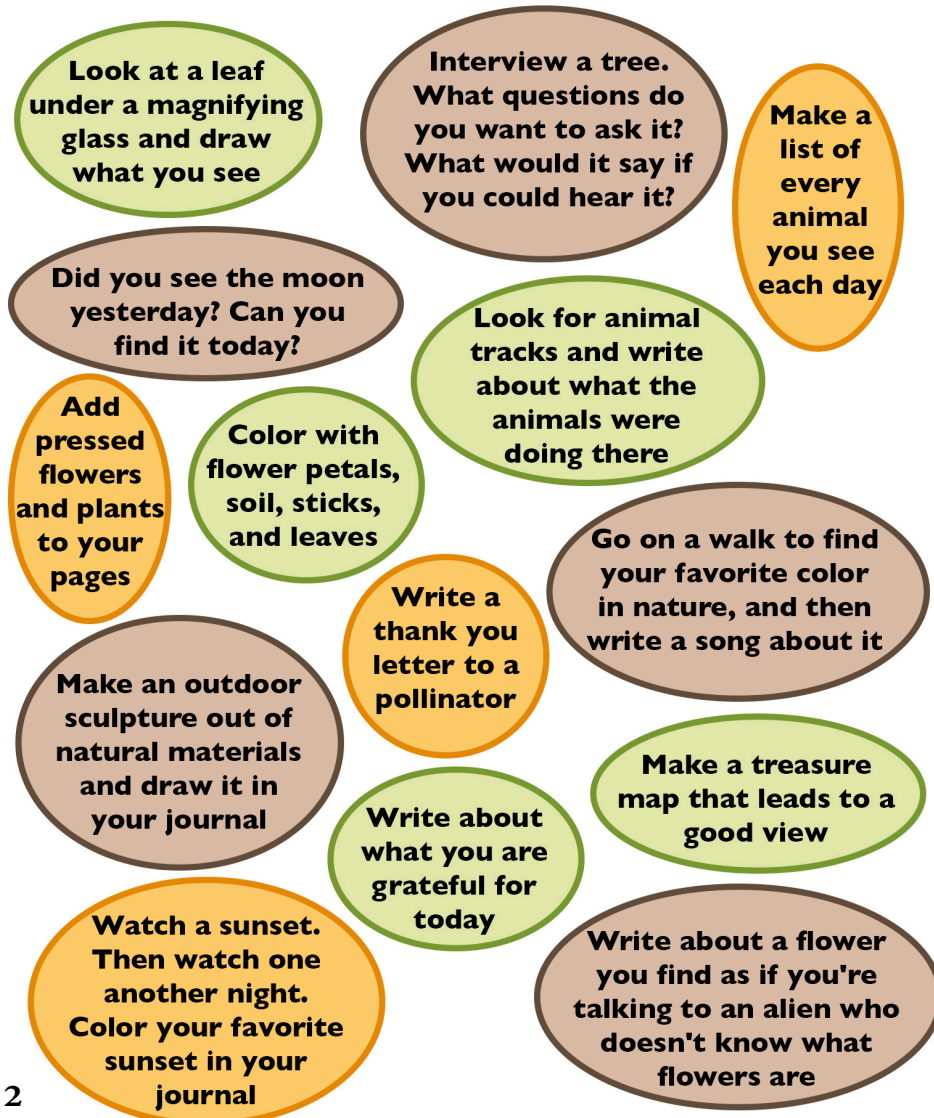




Everyday, try to notice something new about a place in nature near you, whether it is a plant outside your window, an animal passing by, or changes in the sky.

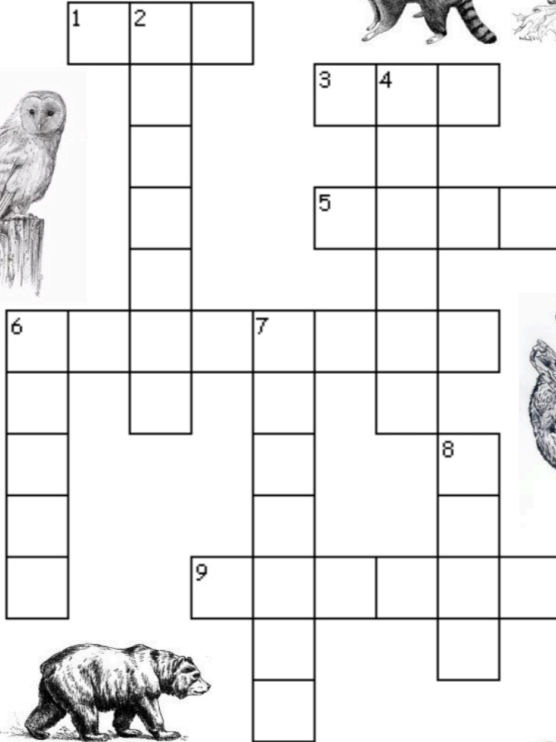
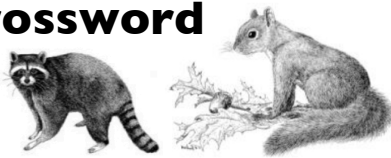
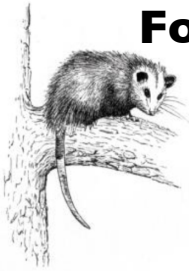
Record your observations in your nature journal by writing, drawing, painting, or even making up a song or poem!

Here are some ideas for what to include in your nature journal:



Use this blank page to record your nature observations!

## Forest Friends Crossword



Across

1. I'm the only canine that can climb trees.
3. I'm a bird that hunts mainly at night.
5. I'm a type of raptor with excellent eyesight.
6. I have a big fluffy tail and like to eat nuts!
9. I'm a wild cat with a short tail.

Down



2. I'm the only marsupial in North America.
4. I have a long and slender body like a ferret.
6. I let out a really stinky spray when in danger.
7. I am sometimes called a bandit.
8. I am a really large mammal that can be quite grizzly.



# Spring Camp

## Nature Observation Journal



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## Nature Sit Spot

**A Sit Spot is a quiet place somewhere in nature where you just sit and don't do anything else. You might notice special things around you that you would have missed if you were moving around or talking! Can you think of a place outside you want to try a Nature Sit Spot in?**

*Sit outside for 10 minutes.*

*What do you hear, smell, see, or feel?*

*How does the sun feel on your face?*

*How about the breeze?*

*What are the clouds like today?*

*Draw yourself sitting in nature:*

Something **very dry** - What would change if it were wet?

Something a human left behind - Can you clean it up to help the habitat?

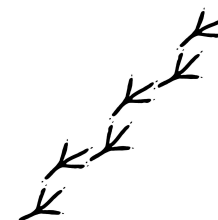
## What Birds Live Near You?



There are about 10,000 different species of birds! You can see, hear, or find evidence of birds almost anywhere you go outside. When you notice a bird, record your observations here!

- ❖ Did it leave behind any **droppings** (which look kind of like white paint splatter), **feathers, nests, cracked seeds, or tracks**?
- ❖ Was it **big** in size, or **small**? What **colors** was it? Did it have any **patterns** like dots or stripes? Was its beak **long** and pointy or **short** and triangular?
- ❖ Was it making any **sounds**? Was it sitting **still**? Was it **walking, hopping, or flying**? Was it **foraging** for food? What was it **eating**?

Something **strong** - Does it protect something fragile?



Birders love to challenge themselves to find as many different birds as they can!

Something **with a shell** - What could the shell be protecting?



Something **open** - Is this object ever closed?

## Flower Observation

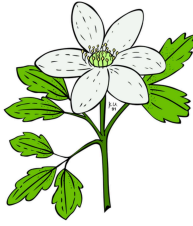
Have you ever *really* looked at a plant?

**Botany** is the scientific study of plants.

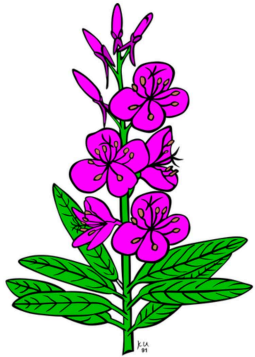
The closer you look, the more you will see!

Find a flower to observe and try to notice all of its different parts.

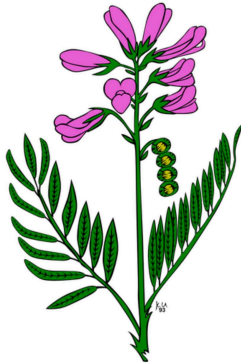
Can you find its smallest parts? What does it look like under a magnifying glass? Record your observations here!



Something **sharp** - Be careful! Was this object originally sharp or did it break?



Something **closed** - Is this object ever open?



## Nature Observation Scavenger Hunt

**There is a scavenger hunt challenge on the border of the journal pages! Use the blank space to record your observations. On your next journey outdoors, look closely to find...**





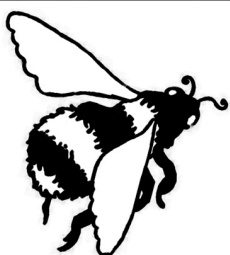



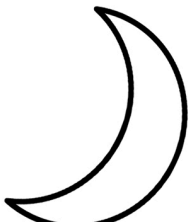








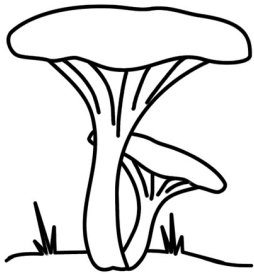


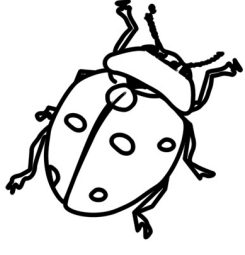

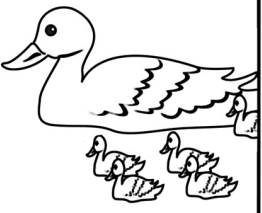

Something **smooth** - What caused the object to be smooth?

Something **spiky** - Why do you think it has spikes?

Something **soft** - What makes it soft? What does it look like under a magnifying glass?

