

Wonderfully Wild!

Keep Wild
Animals Wild

Born to Be Wild
*What's a Wild
Animal?
What's Not?*



**Meet a
Wildlife Vet**



**Wild Animals—
In Your
Neighborhood!**





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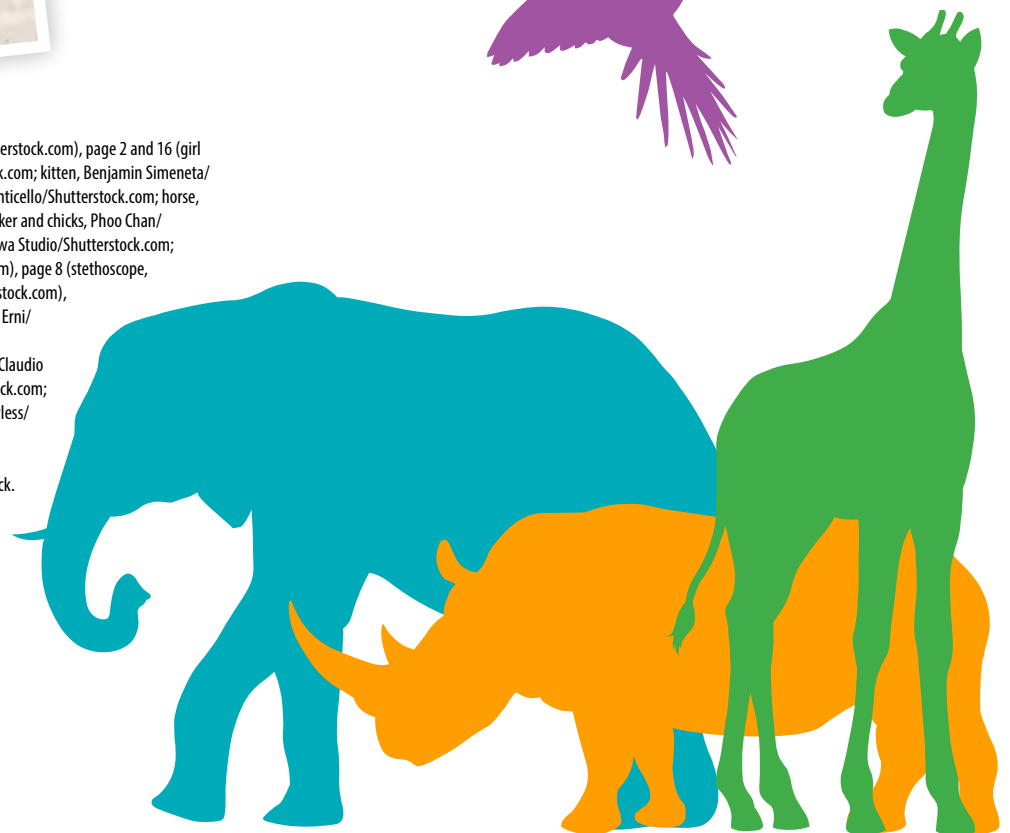
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“Daisy and the Dragon” illustrated by Kimberley Barnes

Answer to puzzle on page 17: one bird instead of two; grasshopper on leaf; butterfly flipped; snow on mountains; beetle instead of ladybug; butterfly sketch in notebook; pink flower in girl’s hair instead of yellow clip; rabbit is missing; ants on tree trunk; sun in sky.





BORN TO BE WILD

What Is a Wild Animal?

A lion cub naps in tall grass. A pet kitten plays in the sun. The lion cub and kitten look alike, but they are not the same. The lion cub is a wild animal.

What makes a lion cub wild, but not a kitten? Kittens are **domestic** cats. These cats have lived closely with people for thousands of years. This changed them long ago. They are no longer wild. They need people to take care of them.

Wild animals take care of themselves. Wild animals find their own food and water. They live alone or with animals like themselves.



Wild Animals



monkeys



eagles



squirrels



lions

Domestic Animals (not wild)



cats



dogs



chickens



horses

Getting Food



Wild animals like foxes and wolves must hunt for food.



Domestic animals, like this dog, get food from people. All domestic animals, even dogs and cats that live in the streets, depend on people for food, water, and shelter.

What Do Wild Animals Need?

Like all animals, wild animals have needs. They must have certain things in order to live. Wild animals need food to eat and water to drink. They need safe homes where they can live and raise their babies. They need places where they can live alone or with other animals like themselves. Wild animals also need space. They need space to **roam** and find food or mates or get away from **predators**.



