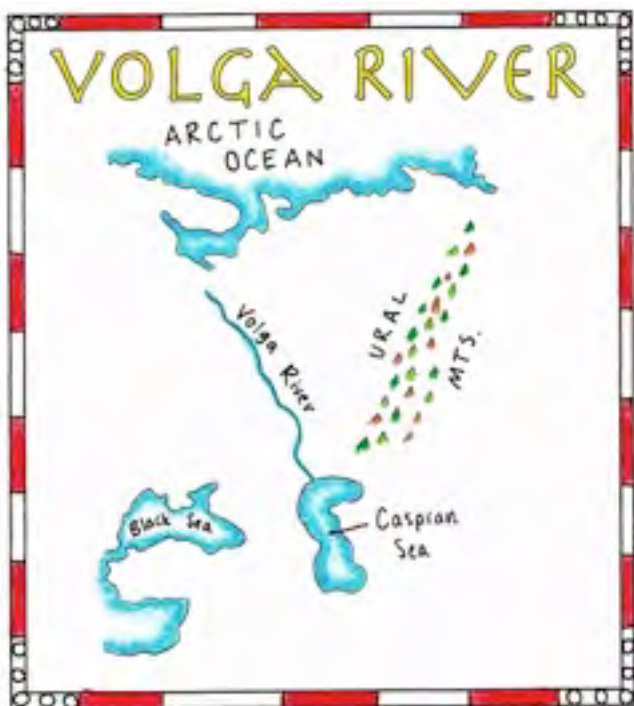
The Dalmatian Pelican is one of the most interesting animals found on the Volga River in Russia. This bird is the largest in the pelican family, with a wingspan of about 10 feet. They are one of the heaviest flying birds, with an average weight of 25 pounds. These pelicans have long yellowish orange bills that feature a pouch underneath, used to store food.

The pelicans nest where food is plentiful. Their diet consists primarily of fish, eels and prawns. They gather food by flying over water and sweeping their bills under the surface to catch prey.

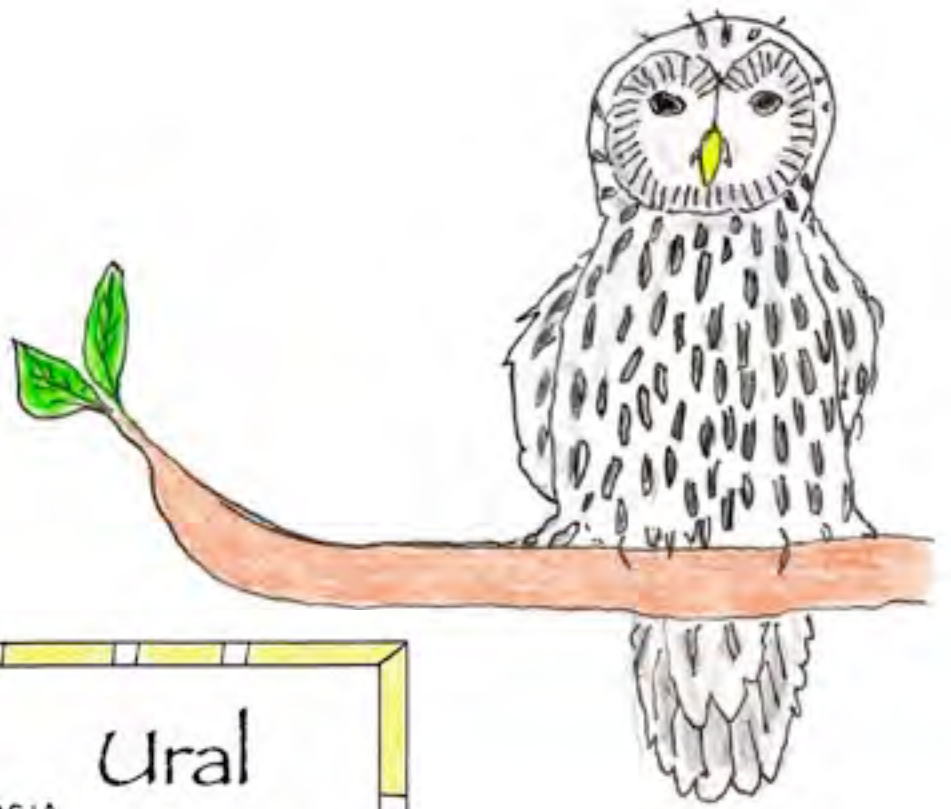
As the seasons change, so does the plumage of this large pelican.

During breeding season they have silvery white feathers and bright orange bills. As winter approaches, their plumage loses its shine: bill and pouch fade to yellow.

The Dalmatian pelican migrates short distances in the winter. This is the season where you would see them on the Volga River.







## URAL OWL

The Ural Owl can be found in Northern Asia and Europe. These medium to large size owls have light grey plumage streaked with white feathers. Despite their almost cute appearance, these birds are ferocious hunters who are aggressive when protecting their territory. They have been known to attack humans who come too close to them!

Ural owls prey on small mammals and some birds. Unlike most other owls, the Ural Owl is not completely nocturnal and they sometimes hunt during the day. They live primarily in woodlands and forests.