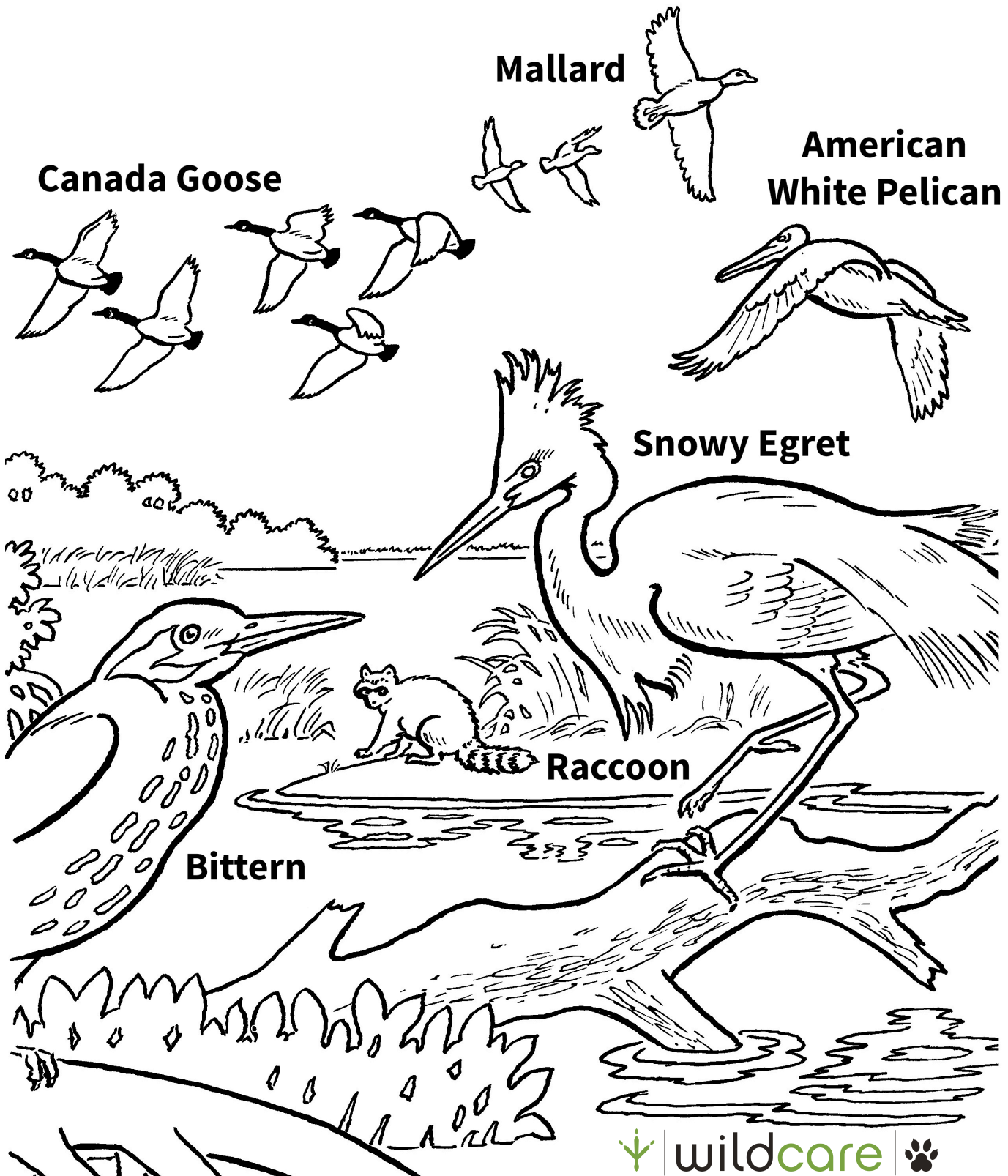


# Nature Walk Bingo

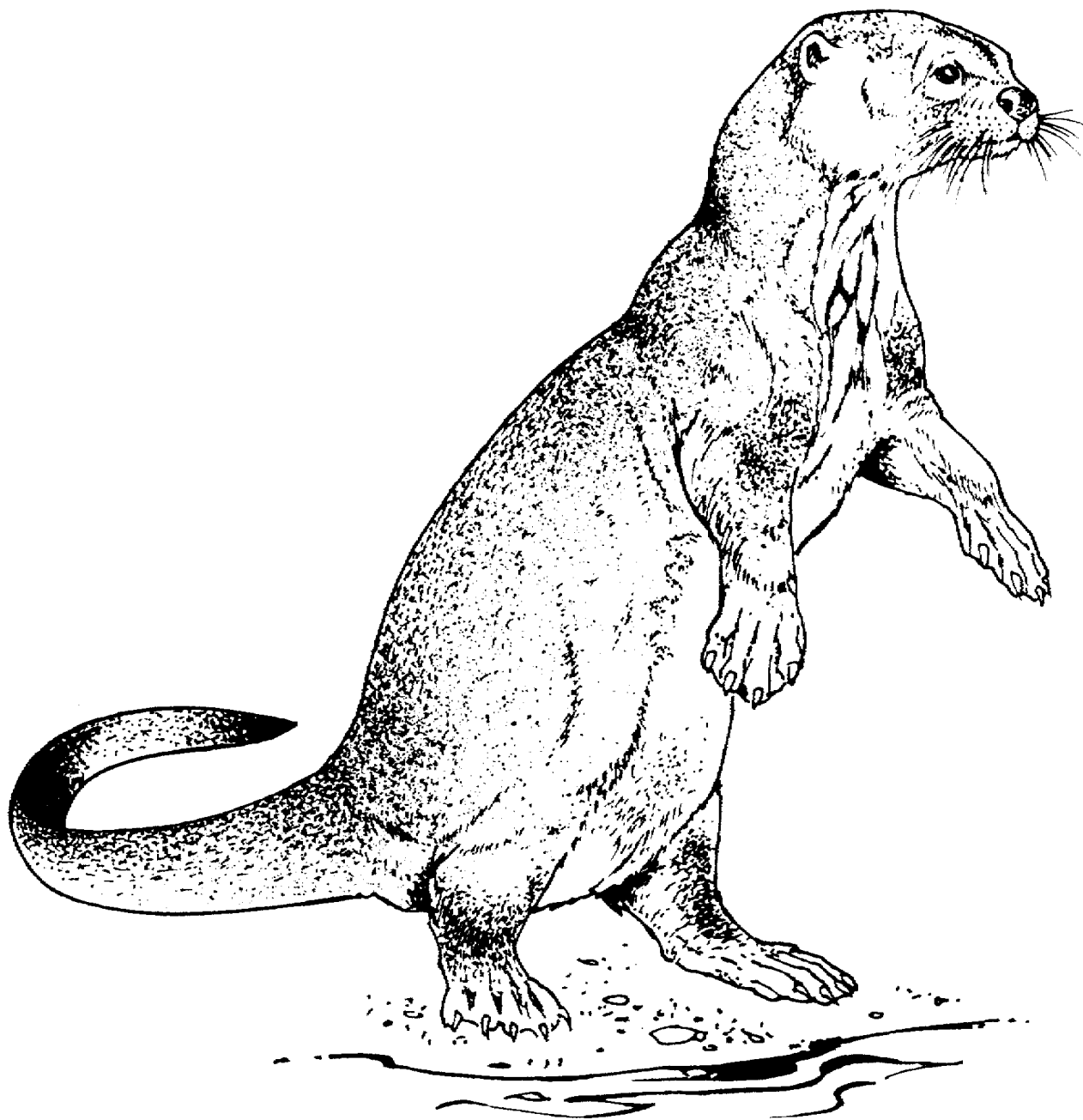
 <b>hummingbird</b>	 <b>flower bud</b>	 <b>foot prints</b>	 <b>berries or fruit</b>	 <b>buzzing bee</b>
 <b>feel the wind</b>	 <b>spider web</b>	 <b>butterfly</b>	 <b>moon</b>	 <b>nest</b>
 <b>pick up trash</b>	 <b>listen to a bird singing</b>	<b>FREE SPACE</b>	 <b>4 different leaves</b>	 <b>ant</b>
 <b>cricket sound</b>	 <b>cloud that looks like an animal</b>	 <b>feather</b>	 <b>mushroom</b>	 <b>dew drops</b>
 <b>dandelion</b>	 <b>ladybug</b>	 <b>a really COOL ROCK</b>	 <b>baby animal</b>	 <b>animal tracks</b>

# California Wetlands

When you go on a walk in a wetland, you can find many different animals using the habitat in different ways. Animals depend on wetlands for food. Some animals raise their babies in wetlands. Other animals rest and refuel in wetlands on their long migrations.



