

Books for Kids: Wild About Animals

Picture Books (J-Easy)

Ayobami and the Names of the Animals

by Pilar López Ávila

Trouble
by Katherine Battersby

Diary of a Worm
by Doreen Cronin

Bedtime for Sweet Creatures

by Nikki Grimes

Zonia's Rain Forest
by Juana Martínez-Neal

Spirit of the Cheetah: A Somali Tale

by Karen Lynn Williams & Khadra Mohammed

My First Day
by Phùng Nguyễn Quang & Huỳnh Kim Liên

It's So Quiet: A Not-quite-going-to-bed Book

by Sherri Duskey Rinker

At the Pond

by Geraldo Valério

Chapter Books (J-Fiction)

The Last

by Katherine Applegate (series)

Willa the Wisp

by Jonathan Auxier

Lety Out Loud

by Angela Cervantes

Because of the Rabbit

by Cynthia Lord

A Wolf Called Wander

by Rosanne Parry

Skunk and Badger

by Amy Timberlake

J-Nonfiction

Nature's Ninja: Animals with Spectacular Skills

by Rebecca L. Johnson
591.47 JOHN

Amphibian Acrobats

by Leslie Bulion 597.8 BULI

Beware of the Crocodile

by Martin Jenkins
597.982 JENK

The Beak Book

by Robin Page 598.14 PAGE

The Great Rhino Rescue: Saving the Southern White Rhinos

by Sandra Markle
599.668 MARK

Beastly Puzzles: A Brain-boggling Animal Guessing Game

by Rachel Poliquin 793.73 POLI

If You Want a Friend in Washington: Wacky, Wild & Wonderful Presidential Pets

by Erin McGill 973.0929 MCGI

Buzzing with Questions: The Inquisitive Mind of Charles Henry Turner

by Janice N. Harrington J-Biography
591.5 TURN

Camp Panda: Helping Cubs Return to the Wild
by Catherine Thimmesh
599.789 THIM

Books for Teens

Fiction

Elatsoe

by Darcie Little Badger

The Seventh Raven

by David Elliot

Black Wings Beating

by Alex London

All the Impossible Things

by Lindsay Lackey

Among the Beasts & Briars

by Ashley Poston

Nonfiction

Thinking Critically: Animal Rights

by Melissa Abramovitz 179.3 ABRA

Sea Monsters: Prehistoric Creatures of the Deep

by Mike Everhart 567.937 E93S

How to Be a Good Creature

Sy Montgomery 590 MONT

All Creatures Great and Small

by James Herriot 636.089092 HERR

No Better Friend: A Man, a Dog, and their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in World War II

by Robert Weintraub 940.547252 WEIN

Kids Activity: Squirrel Snack Feeder

Squirrels are fun to watch, especially when they are holding a snack in their tiny paws. Fruit, berries, vegetables, nuts, bugs, fungi, eggs, seeds, and plants are Mother Nature's best food for squirrels. It's OK to feed squirrels if you'd like to, but do so from a feeder—never by hand. Be safe! If squirrels come to expect food and it isn't provided, they may become aggressive in seeking it out.

Supplies:

- Pinecones
- 3/4 cup peanut butter or other nut butter
- 1 1/2 cups mixed birdseed
- Strong twine or wire

- 1 shallow microwave-safe dish
- 1 deep dish
- Pastry brush or clean paint brush
- Wax paper
- Tablecloth

Instructions:

1. Prepare your work area with a tablecloth.
2. Take a pinecone and wrap the twine/wire once or twice around the middle, tucking in the tail to keep it from unraveling. Continue wrapping it around and toward the top of the pinecone. When you get to the top of the pinecone, wrap the same spot several times and thread the loose end of the twine/wire under and through a few already-wrapped spots, and pull tightly.
3. Set aside a piece of wax paper in a safe place for drying.
4. Pour 1 1/2 cups birdseed into the deep dish.
5. Pour 3/4 cup nut butter into the shallow microwave-safe dish. Microwave in 20 second intervals, stirring each time, until it becomes thin and runny.
6. Take a pinecone, holding it by
7. Hold the pinecone by the twine/wire over the dish and let the excess nut butter drip off.
8. Place it into the container of birdseed and gently roll, shake and pour the seed over the pinecone to coat it thoroughly and evenly; gently shake off any loose birdseed.
9. Place the pinecone on the wax paper to dry, about 30 minutes.
10. Hang your feeder outside and make sure you make some more; they will be popular!



Learn the detailed steps by scanning the QR code or following the link to the detailed instructions here: tinyurl.com/WatercolorPolarBears.

Teen Activity: Watercolor Polar Bear

Supplies:

- Watercolor or mixed media paper (at least 90 lb, but heavier is better)
- Watercolor brushes - a size six or eight synthetic round brush is a good start. Don't get plastic!
- Watercolor paint
- Water cup
- Paper towels
- Polar bear drawing
- Suggested colors: Raw umber (brownish-yellow) for the polar bear fur, a bright blue to create an icy feel, and darker blues/purples for the sky

Instructions:

Tape the polar bear template onto a window and hold your watercolor paper on top of it. Use the sunlight to project the image through your watercolor paper. Using a pencil, very lightly trace the drawing onto your watercolor paper, adding as much detail as you need. The template comes in two sizes, 5x7 and 8x10, so choose the one that works best for you! Then, start painting your polar bear!



Homeschool Connections

An Educational Resource Tool

SUMMER 2021

LOCATION KEY

CA Calhan Library
600 Bank St., Calhan
(719) 531-6333, x7013

CH Cheyenne Mountain Library
1785 S. 8th St.
(719) 531-6333, x7001

EA East Library
5550 N. Union Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7014

eLibrary
ppld.org
Open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

FO Fountain Library
230 S. Main St., Fountain
(719) 531-6333, x7002

HI High Prairie Library
7035 Old Meridian Rd., Peyton
(719) 531-6333, x7003

KCH Knights of Columbus Hall
20 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x6142

LI Library 21c
1175 Chapel Hills Dr.
(719) 531-6333, x7012

MA Manitou Springs Library
515 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs
(719) 531-6333, x7004

Mobile Library Services
ppld.org/mobile-library-services
(719) 531-6333, x7702

MO Monument Library
1706 Lake Woodmoor Dr., Monument
(719) 531-6333, x7005

OL Old Colorado City Library
2418 W. Pikes Peak Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x7006

PA Palmer Lake Library
66 Lower Glenway St., Palmer Lake
(719) 531-6333, x7007

PE Penrose Library
20 N. Cascade Ave.
(719) 531-6333, x7015

RO Rockrimmon Library
832 Village Center Dr.
(719) 531-6333, x7008

RU Ruth Holley Library
685 N. Murraby Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x1584

SA Sand Creek Library
1821 S. Academy Blvd.
(719) 531-6333, x7018

UT Ute Pass Library
8010 Severy Rd., Cascade
(719) 531-6333, x7011



Homeschool Hub

ppld.org/homeschool-hub

Whether you are a veteran homeschooling family, or just getting started, visit the PPLD Homeschool Hub to check out community and library events, sign up for eNewsletters, and access reading lists. Click on the "Resources" tab to link to information on getting started, Colorado homeschool law, local enrichment programs, tutoring, extracurricular activities, support organizations, and more.

Tales Tails Tell

Have you ever wondered why animals have tails? This rear-most part of a critter (it can be a flexible extension of a vertebrate's backbone, the feathers at a bird's rear end, or the terminal appendage of an insect) serves many amazing purposes.

1

Communication: A happy dog wags its tail side to side while a tail between the legs might mean sadness or express submission. Horses raise their tails when they are excited or aware of danger. And a slowly swaying cat tail can signal alert playfulness, or ready-to-hunt mode.