## THE PIKA

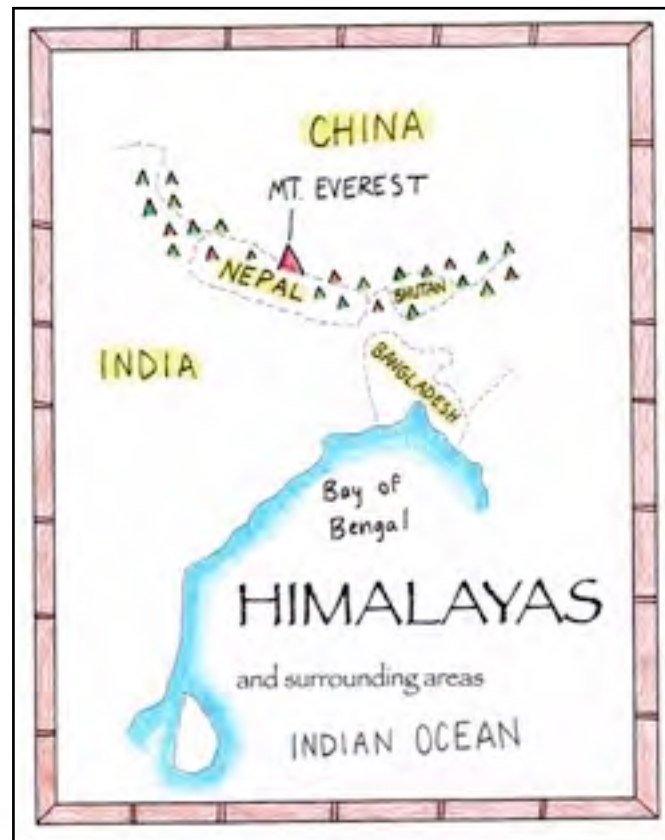
The Pika are small solitary mammals that closely resemble rodents. They can be found on Mount Everest but are not exclusive to the region. They can be found in colder climates in Asia, North America, and Europe.

Their habitats vary, and they live in many different kinds of places. Some can be found on rocky terrain, others build underground burrows.

Pika are herbivores and consume a variety of plant matter, including grass, moss and twigs.

Although Pikas might look like rodents they are more closely related to rabbits and hares. They can be recognized by their round ears and they have no tail!

Due to climate change, sadly these animals are in danger of extinction. They cannot tolerate temperatures above 75 degrees Fahrenheit and will die shortly after being exposed to such temperatures.





# Long-eared Hedgehog

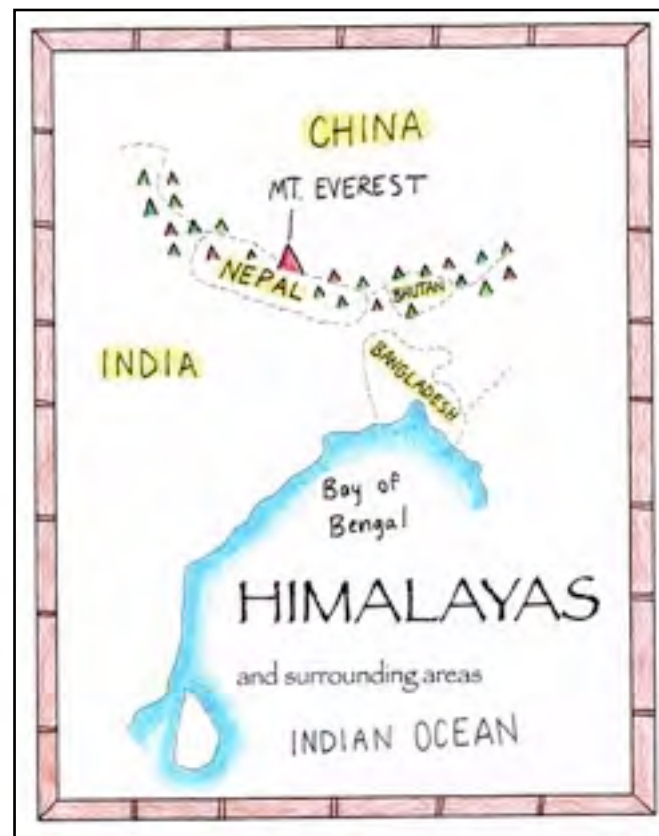


The long eared hedgehog is found in parts of Europe and Asia, including the large Taklamaken Desert.

These hedgehogs can be characterized by their long ears, which contribute to their great sense of hearing. Along with their hearing, their sense of smell is also highly developed. Their senses allow them to survive by helping them escape from predators as well as finding food.

These hedgehogs are insectivorous, meaning they eat primarily insects. To protect themselves from predators, they can roll up into a ball, making their many spines stand on end. These hedgehogs are born with very few spines, but within hours they have tripled. It only takes 2 weeks for a this hedgehog to grow the 5,000 quills that cover its back.





## GIANT PANDA

Giant Pandas are found in the mountainous areas of China. They once lived in lowland areas too, but they have been driven out by loss of their habitats.

Pandas are solitary creatures who spend a very large part of their days feasting on bamboo. Bamboo is not a normal diet for carnivorous bears, like pandas, and they are not able to digest the fibrous plant very well. This means that they have to eat huge amounts of bamboo, constantly over the course of the day, to meet their nutritional needs.

When pandas are born, they are tiny:  $\frac{1}{800}$  of their mother's weight. This makes them the smallest offspring at birth in relation to its mother's size. Newborns are only 7 inches long and are very helpless: they are blind and do not begin moving until they are at least 3 months old.

Although they are considered ENDANGERED, some experts believe that the panda population in the wild is growing.



## MARBLED POLECAT



The marbled polecat is found in the Gobi desert. Contrary to their name, these animals are not cats, but rather are closely related to weasels and otters. Marbled polecats can be distinguished by their dark brown and black hoods, white striped faces, and yellow and brown speckled torsos.

They are timid creatures and only come out at night and dawn. Due to their poor eyesight, they rely almost solely on their sense of smell to find prey.

They eat rodents, reptiles, birds and insects.

When threatened, this animal releases a foul smelling secretion from a sac below its tail. These polecats are close to being endangered and steps are being taken to prevent further population decline.

Currently, they are protected from being captured, killed, or traded.

## EUPHRATES JERBOA

The Euphrates Jerboa is a rodent found in the Middle East, near the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers. These animals have large ears, big hind feet and a long tail.