# River Otter

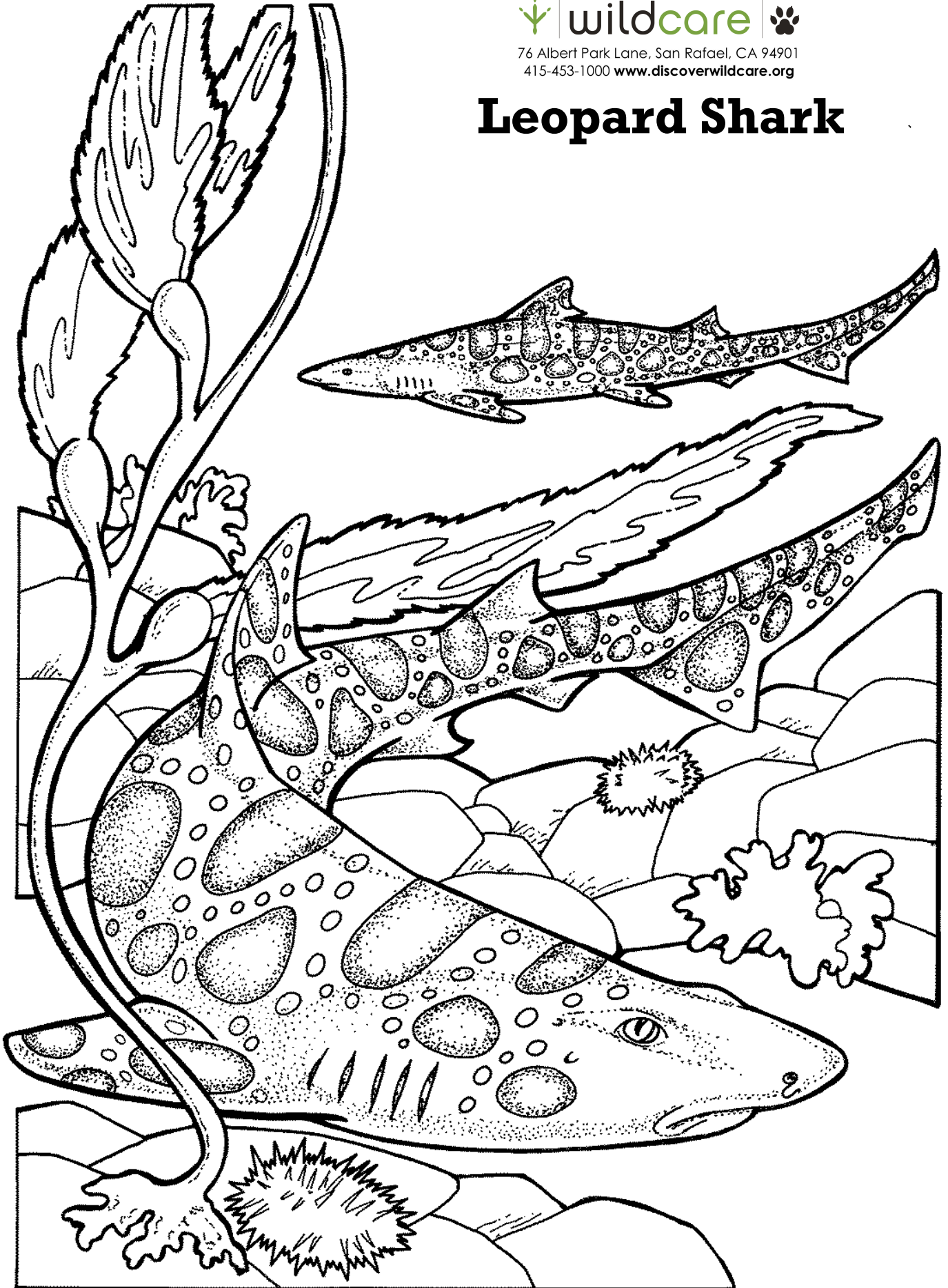


The **River Otter** chases fish underwater and rests on land inside a den.



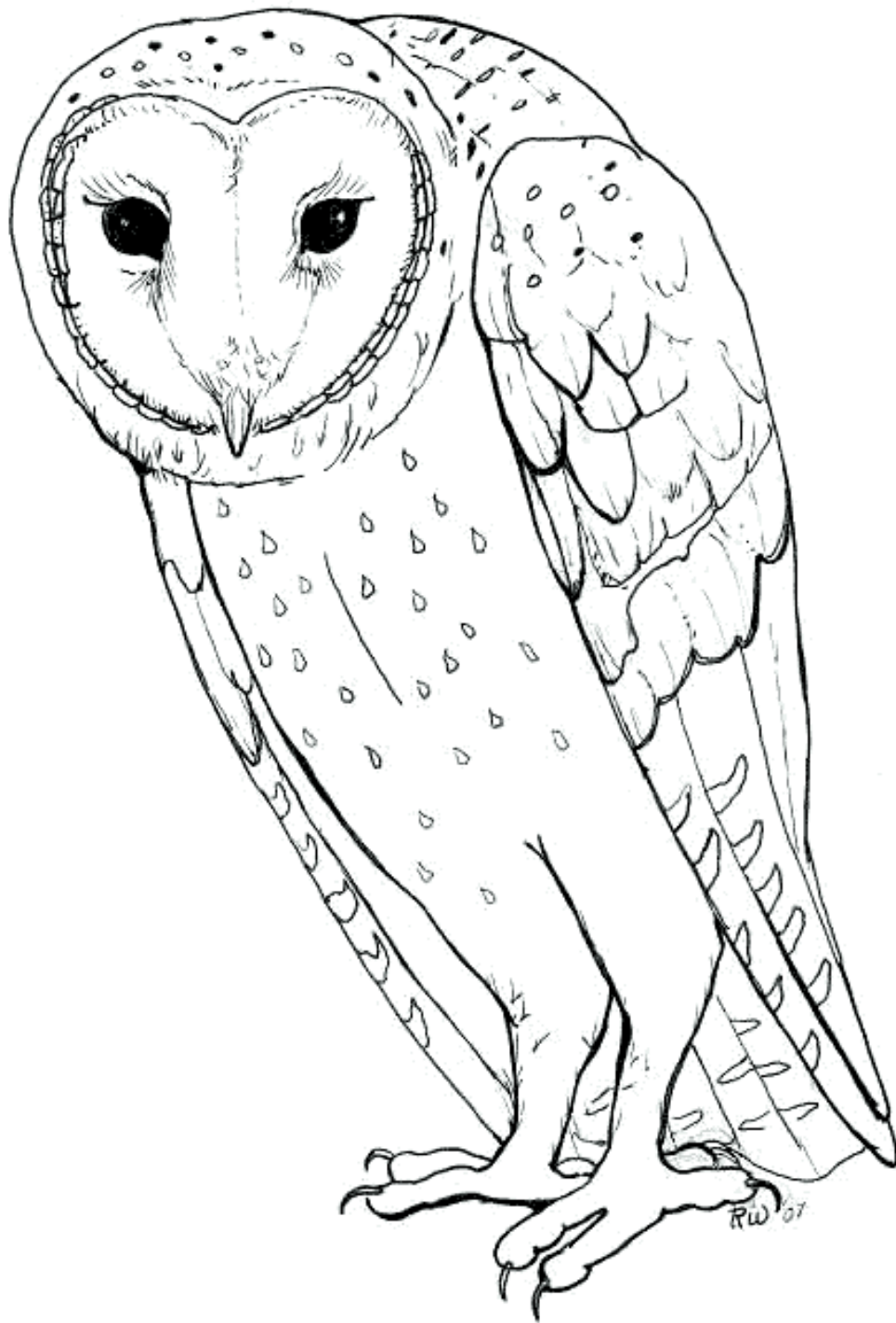
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# Leopard Shark





# Barn Owl

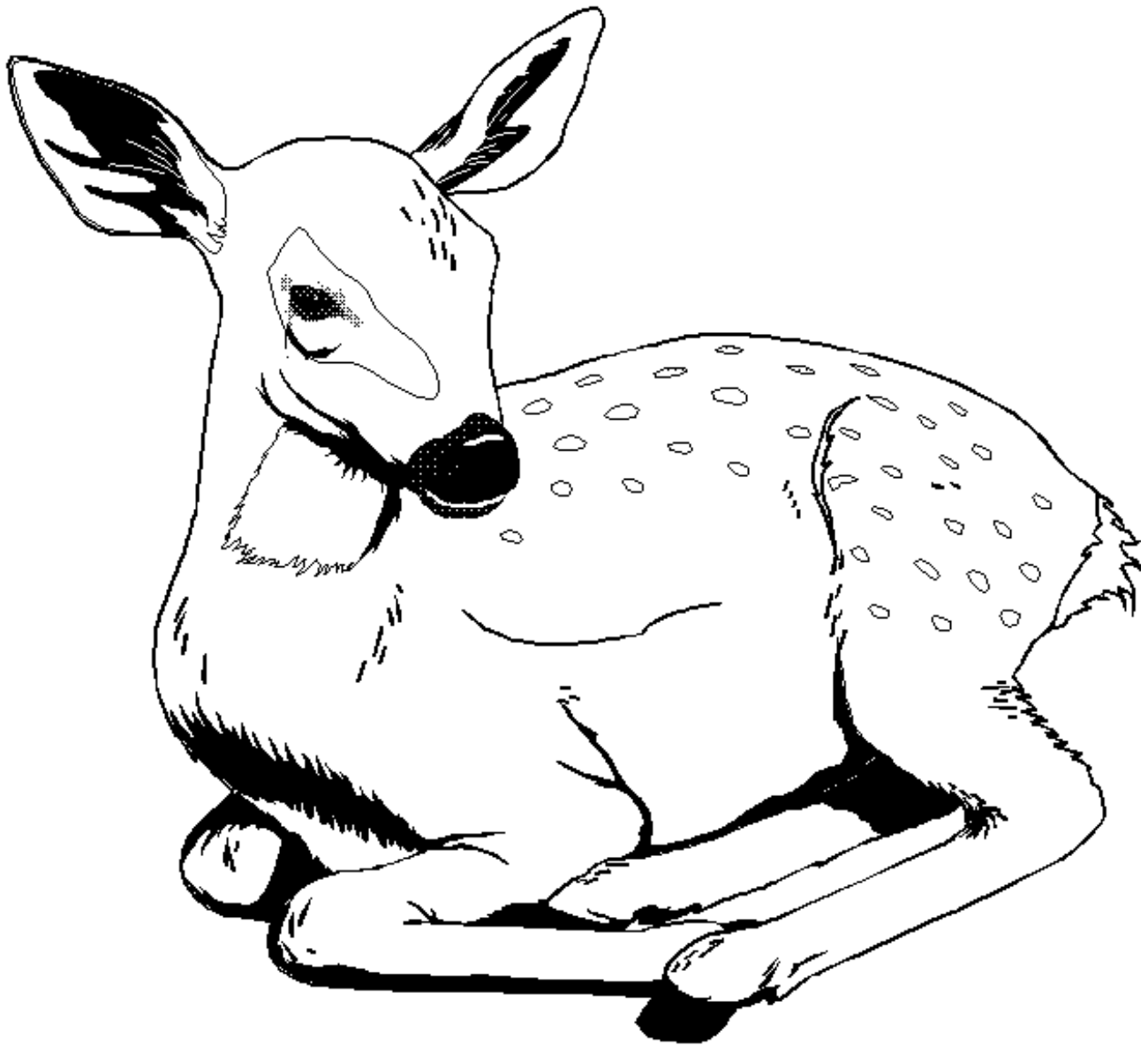


**Barn Owls** have heart-shaped faces that help sounds to get to their ears. When they sense prey, they will swoop silently down from the trees and grab their food in their sharp talons.



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# Black-tailed Mule Deer



**Black-tailed Mule Deer** are brown with black on their tails.  
Fawns, or baby deer, have white spots for hiding on the forest floor.



