

Animal Fact Cards



Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding

These four animals are widespread in North American cities. Use the cards with "Animal-lympics," "Signs of Life," "Fly It and Spy It," and other animal activities where they are suitable.

Grasshopper

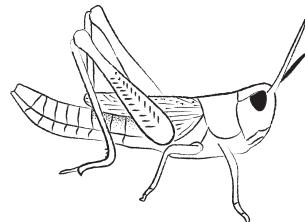
Description: An insect, an animal with six legs and three body parts

Habitat: Grassy areas throughout the city

Food: Grass and leaves

Size: About 2 inches long

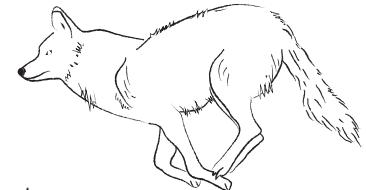
Speed: Can jump 20 times its body length to escape predators!



Coyote

Description:

A cousin to dogs, wolves, and foxes



Habitat: Lives in all parts of a city—not just green spaces

Food: Eats almost anything: mice, insects, birds, and garbage

Size: About 2 feet tall and 3 feet long; weighs between 20 and 50 pounds

Speed: Can run up to 45 miles per hour!

Hummingbirds

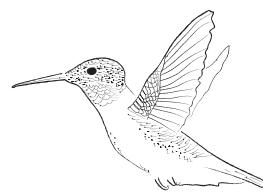
Description: The tiniest bird in the world!

Habitat: Forests, deserts, coasts, meadows, and cities

Food: Nectar and small insects, such as gnats and mosquitoes

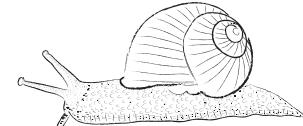
Size: 3 to 5 inches long, many weigh less than an ounce

Speed: Flaps its wings in a figure-8 pattern 40–80 times per second; flies forward, backward, and sideways at about 30 miles per hour



Land Snail

Description: A gastropod, which means "stomach foot," with a shell



Habitat: City parks and gardens and on the edges of rivers and streams

Food: Fresh and rotting plants, dirt (for calcium), and animal poop!

Size: Most are 1-2 inches long; the largest one is 12 inches

Speed: Moves using its one foot at about half an inch in 10 seconds, one of the slowest creatures on Earth!



CONNECT WITH US



PLUM LANDING is produced
by WGBH Boston

MAJOR FUNDING THE

Kendeda
FUND

Major Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and The Kendeda Fund: furthering the values that contribute to a healthy planet

This PLUM LANDING material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DRL-1516466. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

TM/© 2017 WGBH Educational Foundation.

Animal Fact Cards

Southwest Region

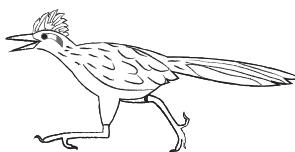


Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding

These four animals can be found in desert cities of the southwest. Use the cards with "Animal-lympics," "Signs of Life," "Fly It and Spy It," and other animal activities where they are suitable.

Greater Roadrunner

Description: A long-tailed, black or brown bird with white stripes



Habitat: Grass fields, deserts with shrubs to hide, roadside

Food: Insects, spiders, small birds, snakes, lizards, mice, wood, and cacti

Size: 2 feet long with a 2-foot wing span, 8 to 12 ounces

Cool fact: They can only fly for a few seconds, but they run 17 mph. The long tail helps them steer, stop, and keep their balance.

Queen Butterfly

Description:

The caterpillar: Black, white, and yellow stripes. Adult: Dark orange wings



Habitat: Sunny fields or pastures, open desert land, marshes, roadsides

Food: The adult drinks flower nectar (a sweet liquid); the caterpillar eats milkweed

Size: 3-inch wing span

Cool fact: On cool, cloudy days, they are too cold to fly. They need the sun's heat to warm their body.

Cochineal

(COTCH-ih-neel)

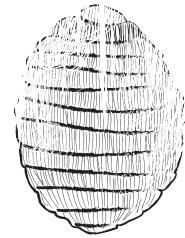
Description: Tiny insect covered with scale—a white, puffy coating that looks like cotton threads

Habitat: Look for groups of them on the pads of prickly pear cacti

Food: Sap—a sticky liquid inside the cactus pads

Size: About the size of a pea

Cool fact: People use squashed bugs to dye foods red! Look for "cochineal" or "carmine" on the food label.