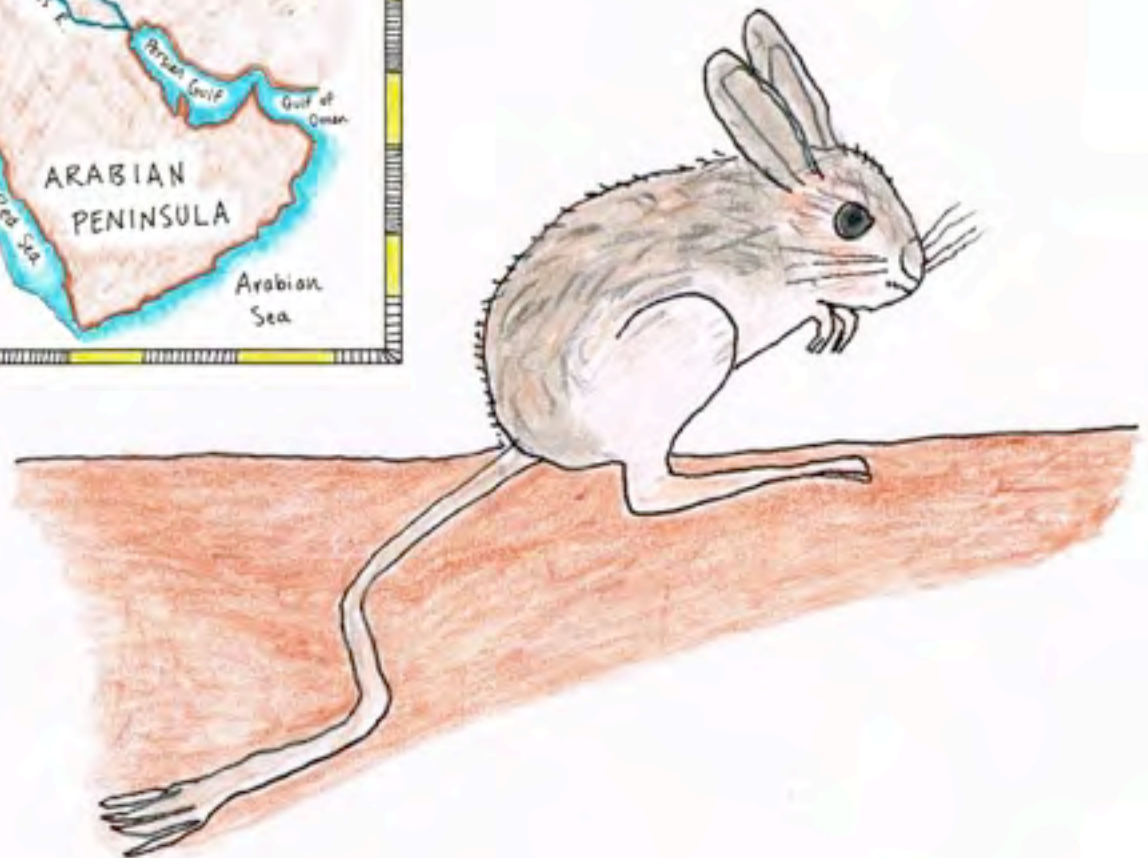
They walk bipedally, meaning they move on their hind feet only, giving them an upright appearance.

When they are bound along, their tails help them balance.

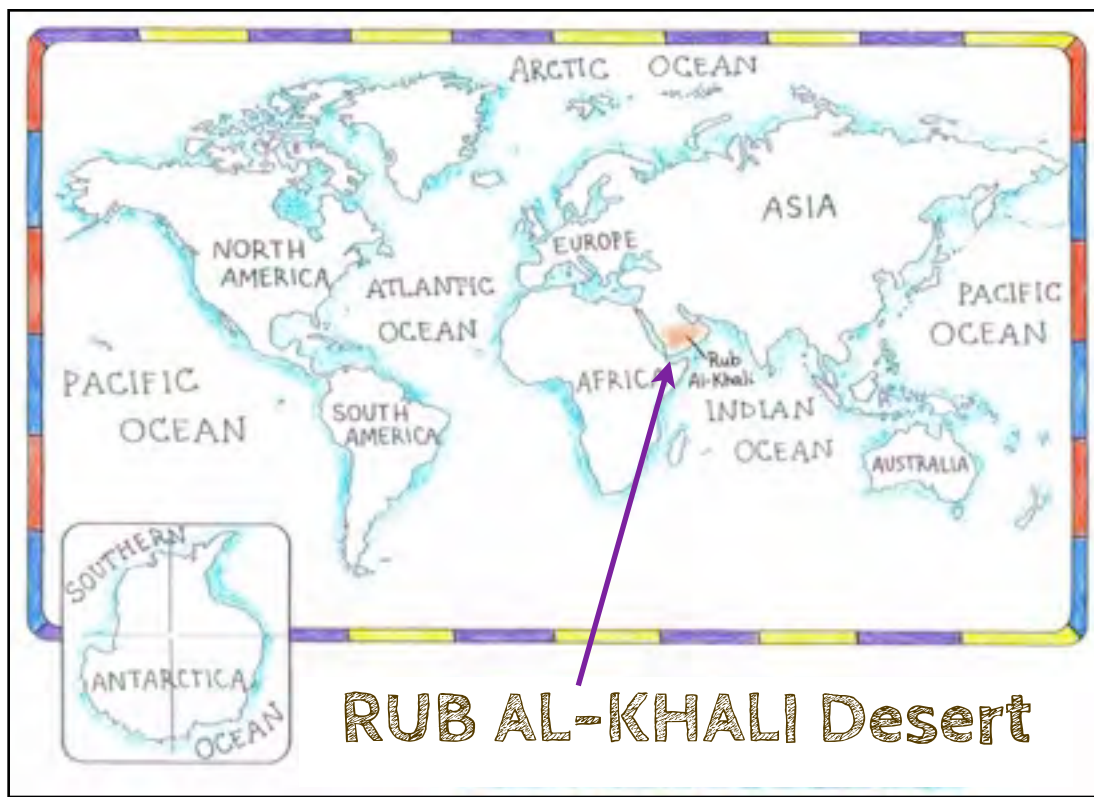
Their forelimbs are significantly smaller than their hind limbs and are used to dig burrows in the soil.