# Bird Mask Instructions

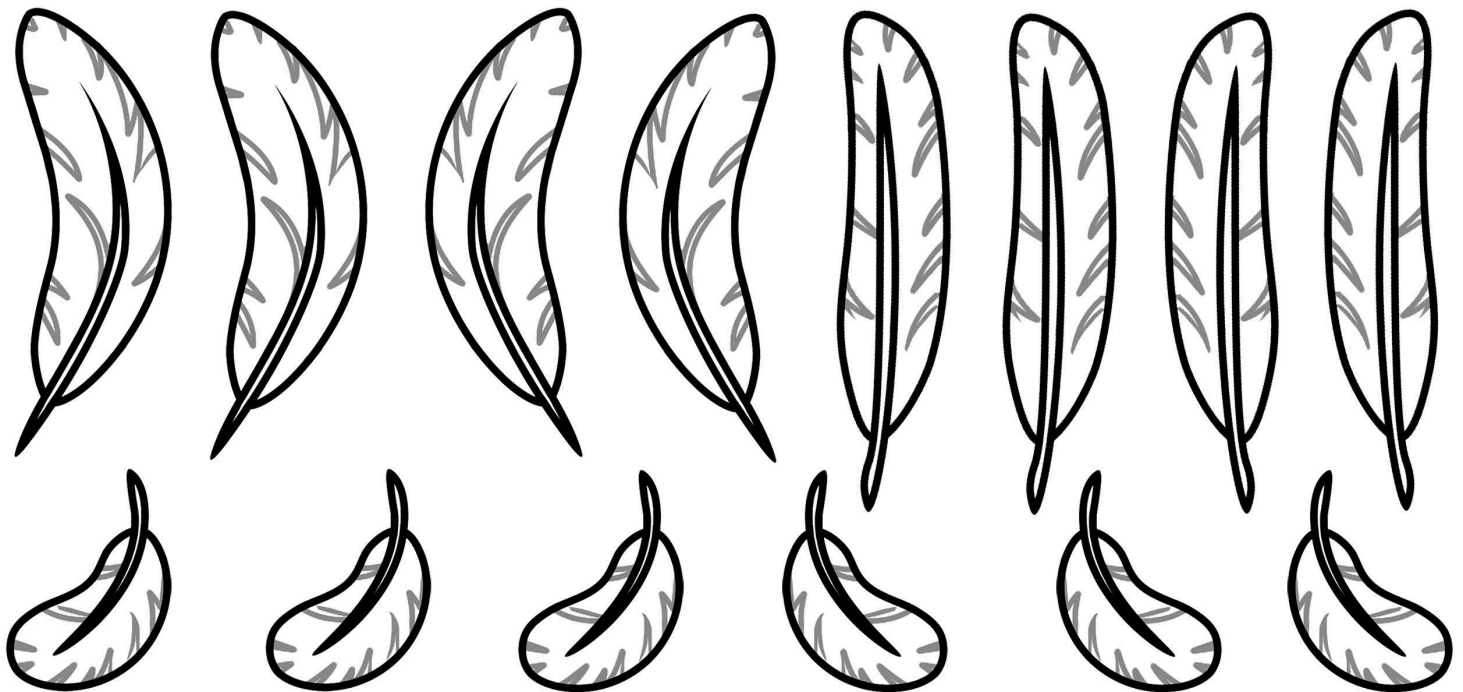


In many bird species, colorful feathers can help male birds attract a mate. Camouflage patterns often help female birds and their babies stay safe from predators. In other bird species, the males and females look very similar to each other.



There is so much variation in the bird world!  
What will your bird look like?

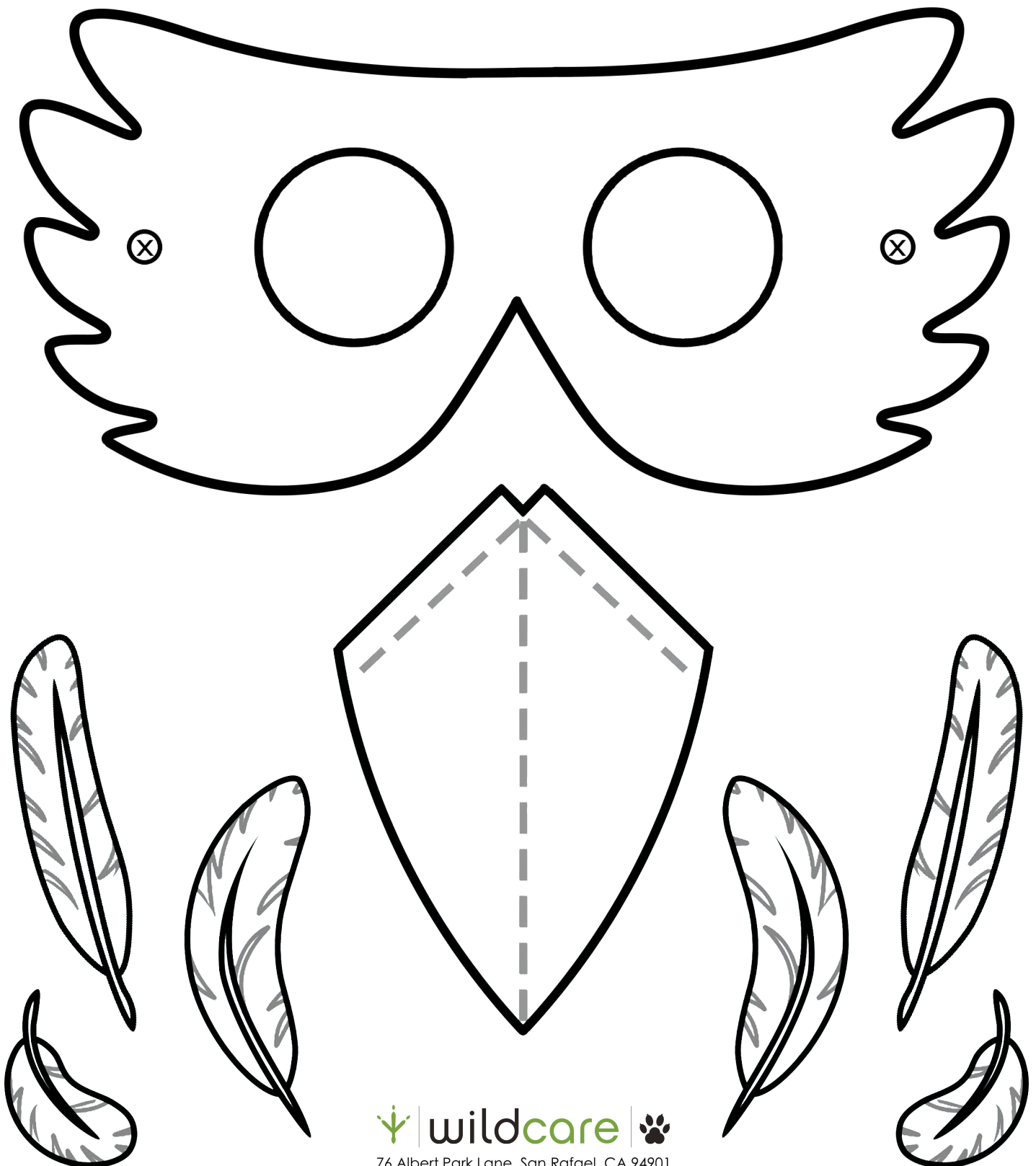
1. Color in the bird mask, beak, and feathers. How many different colors and patterns can you use?
2. Cut out the bird mask, beak, and feathers. Cut out the two eyes.
3. Fold the beak along the dashed lines. Glue or tape the folded flaps of the beak on to the mask to make a 3D beak.
4. Glue or tape the feathers to the mask.
5. Punch a hole in the two spots marked X. Tie the ends of a string to the holes and fit the mask to your head. Or attach a pipe cleaner to each hole and adjust it so that the mask fits over your ears like a pair of glasses.



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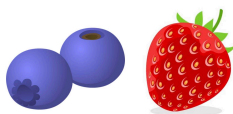
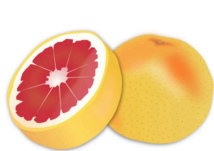
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# Bird Mask with 3D Beak



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## Bird Fruit Salad



Vegetarian ~ Dairy-free ~ Nut-free ~ Egg-free ~ Gluten-free



Substitute any of these seasonal spring fruits for your personal favorite fruit salad ingredients. This recipe makes enough salad for 3 people to share.

### Ingredients:

- 1 cup strawberries
- 1 cup blueberries
- 1 grapefruit
- 2 clementines
- 1 avocado (optional!)

### For the dressing:

- 1 Tablespoon honey
- 2 Tablespoons freshly squeezed lemon juice
- ½ teaspoon lemon zest
- A few chopped mint leaves

As the season changes from winter to spring, there are more hours of sunlight in the day. More sunlight means plants can do more photosynthesis to get energy from the sun and grow new leaves, shoots, flowers, and fruits. In spring we start to see more fruits and berries ripening, which provide birds with lots of energy to find a mate, build a nest, and raise their chicks. When birds eat fruits, they help spread the seeds to a new area where those seeds may sprout and grow. In this way, birds and plants are connected in their habitat and help each other grow!

Try this Bird Fruit Salad recipe to find out just how tasty some birds' meals are!

### Steps:

1. Wash your hands!
2. Wash all of the fruit.
3. With the help of an **adult**, prepare all of the fruit. Remove the leaves from the strawberries and cut in half. Peel the grapefruit and cut into bite size pieces. Peel the clementines and separate the sections. Cut the avocado into slices or bite size pieces.
4. Add all of the blueberries and cut fruit into a bowl.
5. Mix the honey, lemon juice, and lemon zest in a small mason jar. Make sure the lid is on tightly, and then shake to combine.
6. Pour the dressing over the fruit salad and gently toss to combine.
7. Add a few chopped mint leaves on top, and it's done!