How Animals Get What They Need

Needs	Wild Animals	Domestic Animals
food	hunt, search for food	get food from people or find food near people
water	search for water	get water from people or find water near people
shelter	find or make their own shelter	People give them shelter or they find shelter near people.
space	seek area to roam	People give them a space (inside or out), walk them, or let them roam free.

These woodpeckers live in a tree cavity. Wild animals make their homes in many spots both on land and in the water. They may live in bushes, rock piles, caves, logs, holes in the ground, and many other places.

Keeping Wild Animals Wild

Wild animals live in nature all around us. Some are really cute. Some are really interesting. You might want to feed or pet them. Don't do it!

If you feed wild animals, they may learn to depend on you for food. But wild animals need the food that they naturally hunt for or find. Food from people might make them sick. Also, feeding wild animals may make them lose their fear of people. This is unsafe for both wild animals and people.

If you try to touch wild animals, they might get scared or hurt. This could make them bite or kick. And just like people, wild animals carry germs. Sometimes their germs spread to people.

Wild animals are suited to live in their natural homes. Wild animals belong in **the wild.**

I may look cute, but don't feed or pet me!



Tigers have many special features that help them live in the wild.

A striped coat helps a tiger hide in the swamps, grasslands, and rainforests where they live.

Coat

Ears

Ears that can turn help a tiger listen for prey.

Tongue

A rough tongue helps a tiger strip meat from prey.

A tail helps a tiger balance while chasing prey.

Tail

Big padded paws let a tiger walk quietly to hunt prey.

Long curved claws let a tiger hold prey and climb trees.

Claws

Paws

Meet a Wildlife Vet



Dr. Ian Robinson
Wildlife veterinarian who is in charge of animal protection programs around the world

Ian Robinson is a veterinarian. A vet is a doctor who takes care of animals. Ian has taken care of pets, farm animals, and wild animals. He has treated bats, seals, hedgehogs, tigers, and more!

Ian says that taking care of wild animals is different from taking care of pets. A vet can comfort a cat or dog with quiet words or gentle pats. But that does not make a wild animal feel better. Wild animals fear people, so Ian must work quickly.

Ian loves taking care of wild animals. But the best part of his job is releasing a wild animal back to where it belongs—the wild! The animal takes off without looking back. Ian knows a wild animal has the best chance of surviving in the wild.



Ian quickly checks this bear in Russia. The bear needed help when he was a cub. Now he is ready to go back to the wild.

2 Kinds of Cats

A kitten is a cat, a pet to love

A warm, furry friend, lighter than a newborn baby on your lap

A tiger's a cat, but different

Bigger (MUCH bigger)—heavy as 3 grown men—and wilder!

Kittens don't match

They are tan or black or white or orange or grey

Solids or stripes or socks or splotches

Tigers wear a tiger uniform

Black-Orange-Black-Orange-Black-Orange

Long, bold stripes to blend into tall grasses

Kittens love laps and hidey-holes and soft resting spots—

friendly hands setting out breakfast

squeaky clean water bowls—or dripping faucets

Tigers love clear creeks and wild pigs for breakfast

banyan trees and forests and

many moonlit miles to roam, each lone tiger in his territory

Kittens creep through sunny doorways, pounce on string

Attack! Slash! Rip! Good-bye, paper bag!

Tigers slink silently through tall grass under a dark night sky

Pounce! Claws! Jaws! A dinner of deer—survival for another week

We give kittens up-close love

petting playing feeding healing sheltering snuggling love

We give tigers distant love

protect the forest, let them roam, keep them wild love



Daisy and the Dragon

Daisy worked for the king and queen. Each morning, Daisy skipped to the woods to pick flowers for the castle.

“Tra-la-la-la-la,” sang Daisy. A baby dragon heard Daisy singing. Wandering away from his mama, he followed the sounds.

“A baby dragon!” exclaimed Daisy. “I will take care of you. Are you hungry?”



Daisy made sandwiches. The baby dragon scorched the sandwiches to ashes with his fiery breath.



“Oh dear!” said Daisy. “Maybe you’d like to play outside?”

Daisy threw her sparkly ball. The baby dragon popped it with the spike on his tail.



“Hmmm,” said Daisy. “A bath might be nice.”

She filled the tub. The baby dragon gulped the water, bubbles and all.



“*Bleccch!*” burped the baby dragon.

Daisy thought. “Are you sleepy, Baby Dragon?” Daisy asked, as she made him a bed.

The baby dragon flew to the rafter instead. All night long, he snored and snored, and Daisy didn’t sleep at all.