Jerboas are nocturnal, and so their eyesight and hearing are highly developed. Because of this, it is easy for them to escape from predators. They often dig burrows as shelters, or inhabit nests that are abandoned by other animals. They spend most of their day hiding in their burrows and then emerge at night to forage for food.

They eat primarily seeds, grains and plant roots. Even though they live near rivers, they get all the water they need from the food they eat. This eliminates the need for them to seek out sources of water.

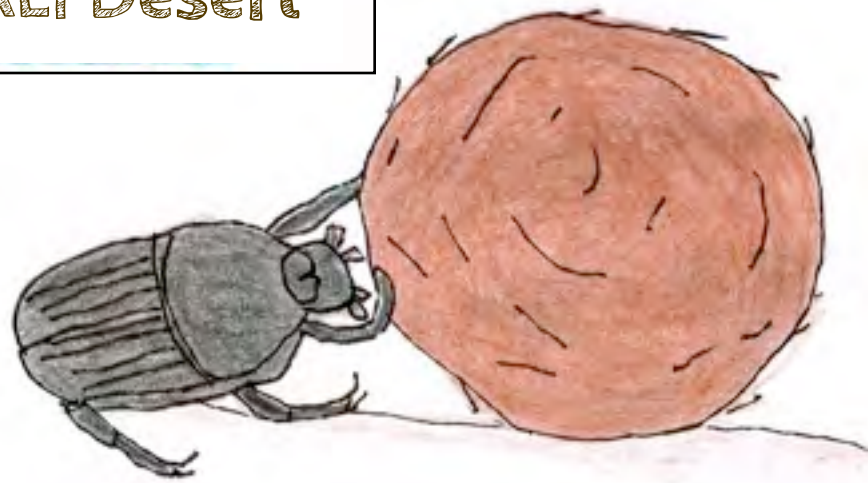






## RUB AL-KHALI Desert

## Dung Beetle

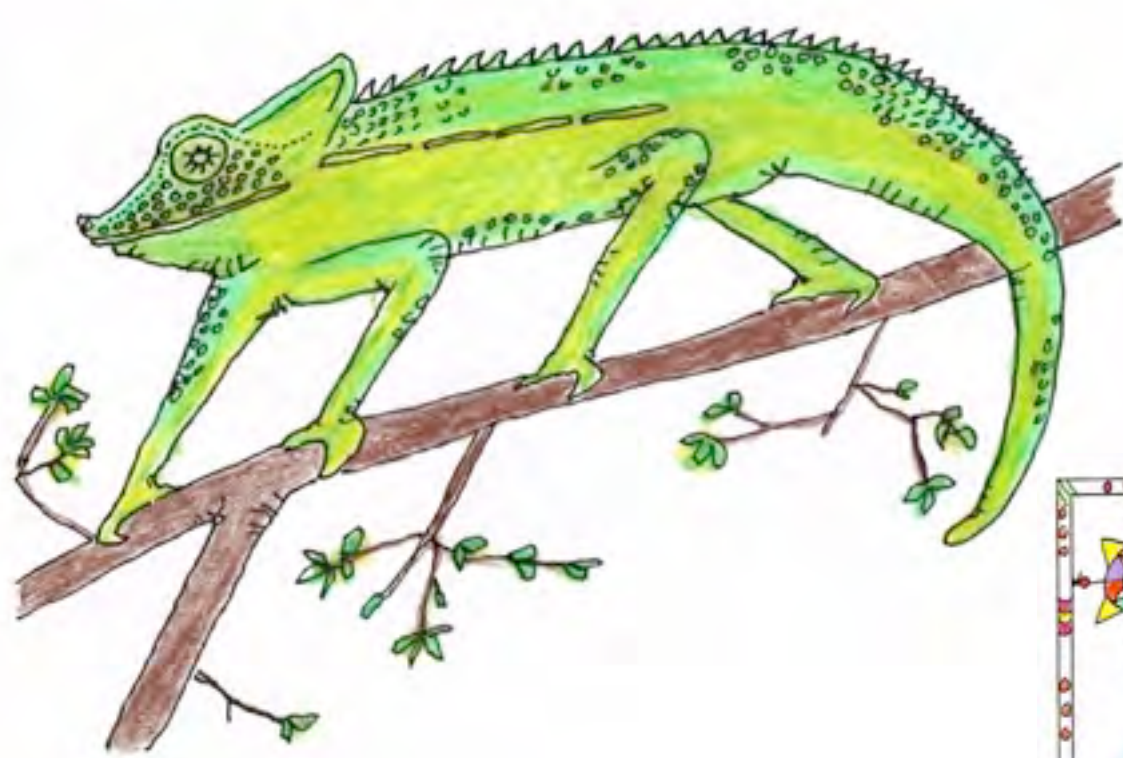


The Dung Beetle is an insect found on all continents except Antarctica, including the Rub-Al-Khali desert in Asia.

The dung beetle feeds exclusively on dung produced by other animals. These beetles congregate around piles of animal feces and roll large balls that they push away with them for individual purposes. Dung Beetles are really strong; these balls can weigh up to 10 times their weight.

The beetles use dung balls for food and egg laying purposes. They are so valuable to the beetles that they will fight over already rolled balls. These beetles are extremely beneficial to the environment because they prevent excess build up of dung, which helps keep harmful parasites and flies away.

The beetles are the only animals besides humans able to navigate themselves using the Milky Way. This is similar to the way explorers and sailors used to use the stars to orient themselves.



## BELALANDA CHAMELEON

The Belalanda Chameleon is found exclusively on the African island of Madagascar, endemic to the town of Belalanda. Its range is quite tiny, being only 1.5 square miles. Because its natural habitat is being destroyed, the chameleon is considered critically endangered.