2

Balance: Ever watch a cat saunter along a fence? Felines use their tails as a counterbalance when they walk on narrow spaces or run after prey. Monkeys and other primates use their tails to balance as they swing, climb, or jump through their habitats. Bird species use their tails to steer during flight and to keep balance while sitting or soaring.

3

Defense: A salamander can intentionally lose its tail if a predator grabs it (they can often grow them back!). Skunks lift their tails to spray from a gland positioned underneath, which scares away anything brave enough to approach!

4

Attacking: The scorpion uses its tail for both defense and to attack, particularly when they are hunting for food; they will capture prey in their front pincers and then bring their tails up over their bodies to inject deadly poison into their soon-to-be meal.

5

Locomotion: Many sea animals use their tail fins for steering and to propel themselves forward (fish tails move side to side and those of sea mammals move up and down). Some arboreal animals (animals that live in trees such as monkeys and sugar gliders) use their long tails to grab branches as they move through foliage.

6

Pest Control: Zebras, horses, and cows have built in fly swatters! Their tails are tufted on the end so the animals can swat pests, such as flies, away from their backs.

7

Marking Territory: A hippopotamus can twirl its tail around like a high-speed propeller. This allows the hippo to mark its territory by spreading feces (poop) around while it's defecating.

8

Courting: Think of peacocks, which use their spectacular and beautifully patterned tails (along with some slick dance moves) to attract females when they are ready to mate.

What about you? Humans don't have tails (it's not necessary for balance since we walk upright), but the small bone at the bottom of our spine (the coccyx—commonly referred to as the tailbone) serves as a muscle attachment point and helps support your body when you are sitting down.



HAVE AN ADVENTURE WITH PIKES PEAK LIBRARY DISTRICT THIS SUMMER!

Our Summer Adventure presented by Children's Hospital Colorado game helps kids and teens stay engaged and active over the summer months.

PPLD.ORG/SUMMERADVENTURE



To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email jfleishhacker@ppld.org.



The NEW Bookshelf

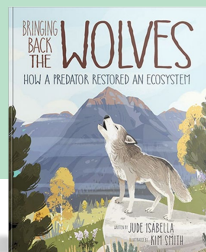
Kid to Kid's Books: Fresh Reads for Summer

Bringing Back the Wolves: How a Predator Restored an Ecosystem

by Jude Isabella

Beautifully illustrated, this book describes how wolves, hunted to near extinction in the late 1800s, were reintroduced to the ecosystem in Yellowstone National Park to reduce the overabundant elk population. A fascinating look at ecology and the balance of nature.

Ages 7 - 12; Nature
(599.773097 ISAB)

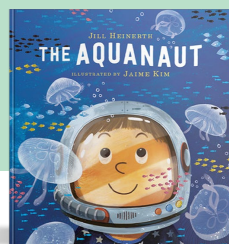


The Aquanaut

by Jill Heinerth

"When I grow up ..." is something kids say to us, and we should listen. This picture book is the author's story, presented in an easy and exciting format of adventure as a child, and adventure as an adult. Presented at the end of the book are photos of Heinerth as a youngster and in her current role as an underwater explorer and photographer.

Ages 3 - 10; Science
(J-Easy)

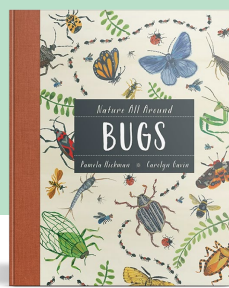


Bugs

by Pamela Hickman

Bugs, meaning insects in this title, are everywhere. Insects are easy to find and observe, and kids are often interested in knowing more about these small creatures. Find more insect books at your local library. Think of these inquiries as "summer school," and put those hours into your homeschool records.