Black-Tailed Jackrabbit

Or Desert Hare

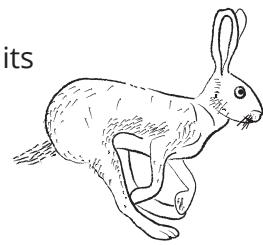
Description: Not a rabbit, but a hare

Habitat: Open desert plains, foothills, roadsides

Food: Grass, mesquite seeds, cacti, crops

Size: Up to 2 feet long, 8 pounds; the ears are 4-6 inches!

Cool fact: When chased by its many predators, travels 40 to 45 mph with hops up to 20 feet!



CONNECT WITH US



PLUM LANDING is produced
by WGBH Boston

MAJOR FUNDING NSF

THE
Kendeda
FUND

Major Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and The Kendeda Fund: furthering the values that contribute to a healthy planet

Animal Fact Cards

Northeast Region



Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding

These four animals are common in New England cities and elsewhere. Use the cards with "Animal-ympics," "Signs of Life," "Fly It and Spy It," and other animal activities where they are suitable.

Red-Tailed Hawk

Description: A brown and white raptor (hunting bird) with sharp talons (claws) and a reddish-orange tail



Habitat: Cliffs or city buildings for nesting; open areas for hunting

Food: Mice, rats, rabbits, squirrels, chipmunks, pigeons, and many other small animals

Size: 19 to 25 inches long, 2 to 3 pounds

Cool fact: Male-female pairs build nests, up to 3 feet tall, on the face of building ledges!

Eastern Garter Snake

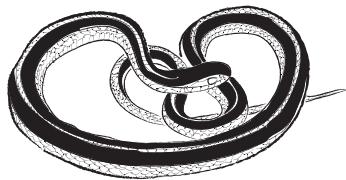
Description: Brown, yellow, and white striped snake

Habitat: Wet areas, edge of forests, vacant lots, gardens and yards in cities

Food: Earthworms, salamanders, frogs, toads, small fish—swallowed whole!

Size: 16 to 41 inches long

Cool fact: In winter, piles of snakes sleep in dens under buildings.



White-Tailed Deer

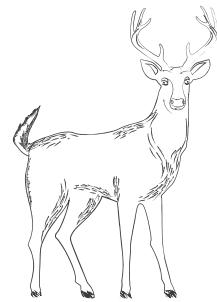
Description: A brown, four-legged animal with a short white tail; only males have antlers

Habitat: A very wide range of areas, including cities, that have trees or other places for hiding

Food: Leaves, twigs, shoots, acorns, berries, seeds, grass, and herbs

Size: 20 to 50 inches tall at the shoulder, 90 to 200 pounds

Cool fact: Predators are wolves, coyotes, cougars, bears... and human hunters, whose bright orange vests look gray to deer.



Eastern Cottontail

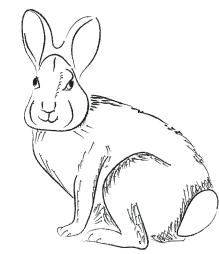
Description: A brown rabbit with flecks of white and gray and a puffy white tail

Habitat: Overgrown fields, the edges of woods, gardens

Food: At dawn and dusk, feeds on plants

Size: Lighter and smaller than a house cat—about 2 to 3 pounds

Cool fact: When in danger, they freeze to blend in but can run 18 mph and hop 15 feet!



CONNECT WITH US



PLUM LANDING is produced
by WGBH Boston

MAJOR FUNDING THE



Major Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and The Kendeda Fund: furthering the values that contribute to a healthy planet

This PLUM LANDING material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DRL-1516466. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

TM/© 2017 WGBH Educational Foundation.

Animal Fact Cards

Western Region



Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding

These four animals are common in some cities west of the Rocky Mountains. Use the cards with "Animal-ympics," "Signs of Life," "Fly It and Spy It," and other animal activities where they are suitable.