The Belalanda Chameleon is one of the 75 species of chameleon that occur only in Madagascar. It has a bright green color which allows it to blend into its terrestrial environment.

As it is arguably the rarest reptile in the world, people are going to great lengths to protect the remaining population of the Belalanda Chameleon.





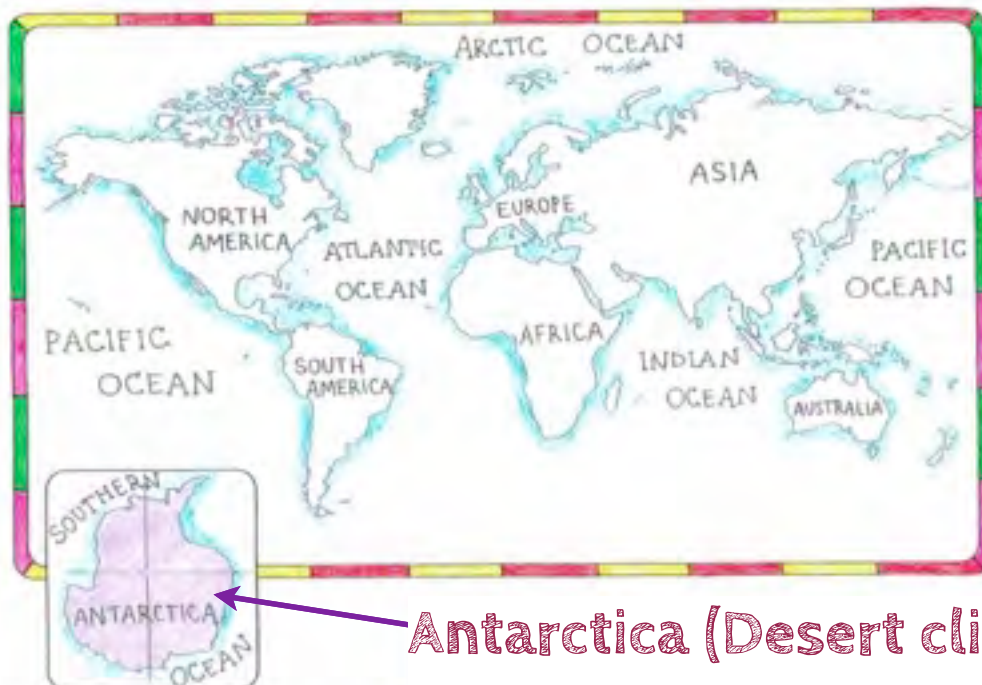
## Antarctic Fur Seal

These large seals with dense fur are able to stand up to the harsh cold Antarctic climate. They also have an insulating layer of blubber which provides them with extra warmth. These seals are dark brown in color but when they're born, their fur is almost black.

However, one in one thousand pups are born "blond" with pale fur.

The adults are extremely protective of their young. These seals are very aggressive, possessing a very territorial nature.

They are known to be very confrontational with each other.



**Antarctica (Desert climate)**



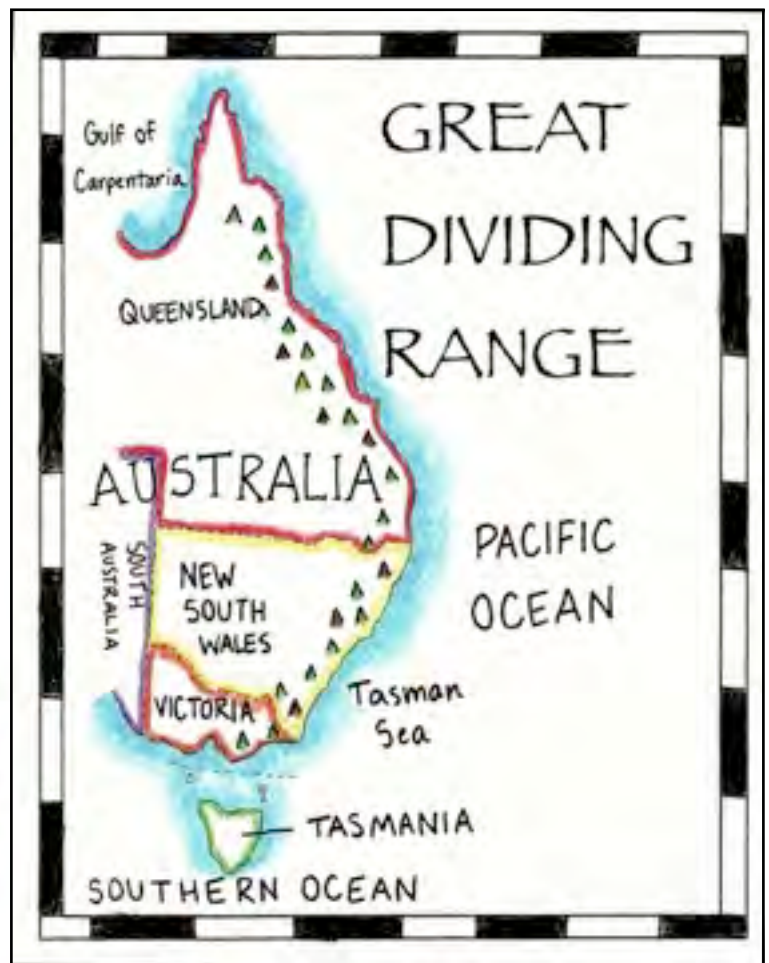
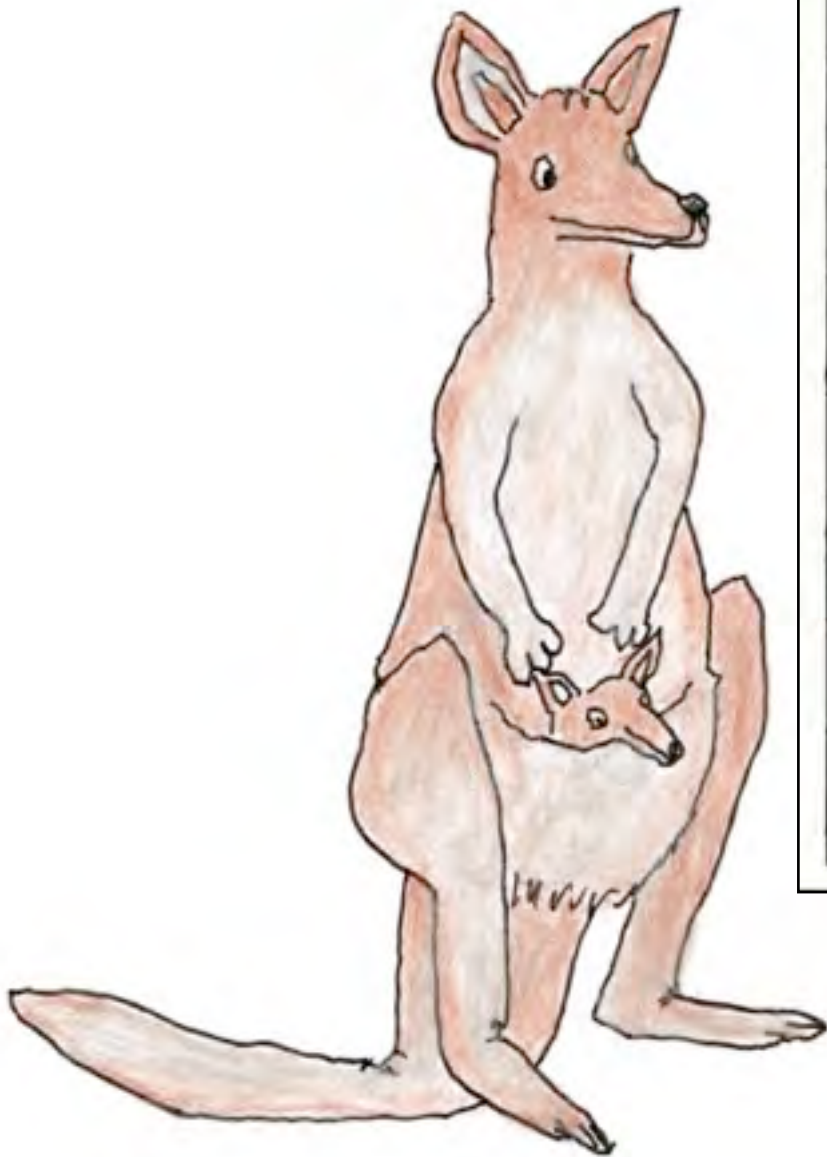
## STRAWBERRY LAND HERMIT CRAB

