

## Hide and seek

# Living World



1. Water monitor



2. Painted terrapin



3. Salt water crocodile



4. Freshwater giant prawn



5. Mudskipper



11. Dog faced water snake



10. Fiddler crab



6. Common redshank



9. Great egret



8. Collared kingfisher



7. Long-tailed macaque

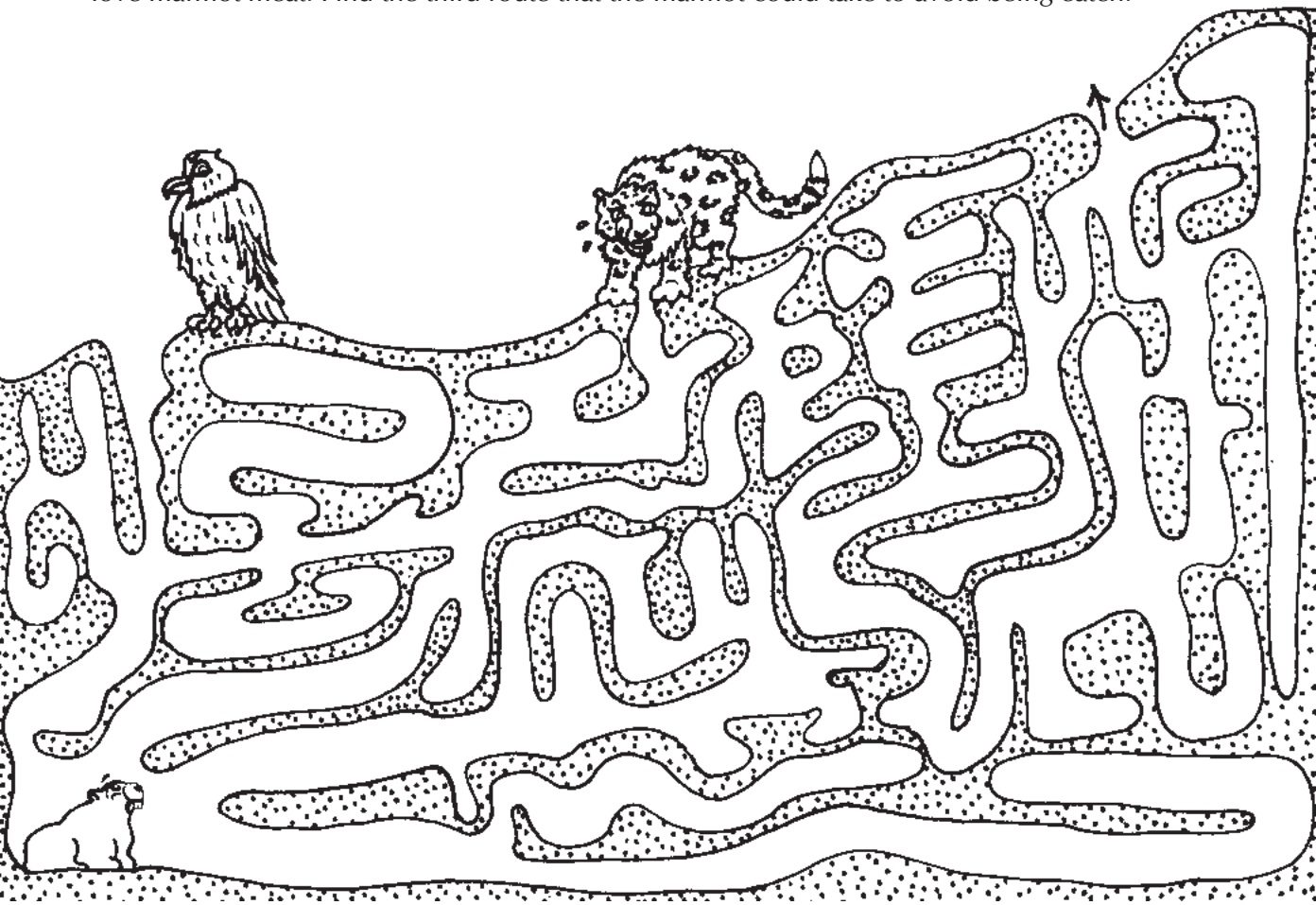
Here are 11 different species of animals that live in mangroves. Try spotting them in the above illustration.