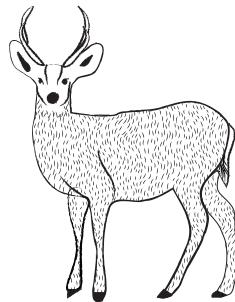
Mule Deer

Description: A brown or gray animal with four hooved feet, very large ears, and light patches on the rump and throat

Habitat: Forests, deserts, mountains, and cities

Food: Leaves, flowers, acorns, seeds, fruits, and other plant parts

Size: 30 to 42 inches tall at the shoulder, 70 to 150 pounds

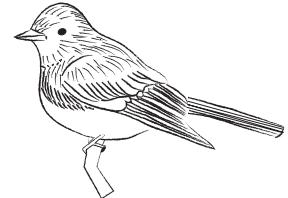


Black Phoebe

(FEE-bee)

Description: A mostly gray-black bird with a white belly and long tail

Habitat: Near water in canyons, farms, towns, and cities



Food: Insects—they are part of a bird group called "flycatchers"

Size: About 6 inches long

Cool fact: Look for mud and grass nests under bridges, under overhanging roofs, and in the drain pipes under roads.

Western Fence Lizard

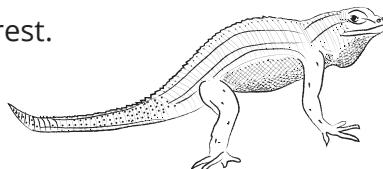
Description: A small reptile with a dull-colored, patterned back and shiny blue marks on the belly

Habitat: Coasts, mountains, and cities, where they sun themselves on fence posts

Food: Insects, spiders, smaller lizards

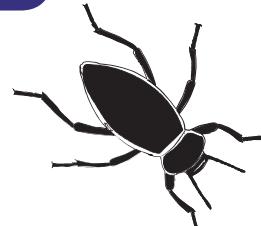
Size: About 6 inches long (tail included)

Cool fact: When flipped on its back, it plays dead—looks stiff and still—so that predators lose interest.



Desert Stink Beetle

Description: Large, shiny black insect with six jointed legs and two antennae



Habitat: Deserts

Food: Dead plants, mushrooms, seeds

Size: Up to 2 inches long

Cool fact: When scared, it stands on its head, ready to spray a stinky liquid from its belly.



CONNECT WITH US



PLUM LANDING is produced
by WGBH Boston

MAJOR FUNDING THE



Major Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and The Kendeda Fund: furthering the values that contribute to a healthy planet

Animal Fact Cards

Northwest Region

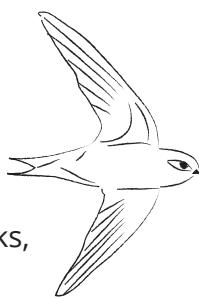


Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding

These four animals can be found in cities in Oregon and Washington state. Use the cards with "Animal-ympics," "Signs of Life," "Fly It and Spy It," and other animal activities where they are suitable.

Vaux's Swift

Description: A small gray or brown bird with wings and a tail built for fancy flying



Habitat: Chimneys, smokestacks, holes in old trees

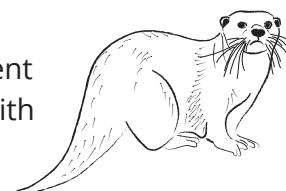
Food: Insects

Size: 4 to 5 inches long

Cool fact: Large flocks of swifts go south every winter, and one famous stopping place is an elementary school in Portland, Oregon!

River Otter

Description: A brown rodent (cousin to rats and mice) with webbed toes and other features that help it swim



Habitat: In and near fresh water—rivers, lakes, ponds, bays, canals

Food: Mostly fish but will eat almost any small animal

Size: 3 to 4 feet long (tail included), 20 to 28 pounds

Cool fact: They often build dens under and inside buildings instead of hollow logs or piles of rocks.

Pacific Chorus Frog

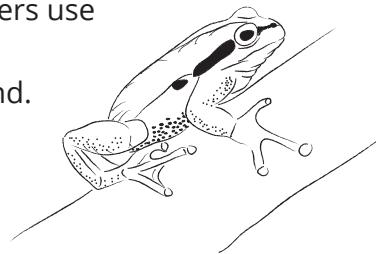
Description: A tiny green or brown frog with a dark stripe across the eyes

Habitat: In and near fresh water that has few fish—ponds, ditches, wetlands, and wet woods

Food: Insects, spiders

Size: 1 to 2 inches long

Cool fact: Movie makers use their song—"ribbit!"—as a general frog sound.