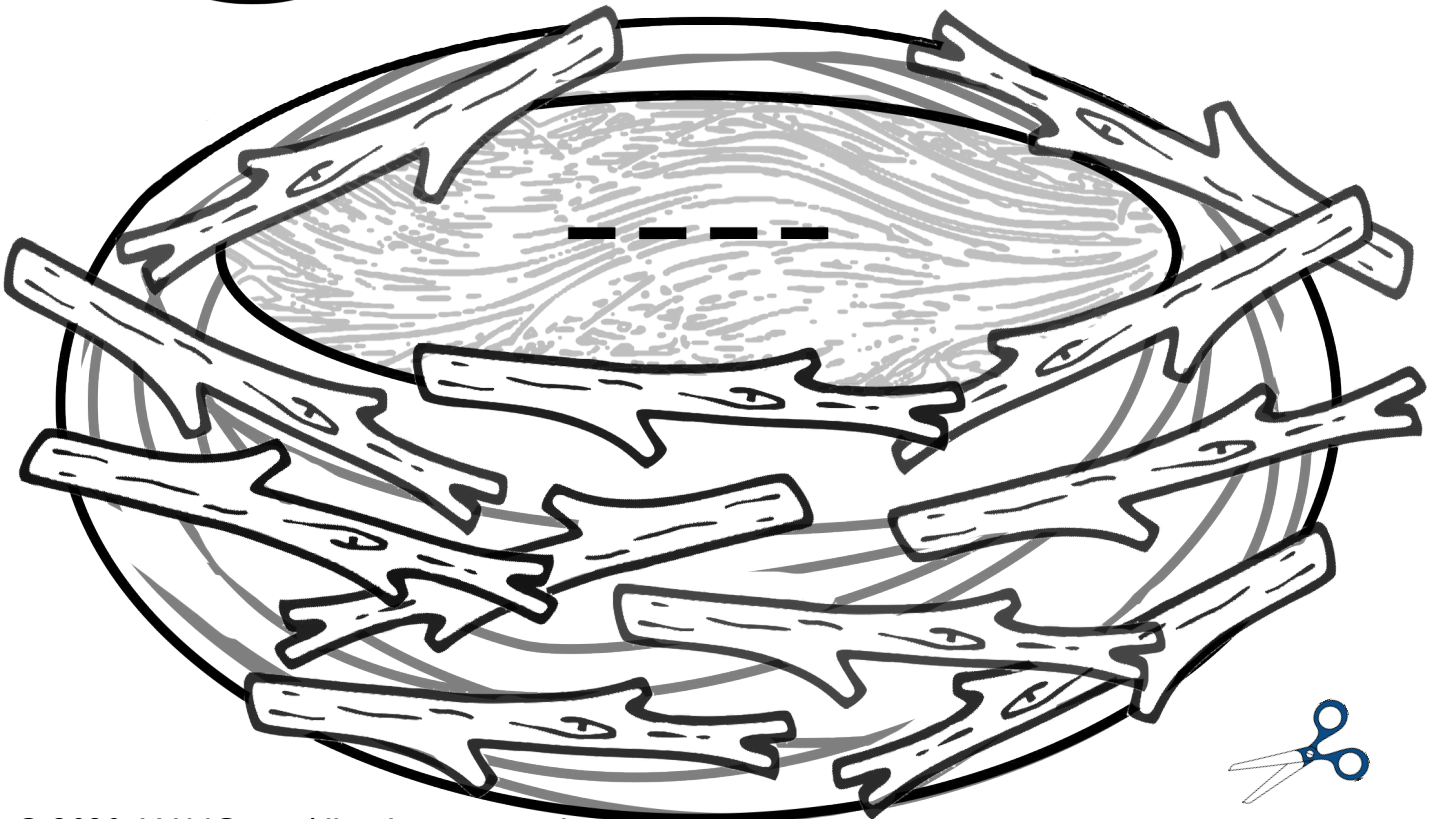
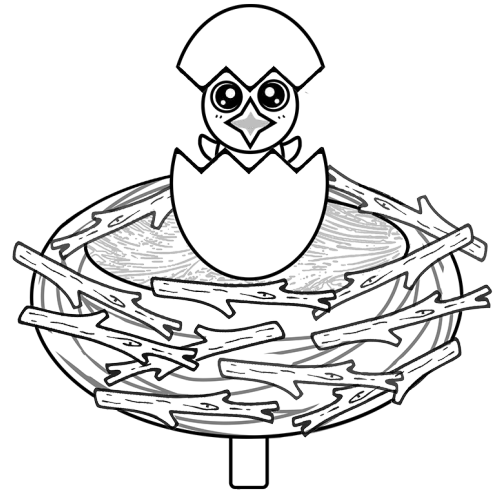
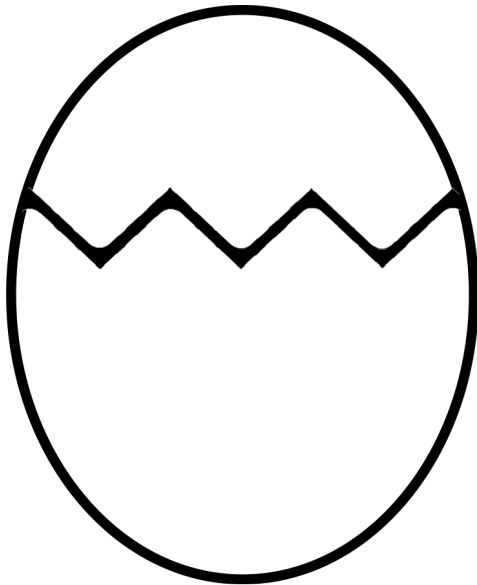
Enjoy your Bird Fruit Salad!



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# Pop-up Bird Nest

1. Color in the bird nest, egg, and chick, and then cut them out.
2. Cut along the crack in the egg, and glue or tape the top of the egg shell to the chick's head.
3. Glue or tape the chick to a craft stick or strip of thick paper or cardboard.
4. Cut a small hole along the dashed line in the nest.
5. Glue or tape the bottom of the egg shell to the nest so that it covers the hole. Make sure to only glue *below* the hole, so that the chick can pop up from the nest.
6. Place the craft stick with the chick on it down through the hole in the nest so that the egg becomes whole. Move the stick up to see the chick hatch!