Ages 3 - 10; Science
(J-595.7 HICK)

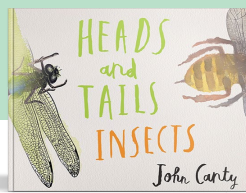


Heads and Tails: Insects

by John Canty

Don't miss this super simple insect guessing game... disguised as a science book... disguised as a picture book. Young readers/listeners will enjoy the joke at the end of the book and may ask to hear the story again.

Ages 3 - 8; Science
(J-595.7 CANT)

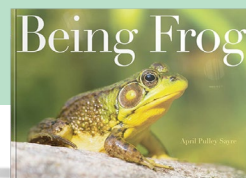


Being Frog

By April Pulley Sayre

Ever wonder what it would feel like to be a frog? Spare verses and stunning photos of frogs in their natural habitats depict how these incredible creatures spend a typical day hunting, jumping, resting, and more. This engaging read-aloud makes an inviting jumping off point for further amphibian explorations.

Ages 4 - 8; Science
(597.89 SAYR)



Other Cool Resources: **Animals**

Smithsonian's National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute

(nationalzoo.si.edu)

This website is home to a variety of animal news and information. Check out live webcam footage of lions, elephants, giant pandas, and naked mole rats, and play animal observation bingo with the provided cards. "Animals A-Z" has in-depth information on the zoo's many inhabitants. The "Animal News Archive" is a great place to find updates on the zoo's pandas and cheetah cubs, or learn about the care and feeding of other animal residents.

San Diego Zoo

(kids.sandiegozoo.org/)

Visit this colorful website for a wide variety of fun animal stories, educational videos, and animal-inspired crafts and activities. In the "Kids Corner" videos, you'll learn about animal habitats, camouflage, and even animal poop. You'll also find live footage of giraffes, hippos, koalas, and more. Stop by the "Activities" page for printable coloring pages and word searches. Don't forget to visit the "Save Animals" section to learn how you can take action to protect wildlife!

BBC Earth Kids

(www.bbcearth.com/earthkids/)

This website features exciting animal videos and stories. Join adventurer Steve Backshall in learning about the world's most dangerous animals in the "Deadly 60" series. If you prefer your animals prehistoric, "Walking with Dinosaurs" will give you a glimpse of the animals of the past. For more detailed animal stories, check out half-hour long episodes of the BBC Earth podcast, including "Baby Iguanans Born Inside a Volcano," and "The Rhino that Flew 10,000 Miles."

National Geographic Kids

(kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/)

Visit this site for fun and educational animal content. Find out who the laziest, strongest, and biggest animals are in "Animal Showdown." Learn about narwhals, manta rays, clownfish, and other ocean animals in "Everything Oceans." Need a laugh? "Animal LOL" features goofy voiceovers of real animals. For facts and footage of specific animals, you can search by category or by name.

Squirrel Chatter

If you look out your window on any given day, chances are that you will see the movement of a tail in and around the trees: squirrels! These small, furry creatures are constantly running around at full speed with what seems to be endless energy. They are members of the family Sciuridae, which includes small or medium-size rodents. The squirrel family includes tree squirrels, ground squirrels, flying squirrels, chipmunks, marmots, groundhogs, and prairie dogs to name a few.

Did you know that a squirrel's big, bushy tail aids its survival in three different ways? Balance, protection, and communication. That tail provides a balancing function when the animal climbs and jumps from one tree to another. A squirrel can wrap its tail over its body to protect itself from the rain or snow and use it to keep itself and its babies warm when sleeping. Animals that are trying to protect themselves often try to appear larger than they actually are in size. When we see squirrels, they have usually already spied us and are on high alert. Similar to humans when we get goose bumps, all of the hairs on their tails stand straight up (when a squirrel is more relaxed the hairs lay down). They also use their tails to communicate and interact with each other and the

world around them. By flicking its tail quickly three times in a row, a squirrel can warn other nearby squirrels of danger, such as a predator (squirrels are always on the lookout for this signal and will become more alert when they observe it). Squirrels also "shiver" their tails when approaching a potential mate. Sometimes they use their tails to scare away other animals, including humans. If you have ever seen one up close, then you have probably witnessed a chatty critter with a super swishy tail!

