

dens & signals

ANIMALS!



ACTIVITY BOO



1.

OPEN A WINDOW

Find a window, and open it!

Try to be as quiet and still as you can.

Look and listen to the animals and birds around you.

Try to be patient, or try again at another time of day.

Dawn and dusk are often great times to hear or see wildlife.

What animals or birds can you see?

What animals or birds can you hear?



2.

PICK AN ANIMAL

Do you know what kinds of animals or birds live near to where you live?

We're talking wild creatures, not pets or farm animals.

Perhaps you've seen creatures in the water, or on land, or in the air?

Pick an animal you enjoy.

We're going to find out more about it throughout this book.

What type of animal have you chosen? Write it's name here:

Can you draw a picture of it here:



3.

GET TO NOW YOUR ANIMAL

You can discover more about your animal in books, on the internet or by talking to other people.

Try to answer all these questions about your animal:

Have you ever seen or heard one of these animals?

Where does your animal live? What kind of place does it prefer?

What time of day (or night) is it out and about? When does it sleep?

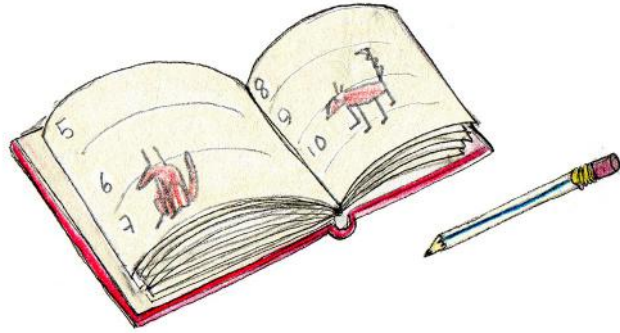
What does your animal eat? Plants? Other creatures? Everything?

Do other animals want to eat it?

Is it big or small? How big is it?

Is it confident or bold, quiet or nervous?

What other interesting things did you discover about your animal?



4.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

Can you tell a story about a day in the life of your animal?

Tips:

Think about where your animal lives, when it sleeps, what it eats and who eats it.

Can you imagine how it might feel to be that animal?

You can choose how to tell the story, but if you're stuck, you could imagine that your animal is keeping a diary about its own life.

You could write your story down – or perhaps you can film yourself telling the story?

Don't rush, try to imagine how it would really feel to be your animal.



5.

WATCH OUT, HUMANS!

Are there humans in your story?

What happens to your animal when humans show up?

If your animal lives near humans, do humans have an effect on how it lives its life?

Answer these questions to discover how humans effect your animal:

Where does your animal find food? Are there more of those places because of humans, or fewer?

Where does your animal live? Do humans create spaces which your animal can live in, or do they damage or destroy those spaces?

Is your animal's life threatened by things that humans do? Cars? Roads? Weedkiller? Rubbish and plastic waste? Cats? Dogs? Mousetraps?

Does your animal often see humans, and do humans see your animal? Do they get along, are they interested in one another, or scared of one another?

Any other ways that humans effect your animal?

Overall, are humans making things better or worse for your animal? Can you rate their impact 1- 10? (1 = least impact ... 10 = most impact)



6. CAMPAIGN POSTER

Imagine that your animal has the chance to let humans know what they can do better, or what they need to stop doing.

From the point-of-view of your animal, make a poster to tell humans what they should do differently.

Use this page for ideas, but draw your poster on a **BIG!** sheet if you can.

7.

TALKING ANIMALS!



Talk about animals to your parents, carers, or older relatives and friends.

Try to listen really carefully. You might be surprised by what they say.

Many species of animal are in decline. For example, there are fewer hedgehogs alive now than in the past. When older people were young, they may have had a different experience of wildlife to yours.

Tips:

Here are some ideas for questions you could ask:

- Did they see hedgehogs when they were little?
- What about other species?
- What was their favourite wild animal to see?
- Do they still see them?
- What stories or memories do they have about animals from when they were younger?
- Can they remember any particular encounters with wild animals? How did it feel?
- What about the species which you chose in this book? Did they see that animal when they were younger? Do they still?



8.

ANIMAL FEELINGS

Write a song or a poem, either as yourself, or from the point-of-view of your animal.

Tips:

Think about how your animal might feel about life.

If you've already done some of the other activities in this book, how do you feel, now that you've found out more about the animal you picked?



9.

ACTION FOR ANIMALS!

Do you want to do more to help animals? There's lots you can do.

Which of these ideas can you try?

- Remember that you're an animal! Try going outside and running or jumping.
- Talk to adults. Do they agree that humans are animals too?
- Plastic waste is having a big impact on animals, especially in the seas and oceans. Can you use less plastic? Can you and the people you live with use less at home? Can your school use less?
- Write to your MP!

What have you found out about humans and animals? What do you want to tell them? What do you want to demand on behalf of your animal?

You might not be old enough to vote yet, but you are the future! You can find out who your MP is here: <https://www.theyworkforyou.com/>

- Can you write something for your school blog or newsletter, draw or paint a picture, or make a film?
- Help create wildlife friendly areas at school, at home, or in local outdoor spaces. Could you make wood piles for invertebrates, create areas of long grass and wild flowers, build bug and bee hotels, or even dig a pond?

Tip: Human society is complicated, and no one human is to blame! If you do the activities on this page, and especially if you talk to adults, or write letters, you should definitely express how strongly you feel, but you should also be polite. Try to explain why what you want is right, not why what someone else thinks is wrong.



Remember, there's a whole world of life out there.

Everything alive is connected to everything else alive, including you.

You're part of the world, and the world is part of you.



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