The Strawberry Hermit Crab gets its name from its bright red coloring. It is found in tropical waters of the Indian and Pacific Oceans, including around the islands of the Maldives.

Like the flamingo, this crab's diet plays an important part in its coloring. These wild "Strawberries" eat most things they come across, and especially like decaying fish they find on beaches. Like all hermit crabs, the Strawberries molt then eat their discarded exoskeleton.

To protect their fragile bodies they crawl into abandoned snail shells and carry their new homes around with them. Often other organisms will latch on to their shells, such as sea anemones.





## GREY KANGAROO

The grey kangaroo is native to the continent of [Australia](#) and can be found in the mountains of the Great Dividing Range.

These large marsupials can weigh up to 150 pounds and grow to six and a half feet tall! These grey creatures have powerful hind feet that allow them to run at speeds of 35 miles per hour and to kick very forcefully!

This kangaroo is the largest animal on earth to use hopping as their main means of transportation, since their feet are too large to allow them to walk! Grey Kangaroos are herbivores and feed primarily on shrubs, leaves and shoots.



## Scarlet Chested Parrot

The Scarlet Chested parrot, which is found in the Great Sandy Desert, is considered to be one of the most beautiful birds in the world. As their name suggests, these vibrant birds have a scarlet chest, blue head and wings, and bright green and yellow underbellies.

These birds are nomadic, meaning they have no permanent home. They live in the desert, and their bodies function on small amounts of fluid. The species survives the dry conditions by eating succulent plants, which naturally contain necessary fluids. In addition, the parrots eat grass seeds.

Due to their spectacular coloring and melodious song, this species is sometimes kept as a pet. Even though these birds have bright plumage, they are difficult to observe in the wild due to their secretive nature. For this reason, the actual number of scarlet chested parrots is difficult to estimate.



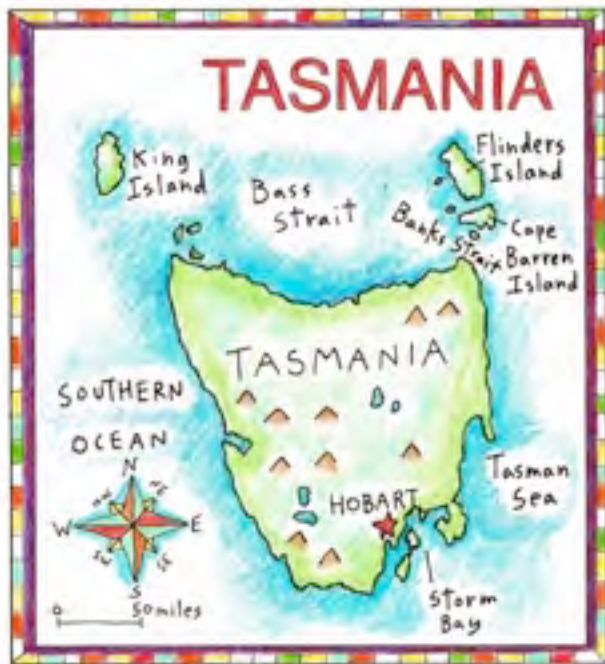
# TASMANIAN DEVIL

The world's largest carnivorous marsupial, the Tasmanian Devil hails from the Australian island of Tasmania.