## Marmot's escape

The marmot is the longest hibernating mammal in the world! It hibernates from October to about April after a summer spent growing fat on grass and herbs. In India, marmots are found in the very high Himalayan mountains in the states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

Marmots dig out passages and chambers below the ground. Strong claws on their front and hind legs make them very good at burrowing. The burrows are a system of long, interconnected tunnels underground that branch extensively. There are usually many points of exit, and some of them are hidden under stones or large rocks.

Here is a **maze** for you to solve. Help the marmot find its way out of its burrow. There are three ways out, but there is a golden eagle and a snow leopard waiting at two of the exits. And they love marmot meat! Find the third route that the marmot could take to avoid being eaten.



# A predator crossword puzzle

A predator is an animal that hunts other animals for food. A prey is an animal that is killed by another animal for food. There are always more prey animals than there are predator animals.

The tools that predators use to kill their prey vary. Different predators use teeth, claws, fangs, and the tongue to catch prey.

Often predators go hungry as they are not always successful in catching their prey.

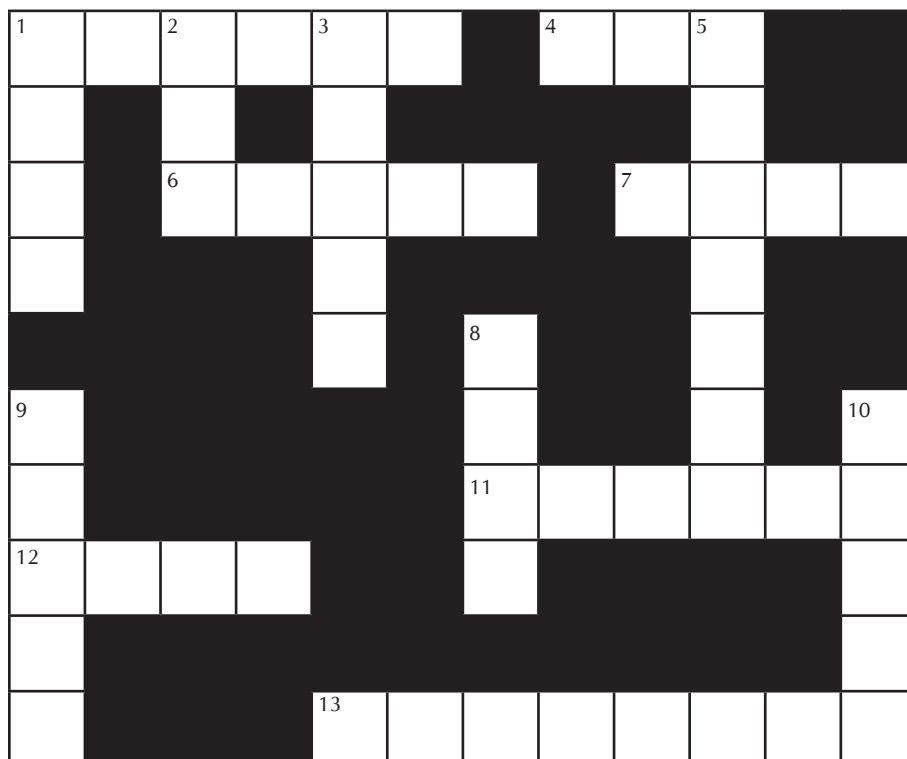
Predators sometimes have to be content with whatever they are able to catch or find. For example, at times a predator may be able to catch only a small animal, or may have to eat berries or even a dead animal to satisfy its hunger.