In the morning, Daisy yawned as she picked flowers with the baby dragon.

Suddenly, Daisy heard a long, loud screech. The baby dragon heard it, too.

“Is that your mama?” Daisy asked. The baby dragon flew to the treetop and screeched. In a flash, the dragon mama swooped and scooped him up.

The baby dragon was happy to return to the wild with his mama. And Daisy was very happy to wave good-bye!



Wild Animals— In Your Neighborhood!

Wild animals live all around us. Butterflies in your garden, birds roosting on buildings, or lizards resting on rocks—these are all wild animals!

The kinds of wild animals in your neighborhood depend on where you live. Different animals live in different **habitats**. But no matter where you live, wild animals live near you.

Spotting Wild Animals

Some wild animals are easy to see, but others are hard to spot. If you hear sounds like rustling grass, footsteps, flapping wings, or chirping, wild animals may be nearby. You might even smell them!

Or you might see clues like these:

- Paw or hoof prints
- Paths and trails not made by humans
- Holes—in the ground, in cactus, or in tree trunks
- Nests—in trees, on cliffs, under rooftops
- Bite marks in leaves
- Poop!

What animals might leave clues like these?



Wildlife Close to Home

People live all over the world, and so do wild animals. They live in cities, **suburbs**, and the countryside.

When we build homes, farms, and roads on land wild animals need, many move out, but some others may move in!



If you live in London, you might see peregrine falcons swooping down from skyscrapers. Foxes and hedgehogs may visit your parks. Squirrels and mice dine on scraps in your trash bins.



peregrine falcon

If you live in an Arabian Peninsula country, you might hear gray wolves howling at night. If you live near the mountains, you may see a caracal, a striped hyena, and gazelles.



gazelle

In **rural** southern China, you might see a mongoose running into the forest. Look for deer and Indian muntjac bounding through the grasses and serow climbing rocky hills.



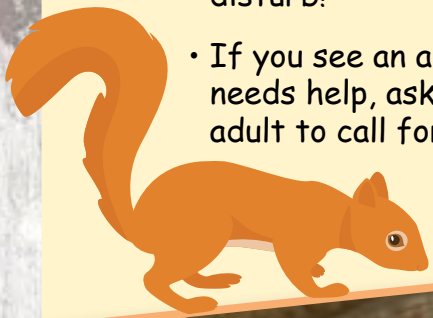
mongoose



Be Aware and Take Care

Wild animals are everywhere!
When you go outside:

- Keep your eyes and ears open.
- Slow down, go around, and don't step on.
 - Walk quietly—don't disturb!
 - If you see an animal that needs help, ask a trusted adult to call for help.



storks

Whose Neighborhood Is It, Anyway?

Wild animals add to our lives. Animals like frogs and pangolins eat insects. Some mammals like squirrels and elephants spread seeds, helping plants grow. The sound of singing birds adds beauty to our lives.

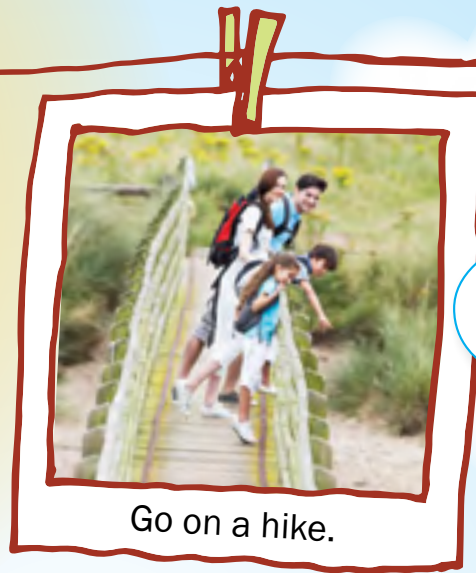
Some wild animals use our homes, too. They eat our scraps and take shelter in our sheds or sometimes our homes. They nest on our tall buildings.

Many people don't like having wildlife nearby. But the animals are just keeping themselves safe and fed. They don't mean to annoy people.

Every animal has a role to play. We need to respect their homes, spaces, and their lives. It's their neighborhood, too.

