

Strange Animals

1 CHAPTER

There are millions of animal species on the planet. All these animals are different in their own way. Let's learn about some peculiar animals.

Play the game of tic-tac-toe with your friend. Read the hints below and try to get three correct answers in a column, row or diagonal by writing the name of the animals below their respective picture.



Giant ant eater is a funny-looking animal with a large protruding snout, known to eat up to 3,000 insects in a day. Mainly found in Southern hemisphere, they can grow up to 100 cm long.

Gnu is a member of the antelope family, also known as the wildebeest. It is a fast-running plant-eater from eastern African grasslands.

A spine-coated animal, it often curls itself into a prickly ball, when faced with danger. On an average, Hedgehog has about 5,000 - 6,000 spines.

Badger is a nocturnal digging animal typically known for its striped face. It is the fastest digging animal on the earth.

Llamas are the members of the camel family, mainly found in South America. They are used as beasts of burden, for fibre production and meat.

Meerkat are squirrel type mongooses famed for their upright posture. They are mainly found in South Africa. They have a binocular vision.

Sloth are the slowest animals on the earth. They spend most of their lives eating, sleeping, mating, and even giving birth hanging upside down in trees.

The red panda is a small, shy mammal often resembling a fox. It is mainly found in some parts of Himalayas and is a great bamboo eater.

This animal is most identical to human beings in his body and behaviour. Gorillas are commonly referred to as 'ape' or tailless monkey.

Bird Bites

There are about 9,000 different species of birds alone on this Earth. Make a match. Match these record-holder birds to their pictures and write their names.

a. The slowest flying bird



1.



2.

b. Most feathered bird

c. The fastest flying bird



3.



4.

d. The largest bird

e. The deepest diver



5.



6.

f. The loudest bird

g. The fastest bird



7.



8.

h. The lazy bird

Help!

Cuckoo Peacock Emperor Penguin The Spine tail swift
Peregrine Falcon Ostrich Tundra Swan American Woodcock

Do You Know ?

If you thought Peregrine Falcon is the fastest flying bird, think again. The definition of flying is 'The ability to maintain level flight under one's own power.' The Peregrine Falcon is the fastest bird, when in its hunting dive, the stoop, in which it soars to a great height, then dives steeply at speeds of over 200 mph. However, it does not make the top ten when travelling in level flight.

Mistaken notions about animals

There are many mistaken notions about animals around us. Let's dispel them.

Are bats blind?

No. Bats are not blind contrary to the popular belief. Bats are nocturnal creatures and fly at night, which is one of the main reasons why people think that they are blind. Although they can see reasonably well, they are not equipped with the special eyesight possessed by other night-hunting animals such as owls and cats. Instead, bats fly and guide themselves in the dark by means of a sonar system.



Is there any difference between a rat and mice?

Yes! Rats and mice are two different kinds of rodents. Rats are much larger in size than mice. While a mouse is usually 3 ½ to 4 inch long with 2-3 inch tail, a rat is on an average, 7-10 inch long with a longer tail of 5-8 inch. Also, rats have hairless tails while mice have hair on their tails.

Are bulls enraged to see red?

No. Much contrary to the popular belief, bulls are colour-blind! As seen in the bull-fights, bulls charge at the red cape not because it is red but because they see a flapping cape which becomes very irritating.



Do camels store water in their humps?

Camels do not store water in their hump. Actually, their hump contains the fat which helps them to go without food for days.