

A PROUD BLUE SKY SOCIETY TRUST INITIATIVE

THE WONDERFUL WILDLIFE ACTIVITY BOOK!



NAME: _____

AGE: _____

SCHOOL: _____

I LIVE IN: _____

Blue sky

SOCIETY TRUST

Hello, Sawubona, Mhoro, Mholweni, Dumela, Hallo, Wa lalapo, Olál

If this little book is in your hands, you're in for a treat!

Firstly, it means you live in Africa – one of the most beautiful places on earth. People come from all over the world to visit our countries. A lot of that is because we've got such amazing wildlife: lions, leopards, rhinos, elephants, giraffes, zebras, pangolins and much, much, much more!

Of course, it's up to us to protect our natural heritage and wild spaces. But, as we know, living with wild animals all around us can sometimes be tricky. There are lots of things we can do to live in harmony with the animals.

After all, we need them!

So, this little book is jam-packed with activities and facts for you to have fun with.

Enjoy!

Carla

WILD WORDS

Let's gather Wild Words as we go through this little book!

Words that help us learn and understand more about wildlife and wild places and looking after our Earth.

Look for this symbol:

Copy the definition of the word in the lightbulb box into the table on page 17.

Have fun gathering all those Wild Words!

Folklore

Folklore is about telling stories to make sense of the world around us. Many of these stories are about the natural world and how things began. In Bushman culture there is a story of how the Creator and his assistant, Mantis, struck the side of a large Baobab tree and all the animals began to emerge. Here's a story from that time when Hippo arrived and asked the Creator for something special...

No Fish for Hippo...

When the Creator was giving each animal a place in the world, Hippo asked to be able to live in the water. The Creator was not sure if this was a good idea because of their big appetite and sharp teeth. They might eat all the fish. Also, the Creator had already given a place in the water to Crocodile.

So, the Creator refused this request and suggested they live out in the grasslands.

Hippo was so disappointed by this decision they began to cry, making such a big noise. They begged the Creator to change his mind. He finally agreed as long as Hippo promised they would never eat a single fish. They had to eat grass. Hippo promised faithfully, rushing to the river grunting with glee.

To this day Hippo lives in the cool water during the day, coming ashore at night to eat the grass. They scatter their dung on the riverbank to prove there are no fish bones. You can often hear them laughing with joy at being allowed to live in the water like they always wanted.

ANTI Poaching Word Search

ACTIVITY 1:

Poaching is when people hunt, kill and capture animals illegally. Some poaching is done with wire snares, which leave animals hurt and in pain.

Many of the most poached animals are endangered species, such as pangolins or rhinos.

If poaching of these animals continues, they could become extinct, and valuable biodiversity would be lost from our ecosystems.

Can you find 12 of Africa's most poached animals hiding in the word search below:

Protect them by circling their names.

Biodiversity means all the different kinds of life on earth.

A J I X D J T W Y E Y W X D K
K D R A P O E L A L D I T M M
M T P O R G V O P E N L C P S
S T B W N C T Z Z P I D Y Z V
Y E L B A B O O N H L D X Q Z
Y D A N A N S D B A O O A E K
A R L T O Y Y S R N G G B A I
C G A H U I Z O J T N R B U K
M H T Q W R L H C V A O V C A
T Y E Q Y E T D M K P R U L R
P E M E I R N L G U M B L E Q
L R A E T W L D E O H I N X G
N X Q M Z A X Q B S R F V U D
R H I N O K H R U O G T E D N
U W X N B R V B G P N Q X V D

Answers on page 19

PANGOLIN WILD DOG PYTHON
ELEPHANT SEA TURTLE CHEETAH
LION BABOON GORILLA
ZEBRA LEOPARD RHINO

Ecosystem means all the plants and animals in an area interacting with their environment.

Jon Warburton



ACTIVITY 2: Pangolin Maze

Join the dots to show the Pangolin shape.

Colour in the Pangolin.

Now help me find the tasty ants by solving the maze puzzle.



Pangolins are very unique as they are mammals with scales instead of fur.