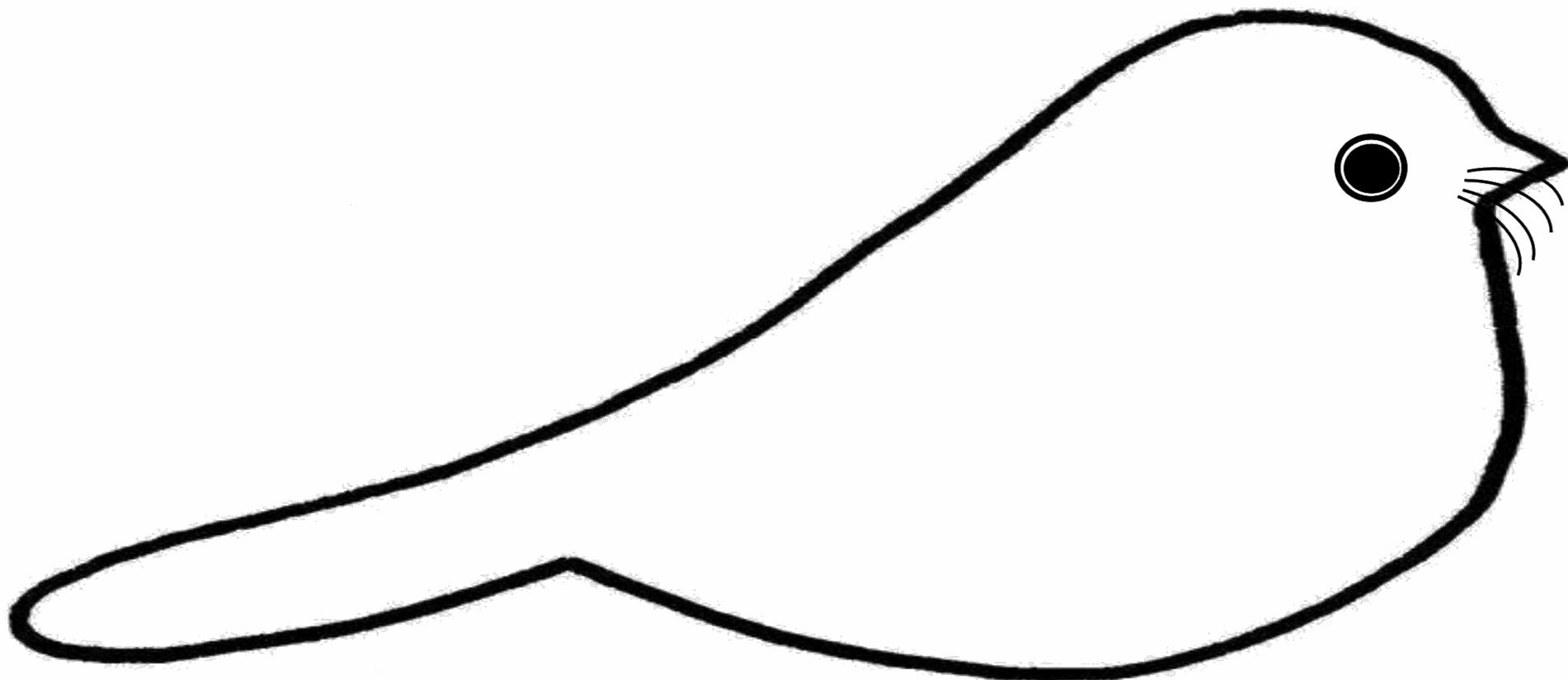


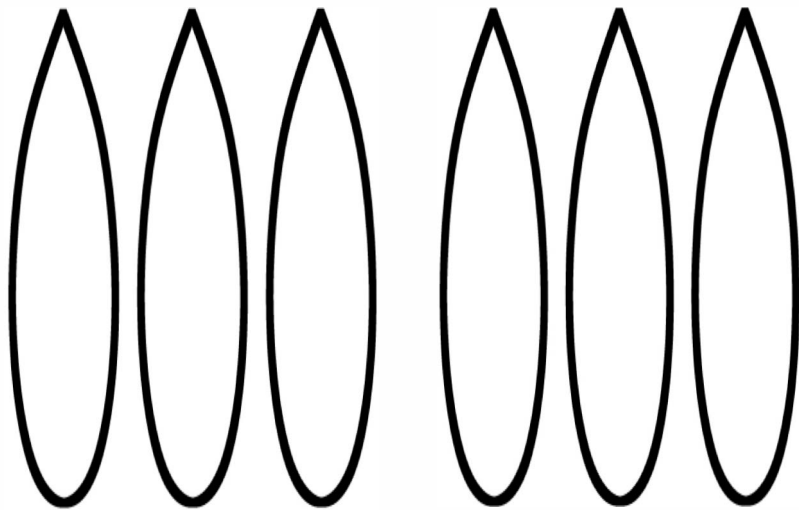
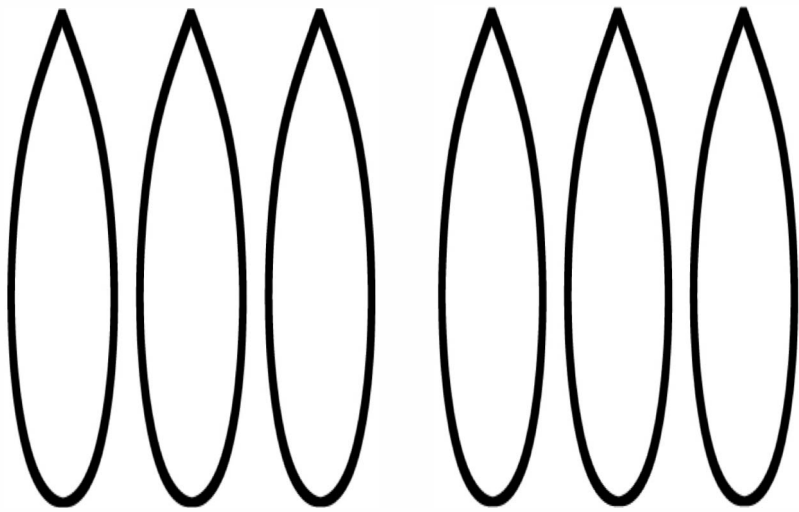
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## Help Me Hide

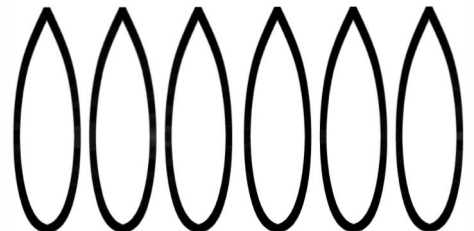
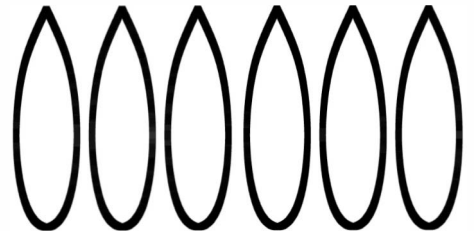
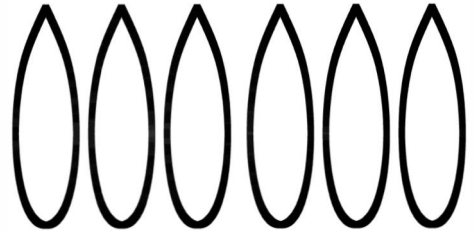
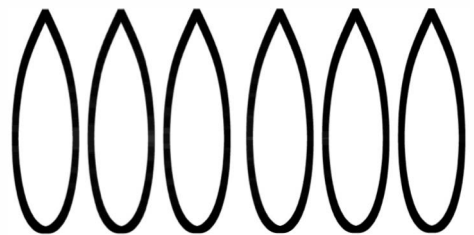
The Poorwill is a bird with excellent camouflage! The colors of its feathers help it to blend in with the leaves, twigs, and dirt on the forest floor.

1. Choose a place outside where you would like to make your Poorwill camouflage.
2. Color in the feathers to match the colors of the spot you chose.
3. Cut out the Poorwill outline and all the feathers.
4. Glue the feathers to the Poorwill outline, with feathers overlapping. The bigger feathers go on the body, and the smaller feathers go by the head and belly.
5. Hide your completed Poorwill and see if anyone can find him!

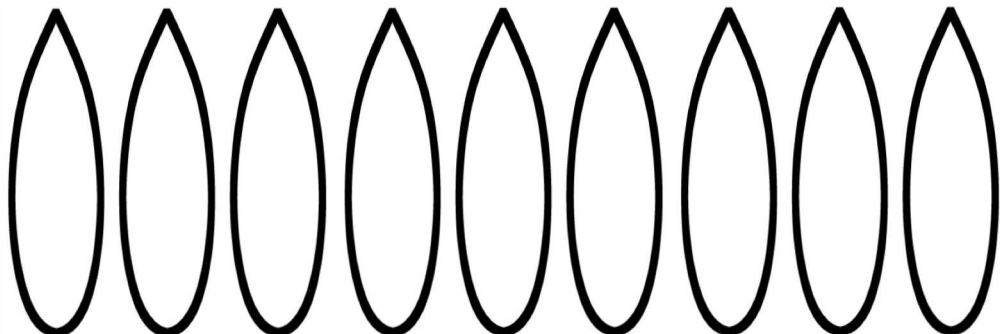
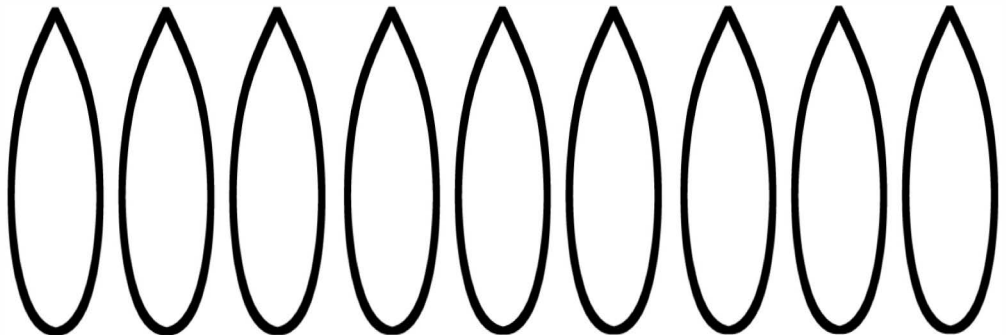
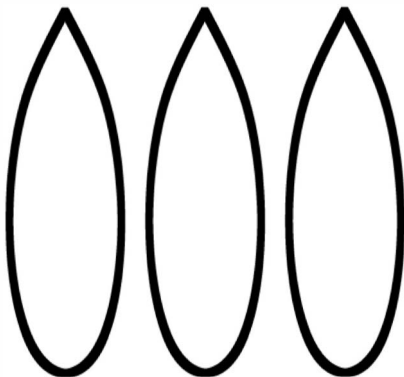
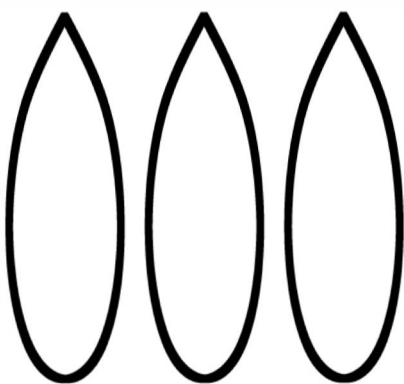




**tail feathers**



**face/belly feathers**



**body feathers**



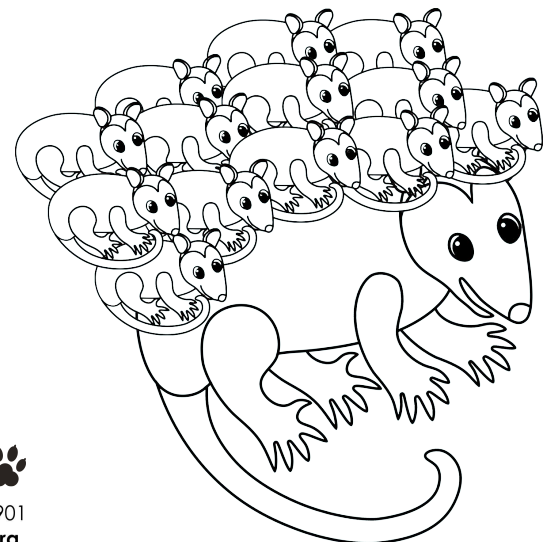
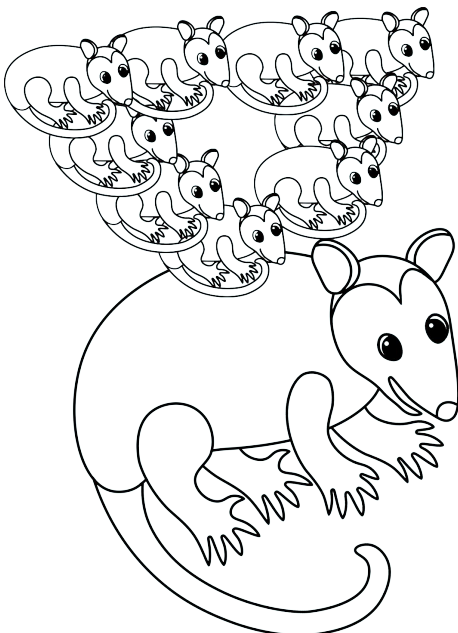
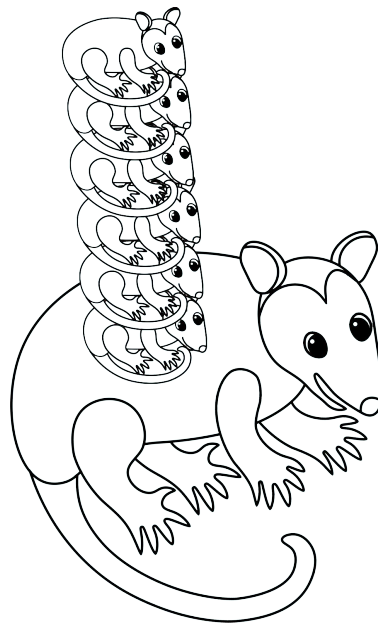
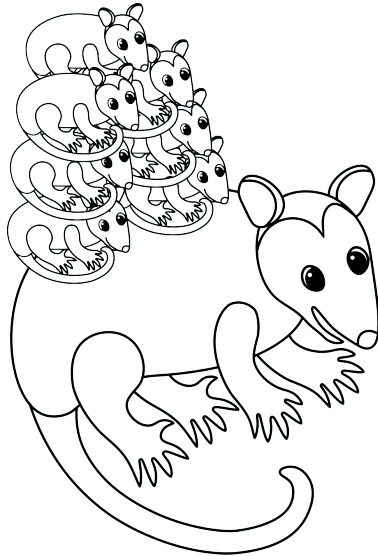
# Virginia Opossum Mother and Joeys

The Virginia opossum is North America's only marsupial (like kangaroos, koalas, and wombats) which means the mother keeps her newborn babies in her pouch where they grow and drink milk. Baby Virginia opossums are called **joeys**. The joeys are the size of a jelly bean when they are born, and the pouch can hold up to 13 of these tiny joeys! The joeys soon outgrow their mother's pouch, and will then ride on their mother's back, gripping tightly. When they are around four months old, the joeys start to fall off their mother's back and begin their own life in the wild.