Remember, a predator is not a mean animal. It acts out of instinct!

Here is a crossword puzzle for you with species that are all predators.

## Across

- 1) A mammal with a long, slender body which follows its prey in burrows (6)
- 4) This bird is nocturnal or active at night, and eats mice (3)
- 6) The National Animal of India (5)
- 7) An amphibian that lives on land but breeds in water. It uses its tongue to snap up its prey: insects, spiders, slugs, etc. (4)
- 11) Makes a web and traps its prey (6)
- 12) Aided by an excellent sense of smell, this mammal is omnivorous (4)
- 13) This mammal was used to fight venomous snakes (8)



## Down

- 1) Often hunts in packs (4)
- 2) Partial to sugary foods, so keep the tin of sugar tightly lidded! It also eats insects and spiders. (3)
- 3) Large bird of prey
- 5) A big spotted cat, hunts deer species like cheetal or spotted deer in India (7)
- 8) An insect that can sting (4)
- 9) Highly venomous, this snake eats small birds, eggs, lizards, and other snakes (5)
- 10) Large water bird that eats insects (5)

## Mapping skills

Here is an exercise that will help children practice reading the basic elements of a map.

### Prashanth's day in the forest

Prashanth is a doctor living in Chamrajnagar in Karnataka. He often visits the forests of Biligiri Rangaswamy Temple (BRT) wildlife sanctuary. He is interested in wildlife and spends his free time watching and photographing the birds and mammals around. Often, he is accompanied by one of the young tribal boys who live in these forests and who know a lot about the area. The tribals here live in small settlements called podus.

This morning Prashanth wakes up early. He is excited. Basappa, one of his friends, is going to show him a giant squirrel's nest. He plans to photograph the nest. "I hope the light is good for photography," he says to himself, as he leaves for BRT on his bike. He has fixed up to meet Basappa at the bridge.