Pangolin scales are made of keratin, the same as human fingernails.

Pangolins have long, strong claws for digging.

Pangolins eat only ants and termites.

Pangolins have very long, sticky tongues - as long as their head and body combined!

Pangolin babies are called pups. At one year old they leave their burrows, hitching a ride on their mother's tail.

Most Pangolins are solitary

spending most time on their own.

Most Pangolins are nocturnal

active at night.

Pangolins roll into a ball when threatened.

Pangolin noses are super sensitive - they can smell ants under the ground!

The main threat to the Pangolin species is poaching for their scales.



Answers on page 19

ACTIVITY 3: The BIG Conservation Crossword

How much do you know about Africa's wildlife, wildlife conservation and living sustainably? Use the clues below to solve the crossword puzzle. Hint: most of the words to solve the crossword are somewhere in this booklet

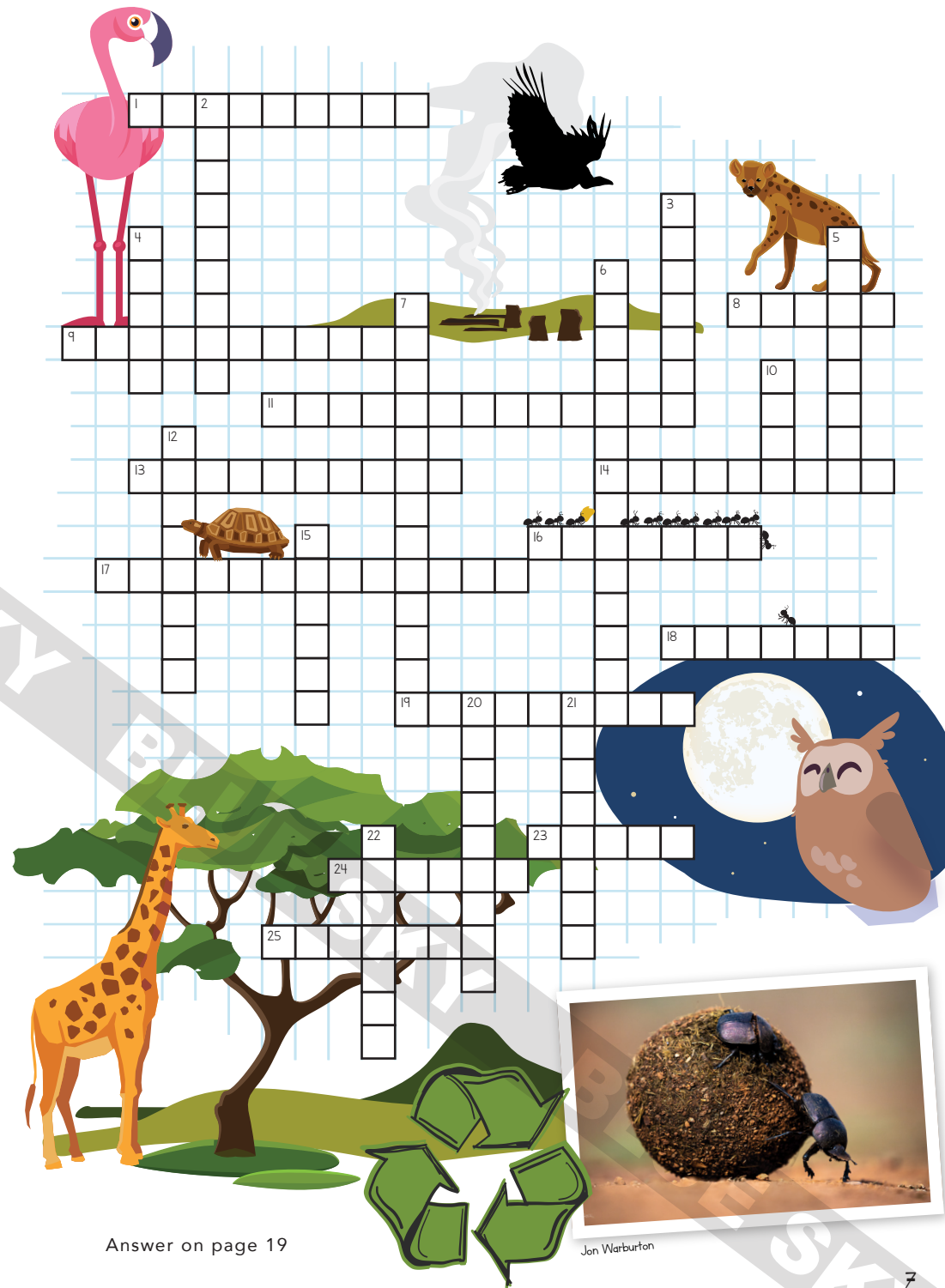
Clues:

Across

1. Beautiful birds with pink feathers because of the shrimp they eat.
8. The animal with the strongest jaws, able to crush bone.
9. Looking after the environment for future generations is to live in a _____ way.
11. The gas there is more of in the atmosphere than there should be, causing climate change. (6,7)
13. Animals that eat only plants.
14. All the plants and animals in an area interacting with their environment is called an _____.
16. These small creatures with six legs are very important in ecosystems for pollination and as decomposers.
17. The biggest threat to humans and the environment due to changes in the atmosphere. (7,6)
18. Animals with fur or hair that look after their young ones.
19. Being active at night.
23. 72% of the Earth's surface is covered by this.
24. Using less resources in order to live sustainably.
25. The tallest land mammal which is also now endangered.

Down

2. Frogs are part of this group of animals that live in and out of water.
3. This bird has a large wingspan, can soar on thermals in the sky and is very important at helping clean up dead animals in the bush.
4. To use something you might have thrown away for another purpose.
5. An animal that eats plants, fruit and meat.
6. All the variety of life on the planet.
7. Cutting down and burning forests to make way for farming.
10. Wild animals should never be kept in our homes as _____.
12. Animals with dry, scaly skin.
15. To say no to using something like a straw or a plastic bag to help save the planet.
20. Ocean and Earth, Humans and Animals, we are all _____.
21. Glass and Aluminium cans can be _____ many times over.
22. Pangolin scales and Rhino horn is made of this substance.



Answer on page 19

Jon Warburton

Safety in the Wild

You could come across potentially dangerous animals in the bush such as elephant, hippo, snakes, baboons, lion and leopard. What should you do when you see these animals and you are on foot?

- Never turn your back on the animal and run
- Move slowly and speak in a soft, quiet voice
- Never approach or try to get closer to the animal
- Don't throw stones at the animal
- Give the animal right of way and don't block their path
- Try not to walk around alone at night unless you have a strong torch
- Don't leave lots of rubbish lying around where people live
- Don't leave food waste close to home
- Be patient and quiet and wait for the animal to move on



Jon Warburton

ACTIVITY 4: Crack the Safety Code



That is a long list! If you just had to remember one safety tip, which would it be? Crack the code to find out!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
w	r	e	y	m	o	v	s	b	q	l	i	d	n	a	t	u

