

## Introduction

Over the past few decades, a wealth of new information has emerged about who animals are: astounding beings with intelligence, emotions, intricate communication networks, and myriad abilities. For this activity, students will learn some remarkable facts about animals in order to spark their sense of wonder and empathy for all sentient beings.

## Procedure

Read each text aloud while displaying the image of the respective animal (use the image from the Visual Support Guide, which can be accessed at [SharetheWorld.org/VisualSupportGuide](http://SharetheWorld.org/VisualSupportGuide)) on the board. You can find videos on the internet about the remarkable things that each animal does and play them after you read the text aloud. Then have students fill in the blank with the name of the animal on each page and color the picture. More advanced students could write an additional sentence about the animal.

## Ants Count

Ants who live in the desert don't have familiar sights like plants and trees to help them find their way home. So when they leave their nest, they count their steps. They also keep track of which way they turn, how fast they are moving, and how much time has passed. Then these smart insects use math to figure out the fastest way back home.

## Gold Medal Fish

Pacific salmon are born in streams. They head out into the ocean to find food and grow larger and stronger. They need to get as big and muscular as they can over the next few years. The trip back home to build their nests and lay their eggs will be a tough one.

Rivers naturally flow into the ocean. So to return home, Pacific salmon have to swim against the current the whole way. The trip is often several hundred miles long. They dash up river rapids and even up waterfalls, leaping as high as 12 feet into the air.

## Fish Artist

Years ago, people noticed beautiful patterns in the sand on the ocean floor near Japan. These patterns appeared mysteriously and gradually washed away, and for a long time, nobody knew who made them. Finally, they found out it was the pufferfish. These small fish make elaborate designs in the sand to attract other pufferfish. Although each fish is about the same size as a cell phone, the patterns they make are wider than a car.

## Frog Dance

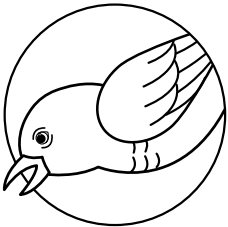
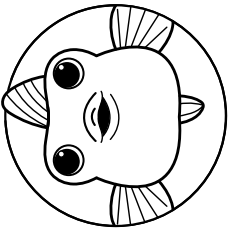
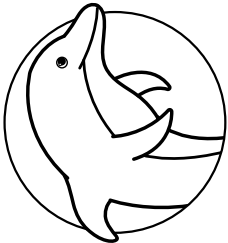
Frogs and toads have more in common with dogs and cats than you might think—like using many different sounds to communicate. They whistle, chirp, croak, ribbit, cluck, peep, grunt, and even bark. Brazilian torrent frogs have lots of other ways to make sure their message gets across. In addition to making plenty of noise, they “dance” to get other frogs' attention by bobbing their heads, waving their arms, and shaking their feet and legs. They also do this to scare off predators and to warn other frogs of danger.

## Dolphin Tickle

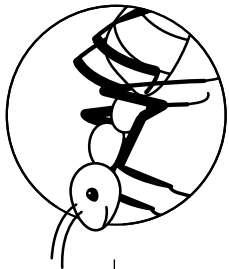
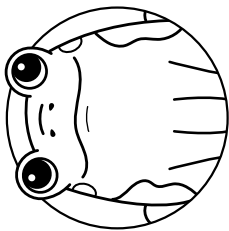
Dolphins can tickle other dolphins without touching them. Their skin is so sensitive that they can feel sound waves in the water, so when they buzz, the water vibrates and can tickle other dolphins from a distance!

## Songbird Classroom

Birds sing to share information with each other. Some birds are born knowing how to sing, but others have to learn. The way they do it is similar to how humans learn to talk. Adult birds hold “song schools” for the young birds. They sing slowly and repeat the notes to help the young birds catch on. When baby songbirds are learning to sing, their songs sound like gibberish, like a human baby trying to talk. They have to practice to keep getting better.



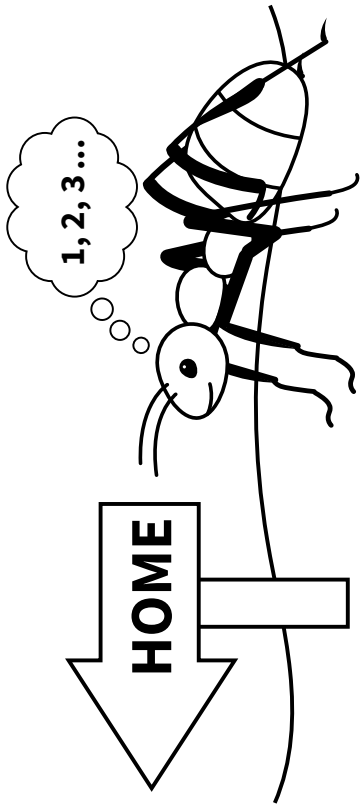
# Animals Are AMAZING!