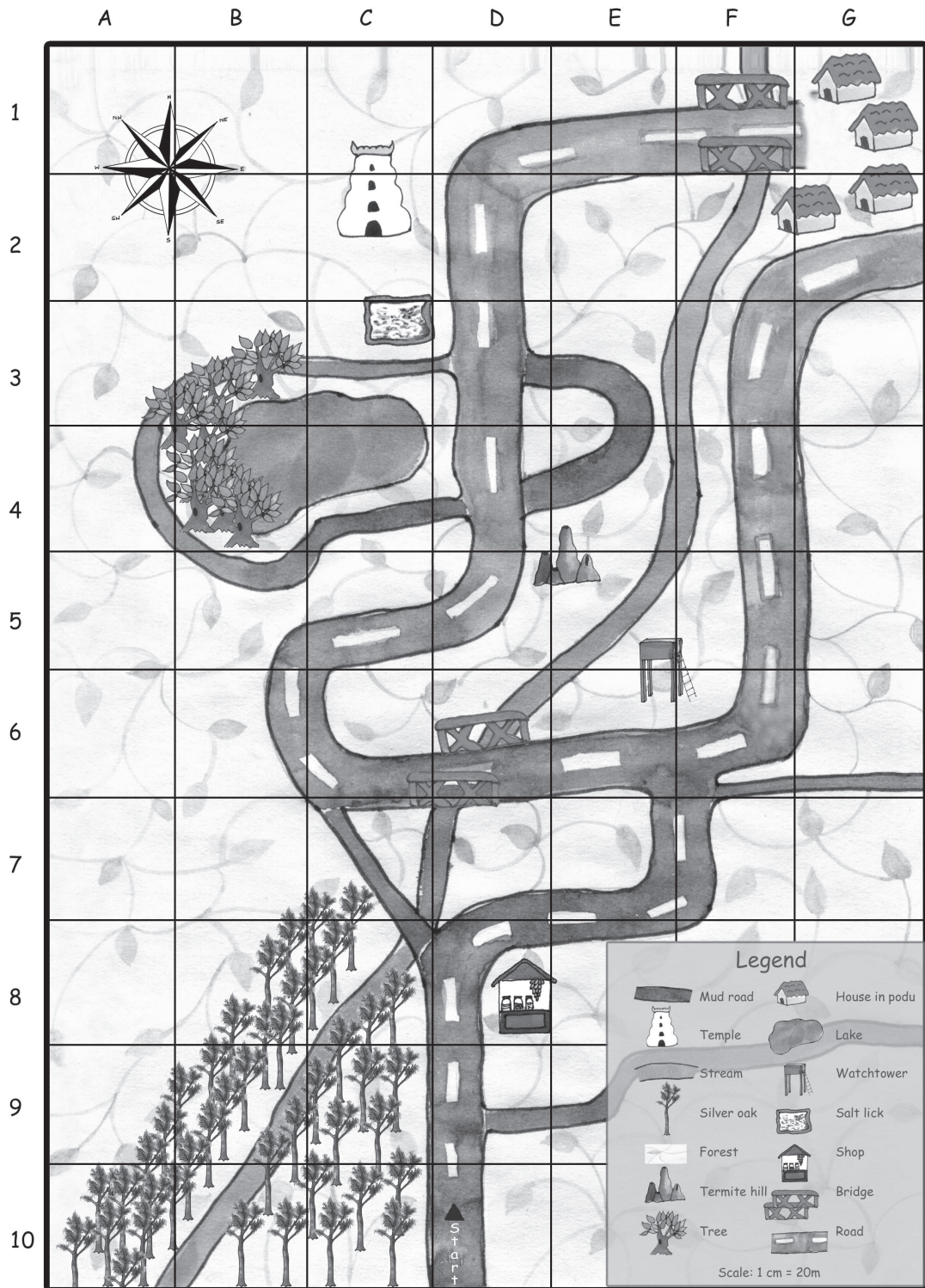
Before reaching the bridge, Prashanth passes by a shop and a silver oak plantation. At the bridge, Basappa climbs on to Prashanth's bike and the two ride on. They drive up to a termite mound where Prashanth parks his bike. Then, they start walking and soon get off the tarred road onto a forest path. They walk for almost an hour before reaching a pond.

By the side of the pond are a clump of trees. Basappa points to one of them, and there amongst the leaves is a large nest with baby squirrels. Prashanth is delighted and clicks away! The giant squirrel prefers to live on top of large trees and does not come to the ground often. It jumps from tree to tree as it travels in the forest. So giant squirrels need stretches of forest land with trees so that it can look for food. It is therefore important that the trees where they live are not cut.

Soon they set off towards the housing colony. They have been invited by a friend to eat *ragi mudde* for lunch. On the way they see a salt lick. A salt lick is a deposit of salt that is sometimes exposed on the ground. Many mammals come to such places to lick the salt, which helps their bones and muscles grow. Prashanth noticed a large gaur at the salt lick. "What a lucky day for wildlife watching!" says Prashanth as they ride off to the colony.

Now look at the given map and answer the following questions:

1. Trace the route that Prashanth takes up to the bridge with your finger.
2. On the way to the bridge Prashanth sees a silver oak plantation. Find this on the map.
3. Find out what else he passes by before reaching the bridge. Use the key or legend to help you.
4. In what direction does Prashanth travel from the bridge to reach the termite mound?
5. Trace the route they take to the spot where the giant squirrel nests.
6. Trace the route they take from the nest to the salt lick where they see the gaur. In what direction do they travel to get there?
7. What do Prashanth and Basappa see on their way to the colony?
8. Use the grid system on the map, and fill in the grid the location of the following: shop, bridge, salt lick, housing colony.
9. Use the scale given on the map to find out the distance from:
  - a) Prashanth's starting point up to the termite mound.
  - b) From the first bridge to the housing colony.