They are not large: only 20 to 31 inches, weighing in at 9 to 23 pounds. Pound for pound, these carnivores have one of the most powerful bites of any mammal!

The Tasmanian Devil is known for its cantankerous personality. Aggressive and confrontational, they have a quirky method of dealing with predators: they yawn to appear unbothered!

The Tasmanian Devil has a ravenous appetite. They eat anything they can find, including the hair, bones and organs of their prey. Sadly, this animal is endangered, due to a contagious facial cancer which is rapidly wiping out its population.





## KIWI BIRD

The kiwi bird hails from the island of New Zealand. This flightless bird acts also as the national bird of the island. There are 5 species of kiwis, most of which are on the brink of extinction.

The kiwi lays eggs about 6 times larger than those of a chicken, despite being no larger than a hen.

Kiwis are nocturnal creatures. The only bird with a set of nostrils at the end of its beak, kiwis are gifted with a great sense of smell that allows them to hunt in the dark.

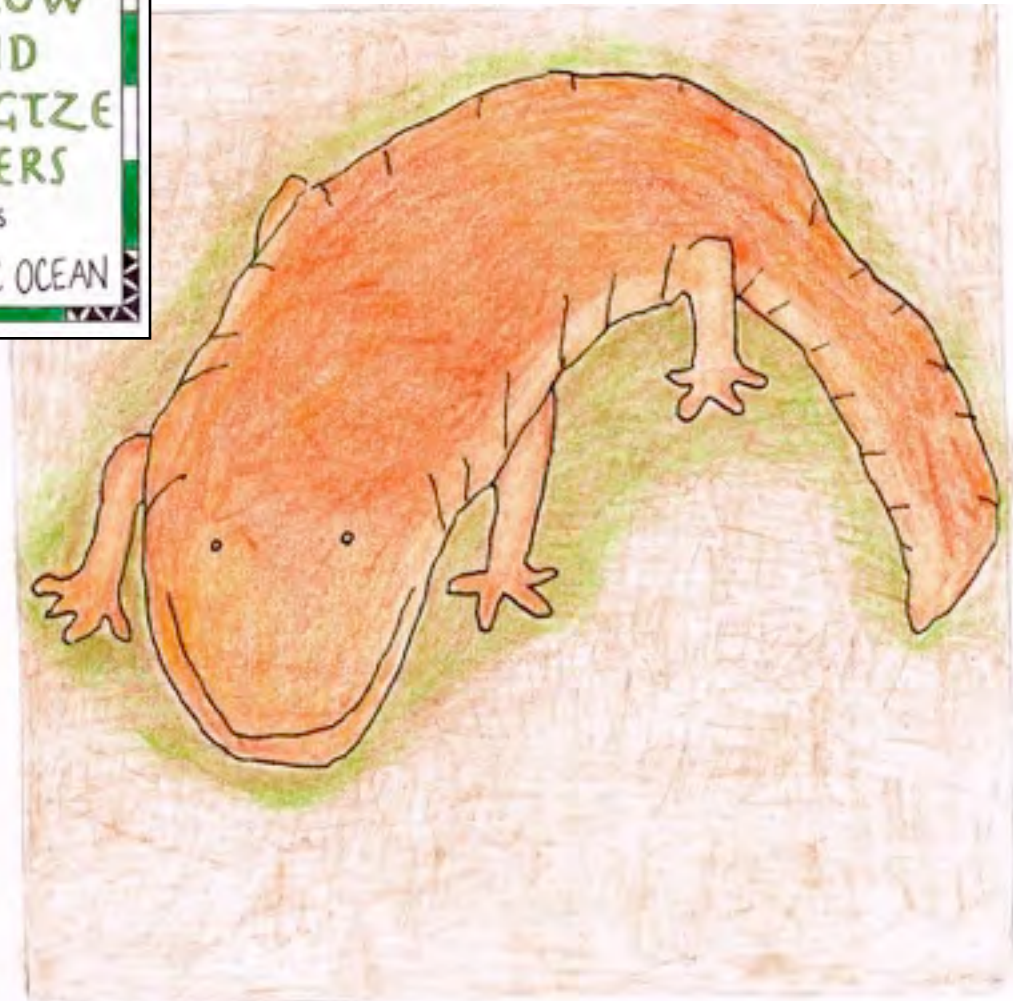
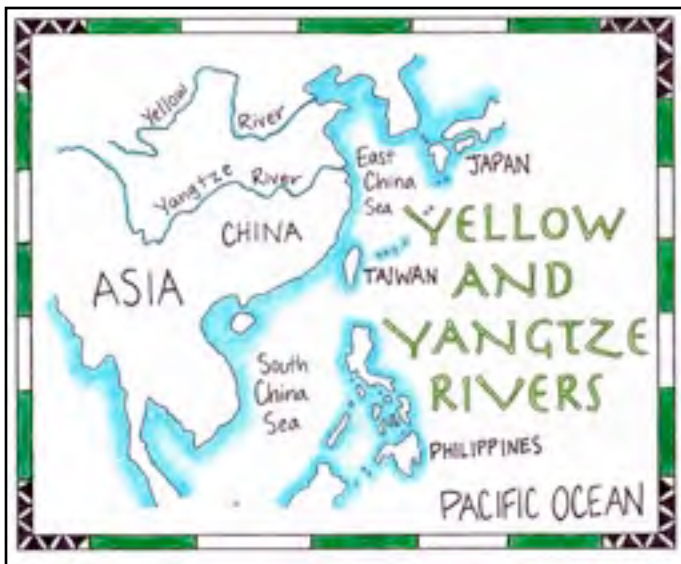
While humans have been around for 1 million years, the kiwi species are estimated to be 8 million years old!