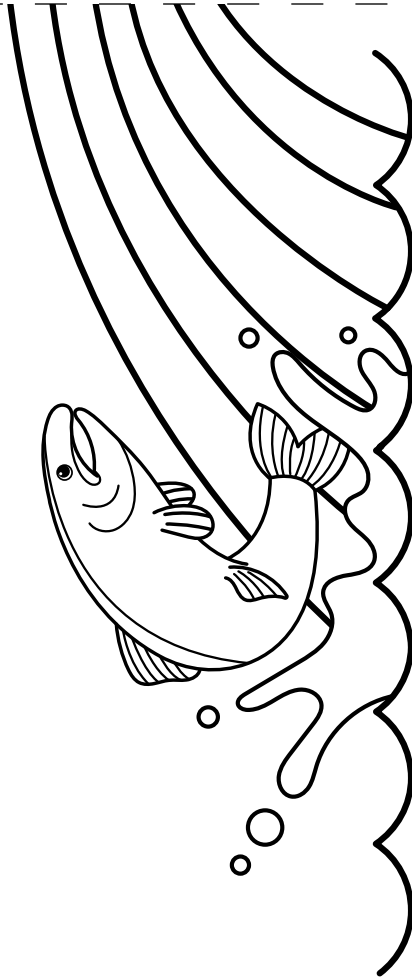
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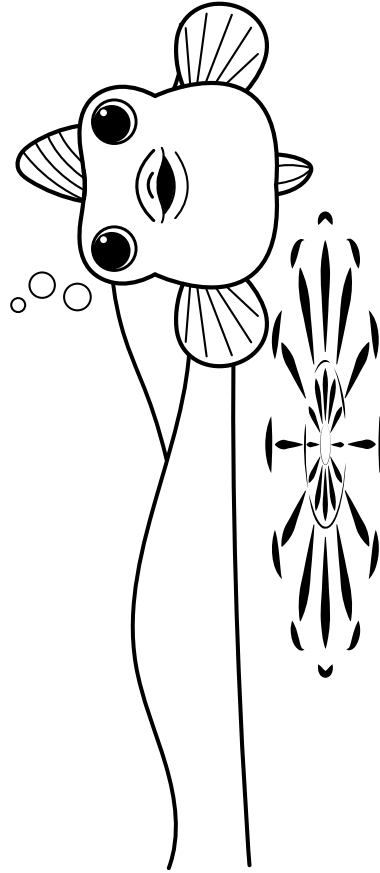
Some \_\_\_\_\_ count steps to find their way home.



Some \_\_\_\_\_ swim hard to get home.

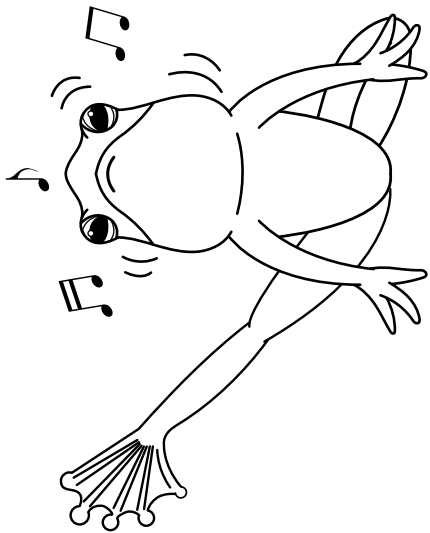


Some \_\_\_\_\_ draw in the sand.

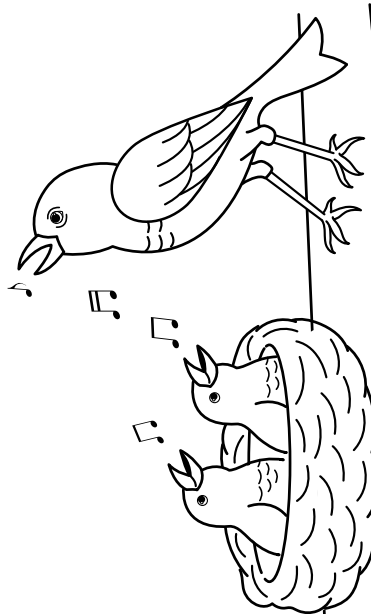




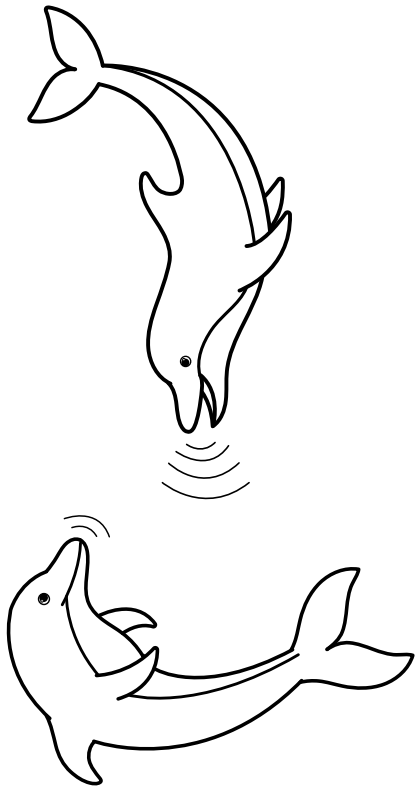
Some \_\_\_\_\_ sing and “dance” to talk to each other.



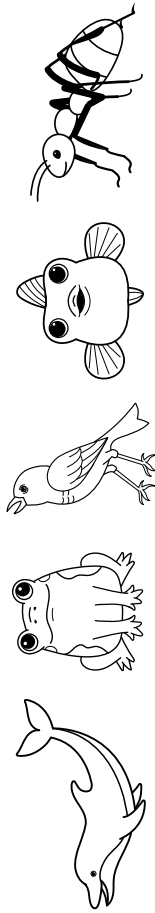
Some \_\_\_\_\_ teach their babies how to sing.



Some \_\_\_\_\_ like to tickle each other from a distance.



How many amazing animals are there? \_\_\_\_\_



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