## Prashanth's day in the forest

# Know your tree

Look around you. How many trees do you see? How well do you know them? Here is an observation chart that you could use to get to know your neighbourhood trees better!

## Bark

- 1) What is the texture of the bark? \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What is the colour of the bark? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Place a plain sheet of paper on the bark. Make an impression of it using your crayon.

## Leaves

- 1) What is the shape and size of the leaf? Draw it. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) What is the colour of the leaf's upper side and underside? \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) What is the texture of the leaf? \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) Does the leaf have any smell? \_\_\_\_\_

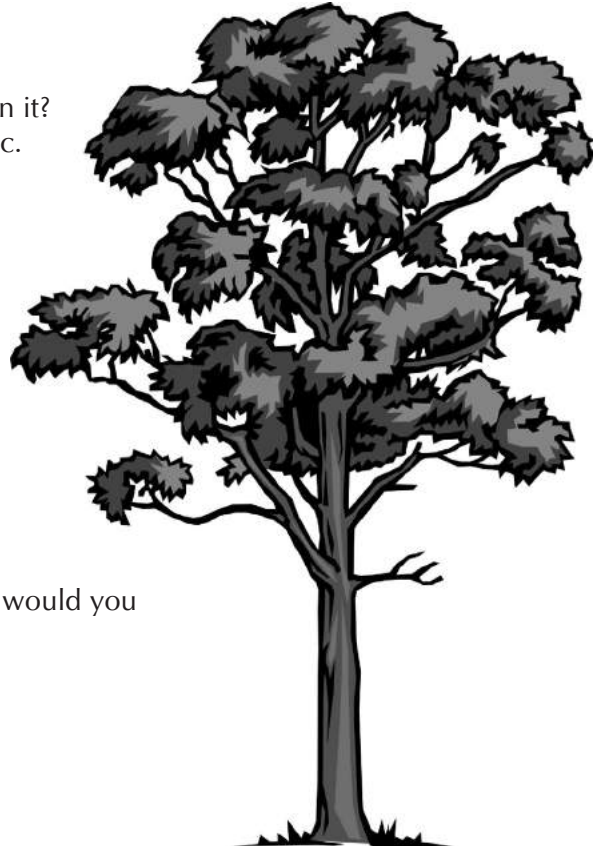
Can you see any fruits/flowers/seed pods on the tree? If yes, describe them.

## Life on the tree:

Look closely at your tree. What life do you see on it?  
Look for any insects, spiders, butterflies, birds, etc.  
Make a list of what you see.

Do you know the name of your tree? If yes,  
write it down.

If you do not know its name, think of one! What would you  
like to call it?

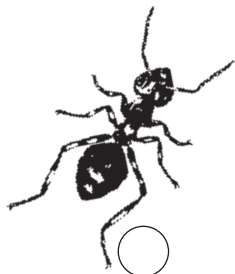


## Six-legged friends

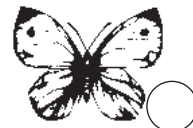
There are many tiny creatures that we see around us. It is easy to tell if they are insects or not if you look out for two characteristics:

- Insects have three main body parts: a head, a thorax, and an abdomen.
- Adult insects have three pairs of legs (six legs in all).

Here are some commonly found insects. Read the sentences below. Figure out which insect is being described. Then write the number of the sentence in the circle given next to each insect.



1. I am quite large and make a loud, humming sound. But don't be scared of me... I am harmless!

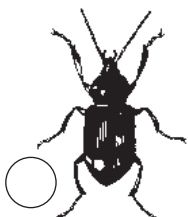


2. I am black and have a hard covering.

3. We work together and help each other carry food. You can easily see us walking in a line in the fields.

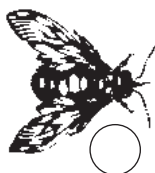


4. If I sit on your food, you may fall ill.

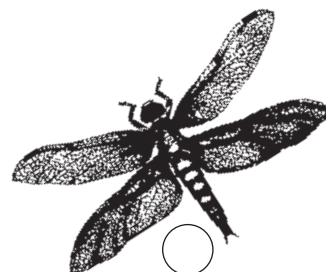


5. I live near ponds and eat small insects. Sometimes I am called "helicopter." We are amongst the fastest flying insects!