Woodland Skipper

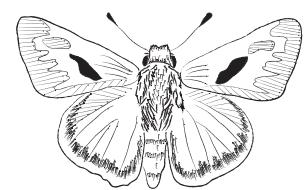
Description: A tiny orange butterfly that's fuzzy like a moth; the yellow-green caterpillar blends in with grass

Habitat: Sunny, open fields, gardens, and cities

Food: Adults drink nectar from a wide range of flowers; caterpillars eat grass

Size: 1-inch wingspan

Cool fact: They don't mind humans, so it's possible to watch them up close.



CONNECT WITH US



PLUM LANDING is produced
by WGBH Boston

MAJOR FUNDING



Major Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and The Kendeda Fund: furthering the values that contribute to a healthy planet

This PLUM LANDING material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DRL-1516466. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

TM/© 2017 WGBH Educational Foundation.

Animal Fact Cards

Midwest Region

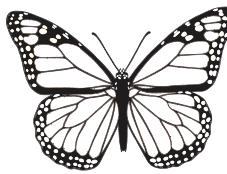


Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding

These four animals can be found in cities of the Midwest, Plains states, and elsewhere. Use the cards with "Animal-ympics," "Signs of Life," "Fly It and Spy It," and other animal activities where they are suitable.

Monarch Butterfly

Description: The caterpillar has yellow, black, and white stripes and turns into an adult with bright orange and black wings



Habitat: Warm forest, which means they must migrate from Canada to Mexico in winter

Food: The adult eats fruit and flower nectar (a sweet liquid); the caterpillar eats milkweed

Size: 4-inch wingspan

Cool fact: A chemical in the milkweed stays in the butterfly's body and is harmful to frogs, lizards, and birds that eat butterflies.

Raccoon

Description: A brown to gray mammal with a black and white mask and ringed tail



Habitat: Forest, city, suburb

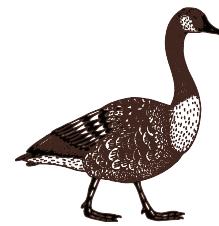
Food: Wide diet of plants (acorns, nuts, fruit, corn) and animals (insects, mice, bird eggs, turtles, fish), human garbage, pet food

Size: 26 to 39 inches long (tail included), 6 to 27 pounds

Cool fact: Many plants depend on raccoons to spread their seeds, which hitch a ride on fur or are eaten along with fruits.

Canada Goose

Description: A web-footed waterbird with a long, dark neck and tan and white body



Habitat: Near fresh water—ponds, lakes, rivers, flooded fields, parks, city lawns

Food: Grass, grain crops

Size: Up to 40 inches tall with a wingspan of 4 to 5 feet, 7 to 20 pounds

Cool fact: Geese warn animals to stay away by pumping their head, opening their bill, hissing, honking, and shaking their neck feathers.

Pavement Ant

Description: A dark brown insect (animal with six legs, three body parts) that lives in colonies (groups) underground



Habitat: Under sidewalks, buildings, parking lots, rocks (look for little piles of soil that the ants dug out)

Food: Human garbage, flower nectar (a sweet liquid), sugar, fruit,

Size: About the size of the eraser on a pencil

Cool fact: They came to the United States from Europe and are now the most common ant in many cities because they can use pavement for shelter.



CONNECT WITH US



PLUM LANDING is produced
by WGBH Boston

MAJOR FUNDING



Major Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and The Kendeda Fund: furthering the values that contribute to a healthy planet

Animal Fact Cards

Southeast Region



Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding

These four animals can be found in cities from North Carolina to Florida. Use the cards with "Animal-ym-pics," "Signs of Life," "Fly It and Spy It," and other animal activities where they are suitable.

Alligator

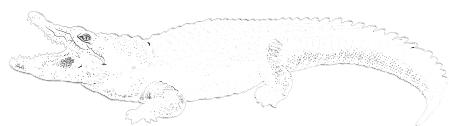
Description: A reptile, an animal with thick, scaly skin that needs the sun to heat its body

Habitat: Swamps, rivers, lakes, canals, ponds, swimming pools—fresh water!

Food: Fish, turtles, mice, bird eggs, insects, and other animals

Size: 7 inches at birth, they grow to about 10 to 15 feet long

Cool fact: They keep two nostrils (nose holes) above water to breathe.