Can you imagine carrying around 13 wiggling babies on your back?

What do you think is the most stable way to carry all those joeys? Do they climb on top of each other and form a tower? Or do they pile up and make a pyramid?

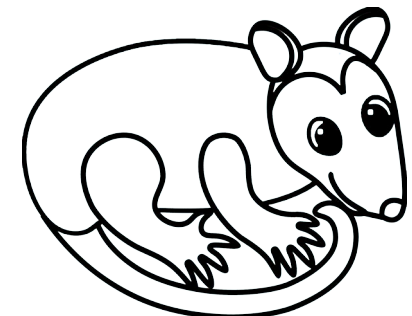
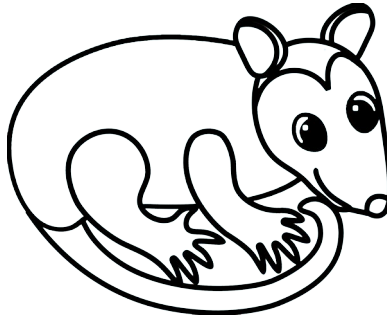
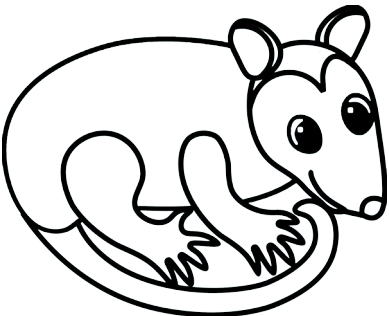
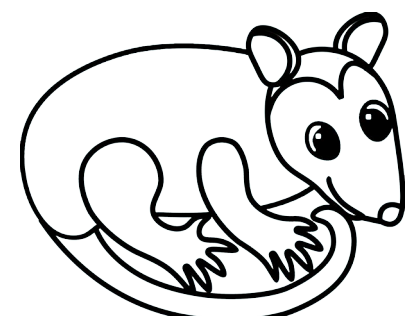
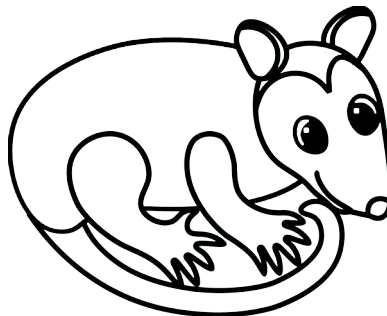
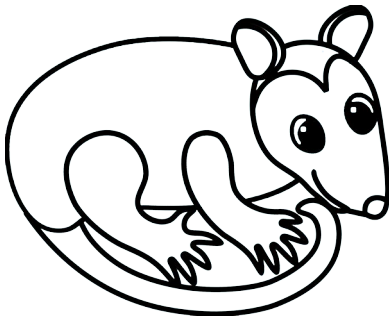
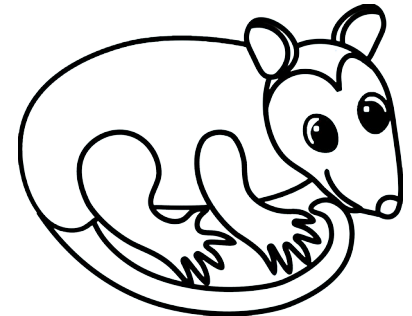
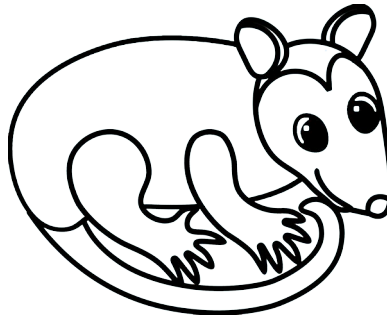
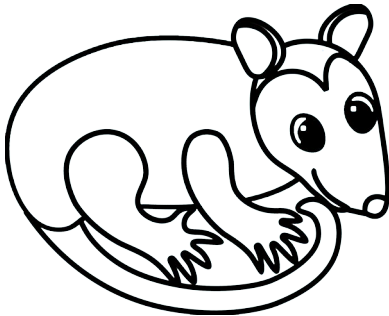
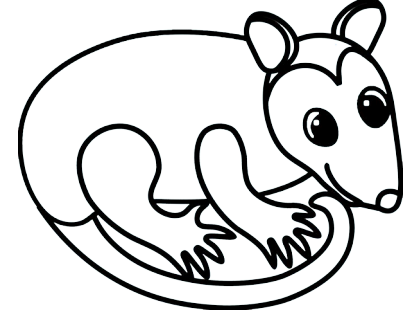
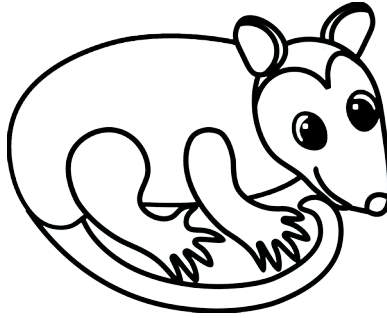
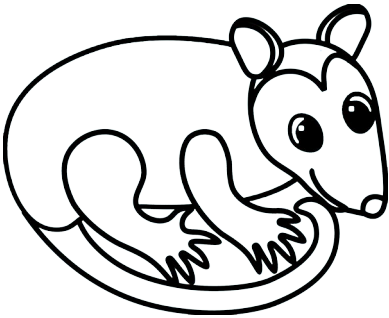
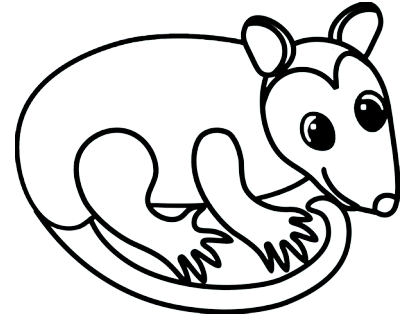
**Can you find a way to fit all 13 joeys on the mother opossum's back?  
Follow the instructions on the next page to piece together a mother  
Virginia opossum and her joeys!**

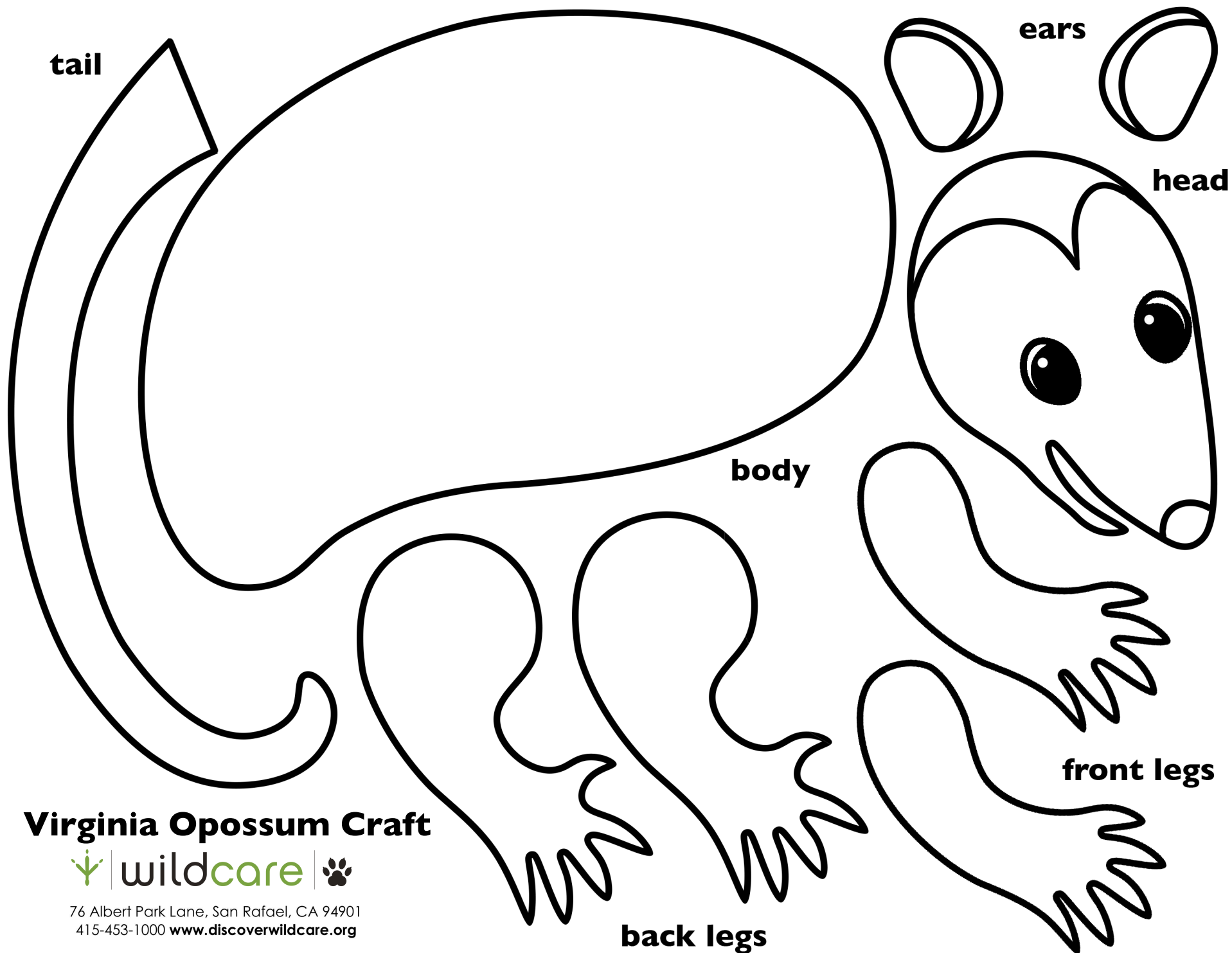


# Virginia Opossum

## Mother and Joeys

1. Color in the mother Virginia opossum pieces on the next page and then cut them out.
2. Glue or tape the pieces to the body to make a complete Virginia opossum.
3. Color in the 13 Virginia opossum joeys (babies) and then cut them out.
4. Glue or tape the joeys to ride on top of their mother's back. How many joeys fit on their mother's back?