Common Name: Squirrels
Scientific Name: Sciuridae
Type: Mammals
Diet: Omnivore
Group Name: Scurry, dray
Size: 5 to 36 inches
Weight: 0.5 ounces to four pounds
(nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/facts/squirrels)



Wildlife in Colorado

Colorado Safari

With Colorado's diverse natural wildlife habitats, you're never more than a short walk or drive from viewing some of the more than 900 wildlife species that our state boasts. From spotting bison to belted kingfishers, red fox, or Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, there's a lifetime of discovery waiting for you not far from home. If adding to your list of wildlife sightings is on your radar, you'll want to know where and what to look for when it comes to some of your favorites. So, grab your binoculars, field guides, and even a nature journal as you head out to locate some local treasures.

Fountain Creek Nature Center

This park is just 15 minutes from downtown Colorado Springs, with wetlands and creek that are home to five habitats and a variety of wildlife. As you walk along the trails, be sure to look up in the trees to observe leaping fox squirrels. You might also spot a great horned owl napping in a

hole in a tree trunk. When you pass by ponds, keep an eye open for a great blue heron fishing for its lunch, and half-submerged muskrats gliding to and from the water's edge. Along the marshes, listen for the throaty songs of bullfrogs and leopard frogs. And take care not to disturb the bullsnakes in the meadows or spook the white-tailed deer along the creek.

North Cheyenne Canyon Park

If you're hoping to see some of Colorado's larger animals you might visit this 1,600 acre park where you'll trek through habitat that's home to mountain lions, mule deer, and black bears. When glassing for bears, don't ignore a bear-like movement or shape just because it isn't black. Black bears can be black, brown, blonde, and cinnamon in coloring! And if birding is your interest, be on the lookout for some water-loving birds like the American dipper, kingfisher, and broad-tailed hummingbird.

Garden of the Gods

One of just four National Natural Landmarks in Colorado and primarily known for its towering sandstone formations, this park is also a great destination for wildlife observation. Here you can catch a glimpse of the large herd of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, which are often camouflaged against the backdrop of steep rocks. Mule deer, bobcats, majestic elk, and red fox also make their home here, as well as coyotes and bears.

The many State Wildlife Areas, National Forest, and National and State Parks in Colorado offer almost endless opportunities to experience all kinds of wildlife firsthand. For a printable list of Colorado's most watchable animals, check out <https://www.colorado.com/activities/wildlife-viewing>. Keep it handy and check off all the wildlife you see in your travels.

PPLD Resources: **Animals**

Animal Resources Libguide

(research.ppld.org/animalresources/home)

Libguides consolidate links and resources on a certain subject in an easy-to-navigate fashion. The animal resources guide presents books, databases, and websites that will help you learn about animals from Colorado and all over the world! You'll also find links to local government, educational, and non-profit organizations that work with animals.

Gale Elementary Animal Resources

(bit.ly/3d1yp0)

Gale Elementary is a wonderful database for elementary and middle school aged youth as it allows users to sort by content level, meaning that there are easy-to-read articles for those just learning to read and articles that would be more appropriate for middle-schoolers. This resource sorts animals by their seven classes (mammal, reptile, etc.) and even includes information about pets and extinct animals such as dinosaurs!

Summer Adventure: Tales and Tails

(ppld.org/SummerAdventure)

Summer Adventure is the Pikes Peak Library District's summer reading and learning program for folks ages 0 - 18. Kids and Teens sign up online or at their library to earn prizes through reading and activities. This year's theme is tails and tales (animals) and as such, the program will feature many programs and resources themed to animals.



Check the calendar for all events!

ppld.librarymarket.com