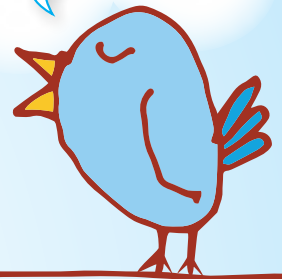
Watching Wildlife

Wild animals can be fun to observe—from a distance. When we see wild animals, it's important that we don't harm or disturb them, and we keep ourselves safe, too. Here are some ways to watch wildlife:

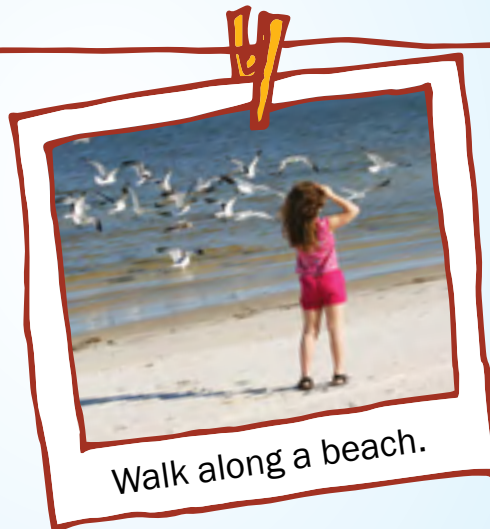


Go on a hike.

Stay on the path.

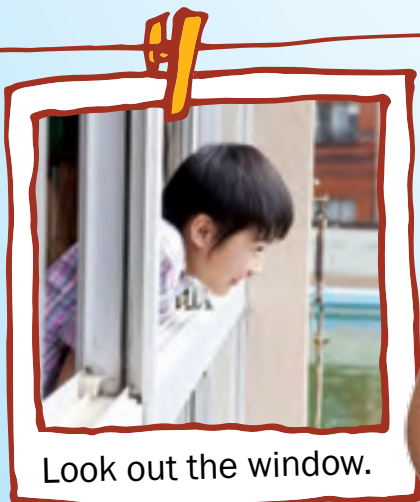


Go canoeing.



Walk along a beach.

Take only photos.



Look out the window.

Bring binoculars and go bird watching.



Spot the Differences

There are 10 things that are different between the two pictures. Can you spot them all?



Think About It

How are the boy and girl observing wildlife respectfully?

Glossary



domestic: no longer wild and needing care from people



habitats: places where animals and plants live because the food, water, temperature, and other features are right for them



predators: animals that hunt other animals

prey: an animal hunted

by another animal

roam: to move about



rural: having to do with the countryside



suburbs: towns or communities that are near a



city

the wild: a place left in its natural state



wild animals: animals that are not changed by humans; not domesticated and still



wild

I love all animals!



I love elephants!



I love polar bears!



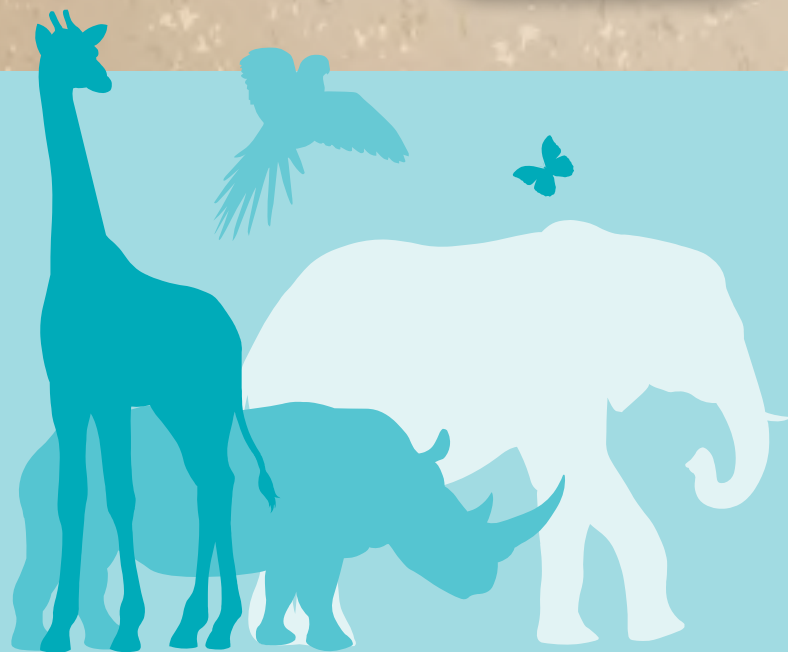
I think the ones I like the best are the lions.



My favorite animals are tigers! Roarrrrrrrrr!



Wild animals are not pets. Keep them wild!



IFAW is the International Fund for Animal Welfare. IFAW rescues and protects animals around the world.

IFAW also helps children learn and care about animals.

IFAW says, "Wild animals belong in the wild." IFAW helps keep wild animals safe in their natural homes.



IFAW
International Fund for Animal Welfare