Green Anole

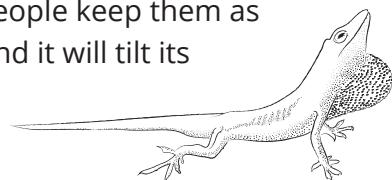
Description: A lizard that can change from dark brown to bright green; a puff of red skin under the chin of a male attracts females

Habitat: Swamps, forests, parks, and yards where the air is humid (wet)

Food: Spiders, flies, crickets, beetles, moths, butterflies, slugs, ants, termites

Size: 5 to 8 inches long (tail included)

Cool fact: Some people keep them as pets. Talk to one and it will tilt its head to listen!



White Ibis

Description: Wading bird with long legs and a very long, thin curved beak

Habitat: Shallow water—marshes, lagoons, rice fields, flooded grass, ponds, small lakes, mudflats

Food: Crayfish, crabs, insects, snails, frogs, snakes, small fish

Size: 2-foot wingspan, about 2 pounds

Cool fact: They live in colonies of up to 15,000 birds! The huge numbers help scare off predators.



Zebra Butterfly

Description: A long-winged insect with yellow or white zebra stripes on the wings

Habitat: Warm, humid (wet) areas

Food: Adults eat pollen (a sticky powder) from passion flowers; caterpillars eat passion vine leaves

Size: About 3 inches long

Cool fact: Pollen (a protein) helps them lay more eggs and live longer than butterflies that drink nectar (a sugary liquid).



CONNECT WITH US



PLUM LANDING is produced
by WGBH Boston

MAJOR FUNDING



Major Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and The Kendeda Fund: furthering the values that contribute to a healthy planet

This PLUM LANDING material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DRL-1516466. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

TM/© 2017 WGBH Educational Foundation.

Animal Fact Cards

Mid-Atlantic Region

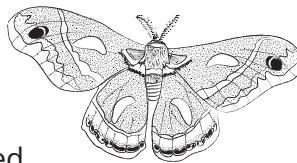


Exploring your world,
one mission at a time
pbskids.org/plumlanding

These four animals can be found in eastern cities from New York to Baltimore. Use the cards with "Animal-ympics," "Signs of Life," "Fly It and Spy It," and other animal activities where they are suitable.

Cecropia Silkmoth

Description: An orange, white, and black insect with feather-like antennae



Habitat: Forests and lighted areas like cities and porches in the evenings

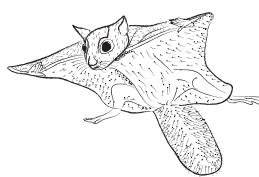
Food: Adults don't eat (they mate and then die); the caterpillars eat leaves

Size: With a wingspan of 5 to 7 inches, it's the largest moth in North America!

Cool fact: Males can smell females up to a mile away!

Northern Flying Squirrel

Description: A brown and gray rodent (cousin to mice and rats) with a light belly and a bushy tail almost as long as its body



Habitat: Woods, abandoned buildings, attics

Food: Nuts, seeds, fruits, fungi (like mushrooms), bird eggs, insects

Size: about 12 inches long (tail included), 4 to 5 ounces

Cool fact: They don't really fly, but they do glide from tree to tree up to 160 feet.

Redback Salamander

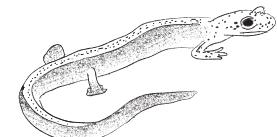
Description: An amphibian (cousin to frogs) with a bright red or orange stripe down the back and four very tiny legs

Habitat: Under rocks and logs or in burrows on the floors of forests that are often wet

Food: Spiders, insects, millipedes, centipedes, snails, worms

Size: 3 to 5 inches long

Cool fact: When attacked by birds, snakes, or other animals, they drop their tail, which later grows back!



Baltimore Oriole

Description: A blackbird with a bright orange belly (males) or yellow belly (females)

Habitat: City parks, backyards, orchards, the edges of woods

Food: Caterpillars, flower nectar (a sweet liquid), fruits, insects, spiders

Size: 7 inches long, 10-inch wingspan

Cool fact: Look and listen for them high in the trees. They sing two whistled high notes, repeated up to 7 times.



CONNECT WITH US



PLUM LANDING is produced
by WGBH Boston

MAJOR FUNDING



Major Funding is provided by the National Science Foundation and The Kendeda Fund: furthering the values that contribute to a healthy planet

This PLUM LANDING material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Grant No. DRL-1516466. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

TM/© 2017 WGBH Educational Foundation.