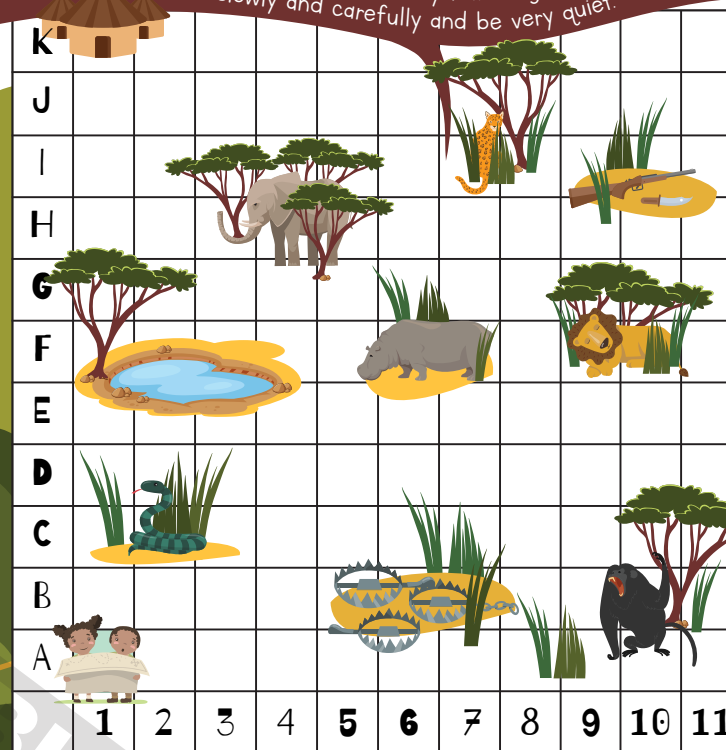
e	u	e	a
9	3	10	17
12	3	16	15
14	13		

e	e	y	y
5	6	7	3
7	3	2	4
8	11	6	1
11	4		

ACTIVITY 5: Wanders in the Wild

Find your way home through the bush by following the instructions. Remember to walk slowly and carefully and be very quiet.

Start in block A1.



1. Go up to B1. You spot a snake in the grass. Keep really still and quiet as the snake slithers away.

2. Go right to B4. You see some snare wires set. Make note of where this is so you can report it to an adult when you get home. Then the snares can be safely removed.

3. Go up to D4. There is a hippo grazing out of the water. Don't be tempted to take the short cut between the hippo and the water.

4. Go right to D8. There is a baboon troop nearby. They should not bother you if you don't bother them.

5. Go up to H8. Move quietly and calmly past the sleeping lion.

6. Go left to H6. You spot some poachers hiding in the bushes in the distance. Move away from this area quickly and carefully.

7. Go up to J6. You know there is a leopard that has a territory close by. But with the poachers so near the leopard is probably hiding. Keep going, you are nearly home.

8. Go left to J1. You move slowly and quietly past an elephant making its way to the waterhole.

9. Go up to K1. You are home safely. Don't forget to tell an adult about the snare wires you spotted earlier. And ask an adult to call the police to report the poachers!

SAVE OUR ELEPHANTS



HELP STOP ELEPHANT POACHING



ELEPHANT FACTS

Elephants are the largest land-living mammals in the world.

Africa has two types of elephants: the larger Savannah and the smaller forest elephant with more rounded ears and straighter tusks.

Elephants use their tusks for digging and finding food.

Elephants use their large ears to cool themselves down in hot climates.

An elephant's trunk is like a hand and performs many functions.

An elephant uses its trunk to lift food, and suck up water to then pour it into its mouth and for making its trumpeting sound

Elephants can swim – they use their trunk to breathe like a snorkel in deep water.

Elephants are herbivores and can spend up to 16 hours a day collecting leaves, twigs, shoots and roots.

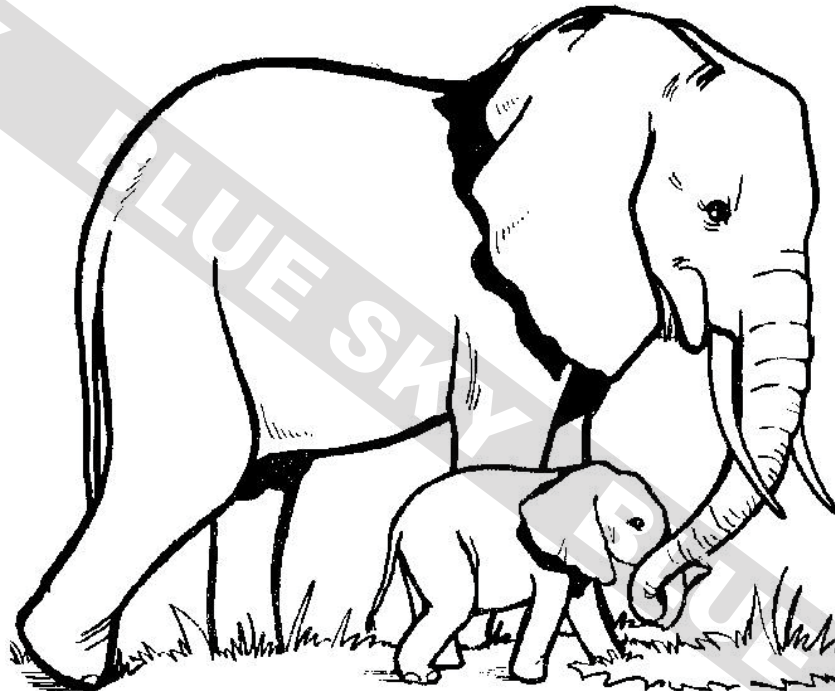
Elephants can live to be over 70 years old.