## Giant Chinese Salamander

The Giant Chinese Salamander, the largest salamander and amphibian in the world, can be found on the Yellow River in China. The largest of these salamanders can grow from 3-5 feet long, although this size is rare and not often seen in the wild. Even though these creatures are fully aquatic, they lack the gills that fish have. Like other amphibians they absorb oxygen through their skin. They have blotchy skin that can be very wrinkled. They have poor eyesight but feel vibrations in the water to get a sense of their surroundings. They use senses other than sight to find food. They eat fish, crustaceans, insects and smaller amphibians.

The giant salamanders are known to make a variety of vocalizations. Some sound like barking, hissing, and crying. In fact, their cries closely resemble those of a young child! These large salamanders are severely endangered due to overhunting and international efforts are being made to protect it for the future.



# Giant Softshell Turtle

Also known as the Yangtze Giant Turtle, this reptile is native to Asia. This rare animal is extremely close to extinction: it is actually believed that there are only four known to be alive in the wild. Before becoming critically endangered, it could be found in the Yangtze River and in lakes and ponds around the river.

These are the largest turtles that can be found in fresh water. They can measure 3-1/2 feet long and 2-1/2 feet wide, weighing about 150 pounds.

Like other softshell turtles their shells are leathery and less rigid than other more common hardshell turtles. These turtles have speckled heads and snouts that resemble a pig. They are considered omnivorous because they feed on both plants and fish.

Some factors that have contributed to their endangerment have been habitat loss, consumption by humans, and the use of their shells for medicine.

Currently they are heavily protected, but unless they can start producing fertile eggs, they will become extinct in the near future.







## ISHIKAWA'S FROG

Ishikawa's frog is a spotted amphibian that lives on the islands of Japan.

This species is considered to be one of the most beautiful creatures in all Japan.

A skilled hunter, the frog dines mostly on insects such as millipedes.

They will even eat an occasional crab: this is very impressive since they are only about 4" in size.

These bumpy textured frogs use their green and purple coloring to blend into their forest habitat to hide from predators.

Sadly, they are at risk of extinction due to the rapid destruction of forests and the pollution of rivers in Japan.

# Philippine Eagle

The Philippine Eagle is very majestic in appearance.

It measures up to 3-1/2 feet in length, and is one of the largest eagles in the world.

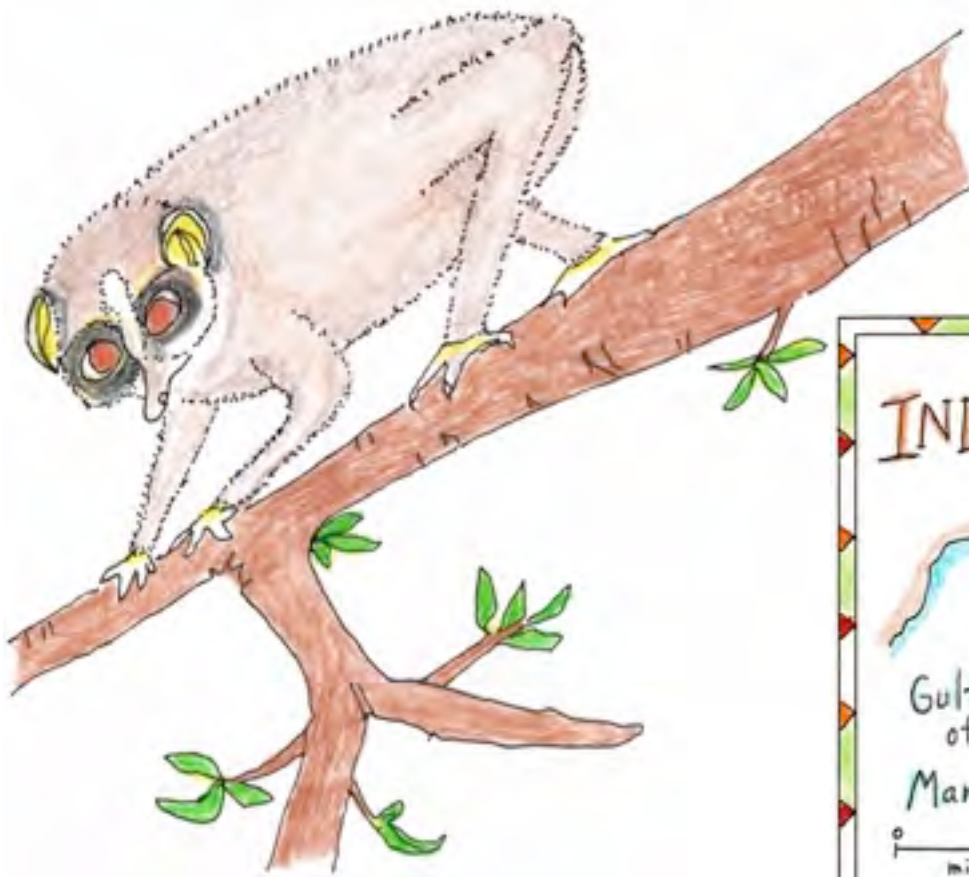
Its striking brown and white head plumage gives it a distinctive appearance.

It is also known as the Monkey-Eating Eagle although this name is not entirely accurate: this carnivorous creature also consumes other birds, rats, lemurs, squirrels and even some reptiles.

This national bird of the Philippine Islands is highly protected due to its endangered status. A powerful raptor, the Philippines Eagle has no natural predators in the wild, but is threatened by humans instead.







## SLENDER LORIS

The Slender Loris is native to both the island of Sri Lanka as well as the country of India. These nocturnal primates can be found primarily in forests and swamps. The Slender Loris is distinguished by its elongated limbs, vestigial tail, and opposable thumbs. Their huge round eyes which provide them with great vision come in handy at night.

They are solitary foragers and feed mostly on insects, fruits and leaves, and even reptiles, birds and the occasional small mammal.

These little creatures are only 25 cm, or a little over 9" long.

Sadly people often snatch them from their native habitats to be used as exotic pets, so they are at a high risk for extinction.