6. I eat grass, leaves and also grain. I fly only short distances, but can jump high as my hind legs are strong.



7. When I am fully grown I have wings. In the beginning I am a small caterpillar.



8. Be careful of me. I can sting and it may hurt you!

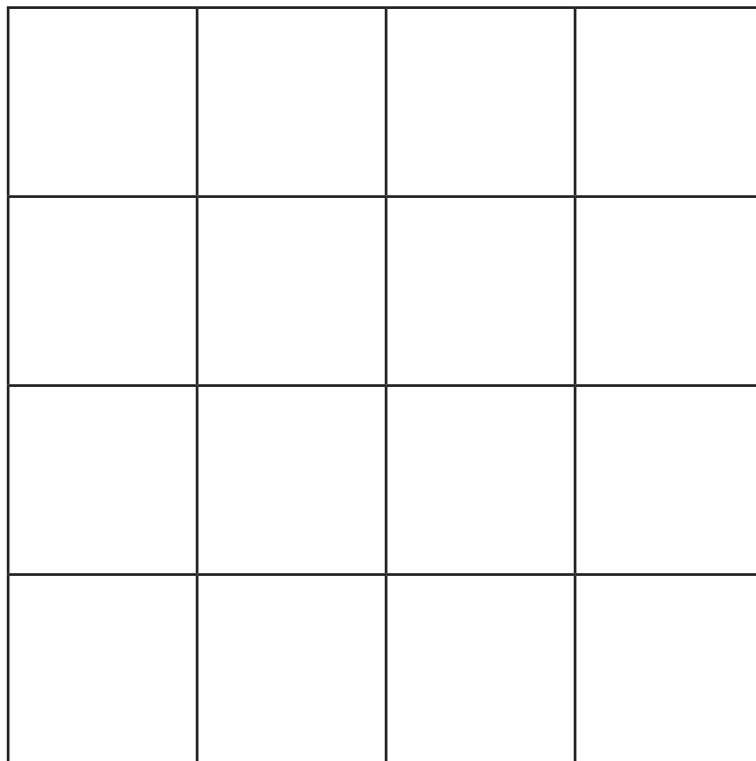
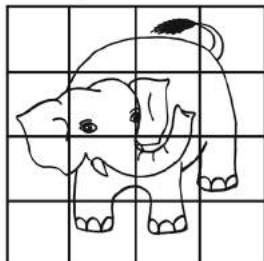


# Be an artist!

Ever wanted to draw an elephant, and felt daunted at the thought? Here's an easy way to try your hand at it!

Choose a cell in any corner of the picture and reproduce what you see on the corresponding cell in the empty grid. Slowly move to the other cells to finish your elephant drawing. Since the elephant is the largest land mammal, a group of you may want to do a floor-size enlargement of the illustration using the grid and large squares drawn on the ground. Try it.... it could be fun!

Elephant Grid Game



Developed by Sujata Padmanabhan. She works with Kalpavriksh, an environment action group and can be reached at < kvedu@vsnl.net >.

**A predator crossword puzzle**

**Answers**

**Across:** 1) Weasel 4) Owl  
6) Tiger 7) Toad 11) Spider  
12) Bear 13) MongOOSE

**Down:** 1) Wolf 2) Ant 3) Eagle  
5) Leopard 8) Wasp 9) Cobra  
10) Crane

**Six-legged Friends**

**Answers**

1) Bumblebee  
2) Beetle  
3) Ant  
4) House Fly  
5) Dragonfly  
6) Grasshopper  
7) Butterfly  
8) Wasp



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