Female elephants spend their entire lives living in groups called herds.

Elephants are more like us than you may know. They can be left-handed, have the ability to grieve and – true to reputation – have amazing memories.

Elephants are important to African culture and tradition – Africa with no elephants is impossible to imagine!

The elephant belongs to Africa and yet every year us humans kill more and more elephants through poaching and deforestation.



Please give the baby elephant a name:

POACHING FACTS

The biggest threat to the future of Africa's elephants is poaching by humans. It is illegal and it is a serious crime.

Elephants are killed for their ivory tusks. A single tusk can be worth around \$240 for the poacher but ivory can reach up to \$2000 per kg in China.

Isn't it a terrible shame that Africa's most iconic animal is being killed for its tusks which end up as carvings, ornaments and trinkets in mostly foreign countries.

The most common gun used for elephant poaching is the AK47 but poachers also use machetes, spears and watermelons spiked with poison.

Poachers in Africa kill between 25,000 and 35,000 elephants every year – that's more than 100 dead elephants per day!

If this goes on, our elephants may be gone in as little as ten years

Africa's elephants are in danger: 95 percent of the elephant population has been killed during the last 100 years.

Elephants have strong feelings and emotions. They have a distinct family structure, bathing rituals and a mourning process not unlike our own.

We must stop elephant poaching: for your future and the future of all Africa's children.

Please think carefully about this terrible crisis surrounding our African elephants.

The voices of the children of Africa need to be heard. Your Elephant Art message can help save Africa's elephants.

WHAT IS YOUR MESSAGE:

NAME AND AGE:

GRADE AND SCHOOL:

COUNTRY AND AREA:

Have you seen an elephant in the wild?

YES

NO



ACTIVITY 6: The Ugly 5 Fun Facts

Some people think these 5 African animals are ugly looking. But each one of them plays an important part in the ecosystem. Don't forget to collect the Wild Words here to add to the table on page 17!

Adaptation - the change of a living thing over time in reaction to its environment.

Vulture

- Vultures have many special adaptations that give them a critical role in the ecosystem.
- They clean up dead bodies and prevent disease from spreading
- Unique wing muscles allow them to soar on thermals and forage for food up to 150km away
- Strong stomach acid means they can scavenge on carrion other scavengers cannot



Warthog

- Warthogs eat mostly grass & tubers they dig up with their tusks
- They are omnivores as they also eat insects
- Warthogs are an important prey species in the ecosystem
- They can run up to 48km per hour to avoid predators



Omnivore - an animal that eats both plants and meat

Hyena

- Famous for their cackling and whooping sounds that can be heard 5km away
- Hyenas are important scavengers feeding on carrion (the leftovers of kills from other carnivores)
- Hyenas have super strong jaws that allow them to eat all of a carcass except for horns
- Their poop is white in colour because of the calcium in the bones they crunch



Marabou Stork

- This unique species of stork has a pink throat sac
- They are called a wading bird but don't have to live near water
- Marabou Storks find food at lion kills, cattle farms, ploughed fields and rubbish piles
- Because of their very strong beak they are important scavengers in the ecosystem



Wildebeest

- These odd-looking ungulates (hoofed mammals) are herbivores and live in large herds
- They are an important prey species in the ecosystem.
- 15 million wildebeest migrate about 1500km every year in the Serengeti
- They can run 40km per hour



Migration - the seasonal movement of animals from one region to another

Scavenger - an animal that feeds on dead and rotting material

ACTIVITY 7: Time To Reflect

Let's pause and reflect on what we have learned so far about our wonderful wildlife and how we try to live in harmony with them.