## Virginia Opossum Craft



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# Baby Animal Memory Game

Some baby animals look just like smaller versions of the adult animals, but other babies may look completely different. Learn some fun facts about wildlife and their babies below, and then print and cut out the animal cards to play a game of Memory and Matching!

## How to play:

1. Cut out all 24 photos on the next 2 pages. Cut along the lines so all squares are the same size.
2. Place all photos face down in no particular order.
3. The first person takes a turn picking 2 photos to flip over— if it is a matching baby/adult pair, that person gets to keep those cards, and try again! The turn is over when 2 photos are picked that do not match. Then it is the next person's turn.
4. Whoever matches the most pairs wins!

Here are fun facts about a few California wild animals and their babies:



Bobcat babies, called kittens, are born with bright blue eyes that turn green/hazel as they get older.



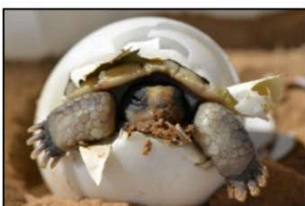
Baby Jackrabbits are called leverets. Unlike baby bunnies, these babies are born with eyes open and fully ready to hop around!



Brown Pelicans keep their eggs warm by standing on them with their webbed feet!



Bullfrogs and other amphibians go through a complete change in appearance, from egg to tadpole to adult bullfrog. This whole process is called metamorphosis.



A baby Desert Tortoise has a softer shell that begins to harden once it hatches from the egg.







Bobcat Kittens



Bobcat



Leveret (Jackrabbit)



Jackrabbit



Brown Pelican Nestling



Brown Pelican



Hatching Desert Tortoise



Desert Tortoise



Bullfrog



Tadpole



Barn Owlets



Barn Owl





Young California Newt



California Newt



Baby Squirrels



Squirrel



Western Gull Chick



Western Gull



Raccoon Cub



Raccoon



Sea Otter Pup



Sea Otter



American Robin Babies



American Robin



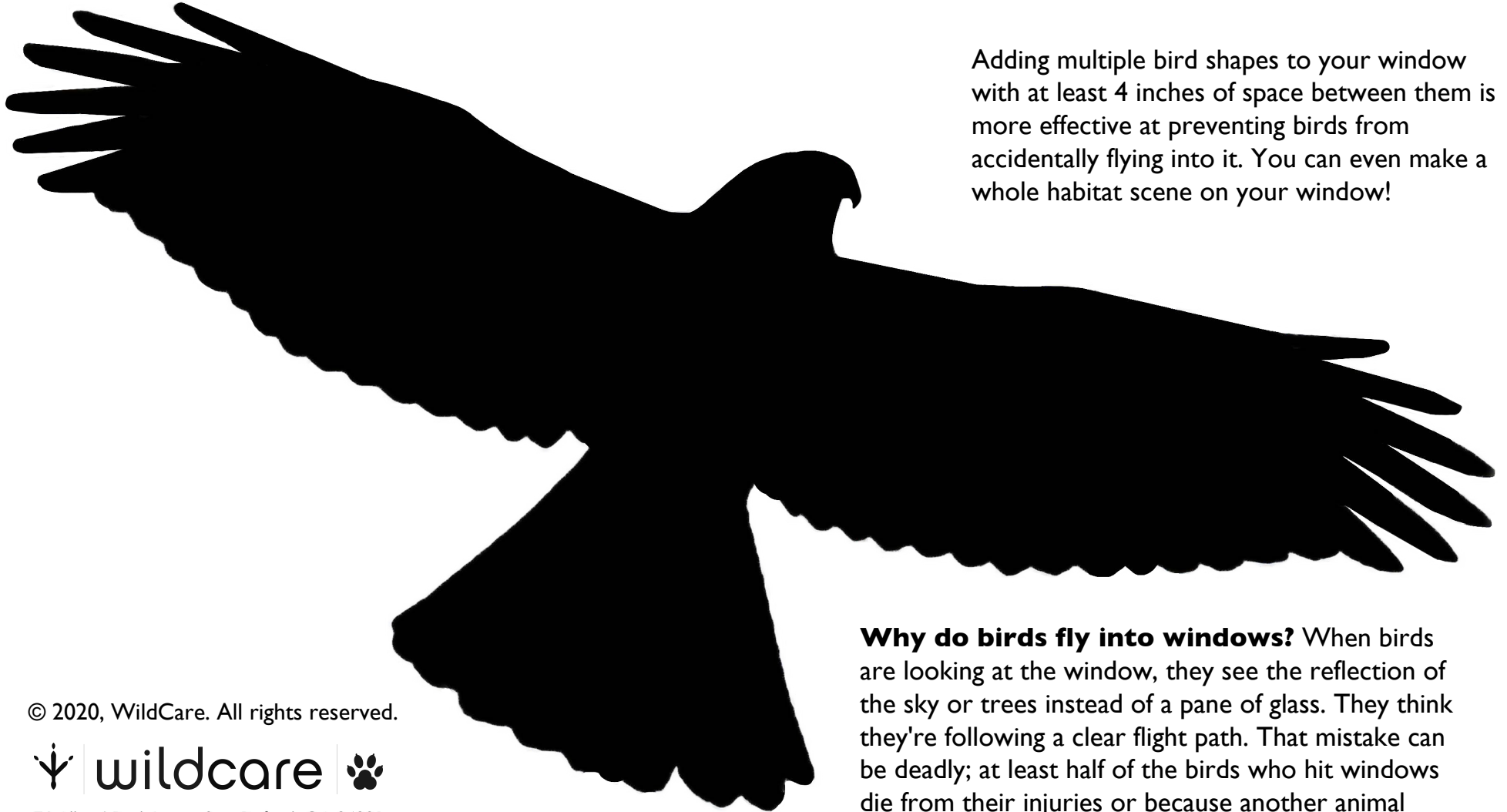
# Birds and Windows

## Help wild birds around your home with this Nature Super Hero activity!

Simply create hawk-shaped cut outs to display in windows to discourage birds from flying into them and causing injury.

1. Carefully cut out the hawk shape.
2. Decorate the white side of your hawk cut-out however you like, by drawing, coloring, or collaging on it.
3. Tape the hawk to the inside of your window so that the black side of the cut-out faces outside, and the decorated side faces inside.

Adding multiple bird shapes to your window with at least 4 inches of space between them is more effective at preventing birds from accidentally flying into it. You can even make a whole habitat scene on your window!



**Why do birds fly into windows?** When birds are looking at the window, they see the reflection of the sky or trees instead of a pane of glass. They think they're following a clear flight path. That mistake can be deadly; at least half of the birds who hit windows die from their injuries or because another animal preyed upon them while the bird was stunned.

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# Ways to be a Wildlife Hero!

Organize a beach, park, school yard, or neighborhood clean-up! Not only will you help wildlife, but you will see how beautiful the things around us can be.

Have big windows at home or in your classroom? Cut out shapes to decorate the glass so birds don't accidentally fly into it!

Slow down!  
Cars and bikes can be a big danger for animals just trying to cross to the other side.

Going to the beach?  
If you see any loose fishing line, cut it up into small pieces and throw it away! Pelicans, gulls and other wildlife can get tangled in the line.



Photo by Carlos Porra

Build a nesting box for owls or bats, and they might thank you by eating some critters you don't want around like bugs or rats!  
Visit [www.hungryowls.org](http://www.hungryowls.org) for instructions!

Done with that yogurt or other food container? Rinse it out before you recycle it, so wild animals don't stick their heads inside—sometimes they can get stuck!

Wild animals can be cute, but these animals should not be our pets. Wild animals do best when they are in their own homes in nature, instead of in our homes.



Photo by Dana Terry

Always keep your cats inside and dogs on leash when they are outside, so they can't harm wild animals!

If you find a sick or hurt wild animal, before you go near it, be sure to tell an adult! They can call WildCare for more help.



Photo by Greg Wilson





If you find a baby wild animal, call WildCare before trying to move it. Baby jackrabbits and fawns may spend the whole day alone while mom gets food, and might just need to be left alone.

Use your reusable bags! Your backpack works great, too!

Host a bake sale, lemonade stand, or ask for donations for your local animal rescue instead of birthday presents. Every penny helps feed and care for wild animals in need!

Throwing a party? Try making your own party decorations instead of buying balloons. Wild animals often mistake balloons for their food.



Photo by Amy Woodward

Spot any six-pack soda rings? Help wild animals from getting caught in them by cutting all of the rings before throwing away.

Don't throw that apple core out the car window! Opossums, skunks, and other wildlife may try to eat it but can get too close to the road. This can cause accidents for both people and animals!

Never feed wild animals people food or your pet's food! They have their own food in nature that they should be eating instead. Our foods and our pet's foods can make them very sick.

Don't chase the birds! Birds and other animals may need a quick break before migrating to a new home. Enjoy watching them rest and relax instead!

Trash isn't good for us, and it's not good for wildlife! Help make sure garbage can lids are on nice and tight. If you see an outdoor bin without a lid, ask for one to be added!

Share what you've learned! Make signs, tell a family member, and keep talking to friends about all the ways that YOU can be a Wildlife Hero!



Photo by Trish Carney