Take time to mindfully colour in the picture on this page.

Use the colour by number instructions to help you.

Use any colours you like to colour in the title of the picture.

Think about the words you are colouring. What do they mean to you? Do you feel connected to the Ocean, the Earth, other Humans and the Animals? Why or why not?

Did you know?

46% of the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide is "breathed in" by the trees in tropical rainforests, protecting us from climate change. It is so important to stop deforestation and start replanting trees wherever we can.

70% of the oxygen we breathe is produced by the ocean "breathed out" by the plants that live in it. It is so important to conserve ocean biodiversity.

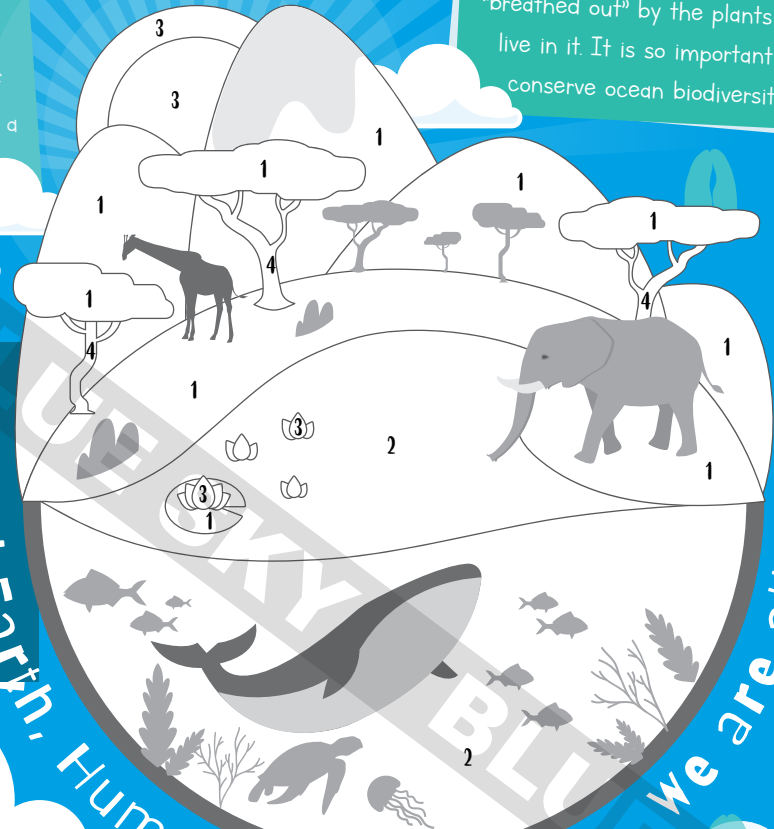
Colour by Number:

Each section of the picture has a number in it.

Match the colour you need for each section with the list below:

- 1 - green
- 2 - blue
- 3 - yellow
- 4 - brown

Ocean and Earth, Humans and Animals, we are all connected



Activity Eight: The 5 R-words for Rubbish

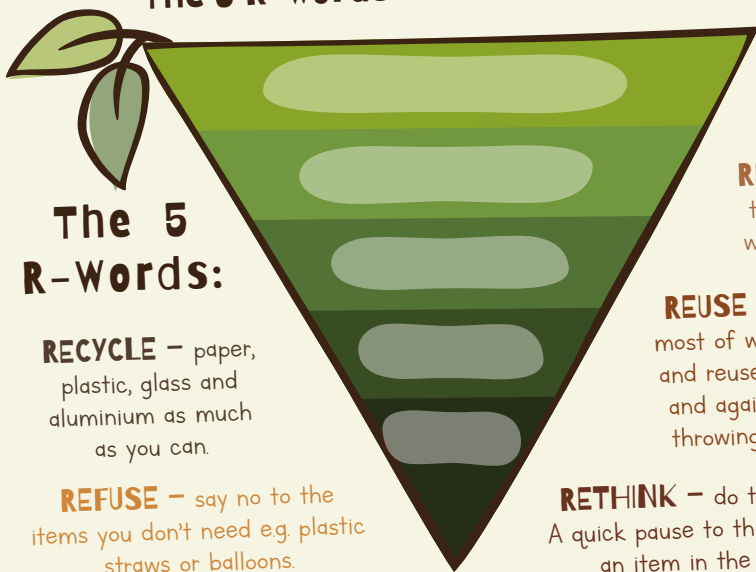
Do you know the 3Rs? Reduce, Reuse & Recycle?



Did you know they are listed in that order for a reason? We should Reduce more than we Reuse and Reuse more than we Recycle!

Challenge time! Put an R-word from the list into each of the lines of the pyramid. The R-word you should do most often goes in the longest part of the pyramid down to the least often at the bottom tip of the pyramid.

The 5 R-words for Waste Management



The 5 R-Words:

RECYCLE – paper, plastic, glass and aluminium as much as you can.

REFUSE – say no to the items you don't need e.g. plastic straws or balloons.

REDUCE – try to use less of what you need.

REUSE – make the most of what you have and reuse items again and again instead of throwing them away

RETHINK – do this most often. A quick pause to think, do you need an item in the first place?

Take Action Challenge!

Share ideas with family and friends about how you can put these 5R-words into action at home and at school.

Can you think of any other R-words to add to your waste management pyramid? Maybe Repair, Replant or Rot (compost)!

Water Wise

Fresh water is essential for life on Earth. It is vital that we conserve our freshwater streams and rivers to ensure a healthy environment for people, plants and animals. Even if we live far away from the ocean, litter and pollution in our freshwater will get into the ocean, especially plastic waste. Sea turtles and sea birds eat plastic in the ocean by mistake. This causes them to get sick and die. If we look after the freshwater streams and rivers close to where we live, we will also be helping life in the ocean.

What are 4 ways we can take action today to be wise about our streams and rivers?

-  Remove all rubbish or litter from in and around the river.
-  Protect sections of the river edge from livestock
-  Replant trees and vegetation along these protected sections of the river edge.
-  Keep a look out for frogs, fish and birds. If wildlife is around this is usually a good sign the waterway is healthy.

Activity Nine: Spot the Difference

These two pictures show a landscape where people live close to a river. Make a note of the differences between the two pictures. Put a big tick next to the picture that is water wise.



What are the differences between the two pictures?

Put a big tick next to the picture you think is water wise. Explain why you chose this picture?



Activity Ten: Understanding Animals – a career in conservation

Conservation researchers and wildlife vets have to know a lot about the wild animals they care for – how animals' bodies work, what they eat, what they need to stay healthy, what their natural behaviour is like and even what their droppings look like! Have a go at being a wildlife vet!



Match the animal to its food and droppings



Giraffe

Food

Droppings

1



Carrion

A



Spotted Hyena

Food

Droppings

2



Acacia Tree

B



Elephant

Food

Droppings

3



Marula Tree

C



Southern White rhino

Food

Droppings

4



Grasses

D



Answers on page 19

Activity Eleven: More Careers in Conservation

Observing is the ability to use all five of your senses to recognise, analyse and recall your surroundings. Good observation skills help you make sense of the world around you.

Did you spot some photos of wildlife or animal spoor (footprints) as you worked through this little book? Good observing! Now go back through the book carefully and complete the table below.



Be a Wildlife Photographer...

this job is important to conservation because wonderful wildlife photos attract tourists. Ecotourism is essential for wildlife conservation work to continue.



Be a Wildlife Ranger...

this job is important to conservation as game guards, rangers and trackers help protect wildlife in national parks and reserves.

Page	What's in the photo?	Page	Whose spoor?
Page	What's in the photo?	Page	Whose spoor?
Page	What's in the photo?	Page	Whose spoor?
Page	What's in the photo?	Page	Whose spoor?
Page	What's in the photo?	Page	Whose spoor?



Wild Word

Use this glossary table to note down the definition of the Wild Words you found in this little book.

Definition

Biodiversity

Ecosystem

Solitary

Nocturnal

Adaptation

Scavenger

Omnivore

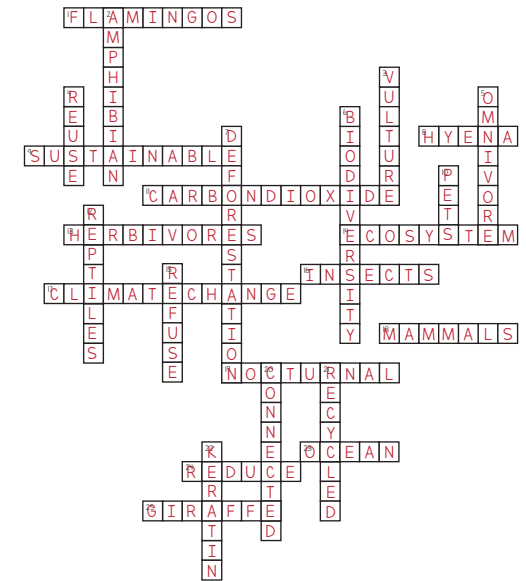
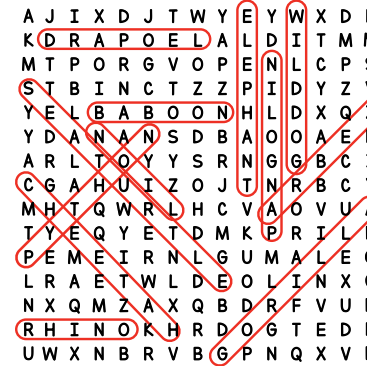
Migration



Activity Twelve: Time to Get Creative

Go back to page 3 and read about folklore again. Now talk to the adults you know at home or in your community. Ask them if they know of any folklore about wildlife from your culture to share with you.

When you have a story, share it in your own creative way. Use this space in the book to write a story, a poem, a song or an acrostic poem. If you prefer draw a picture or a cartoon about your folklore story. Have fun!



b e q u i e t a n d

m o v e v e r y s l o w l y

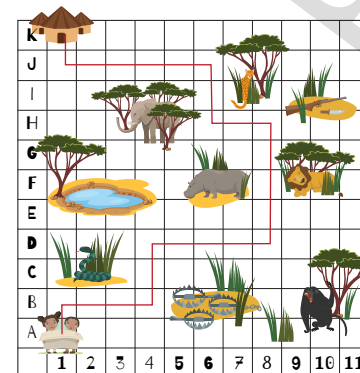
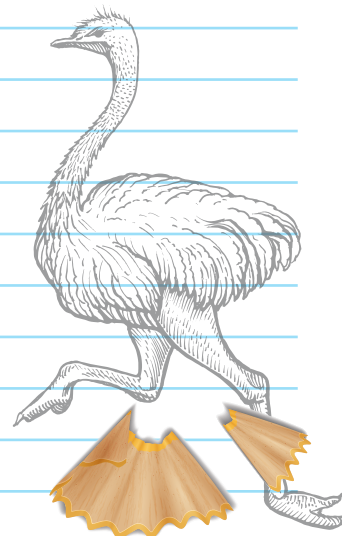


Giraffe
Food 2
Droppings D

Spotted Hyena
Food 1
Droppings C

Elephant
Food 3
Droppings B

Southern white rhino
Food 4
Droppings A



Page 2	What's in the photo? ELEPHANT	Page 3	Whose spoor? HIPPO
Page 4	What's in the photo? RHINO	Page 5	Whose spoor? PANGOLIN
Page 7	What's in the photo? DUNG BEETLE	Page 6	Whose spoor? RHINO
Page 8	What's in the photo? LION	Page 9	Whose spoor? LION
Page 12	What's in the photo? MARABOU/HYENA	Page 13	Whose spoor? GIRAFFE

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'The more we understand wildlife,
the more we love wildlife.' - Peter Eastwood



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