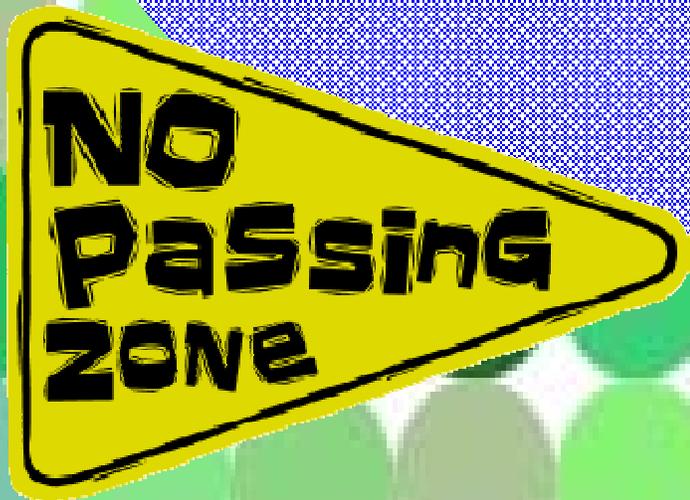




Defenders of Wildlife's

# Watch Out for Wildlife Fun Book

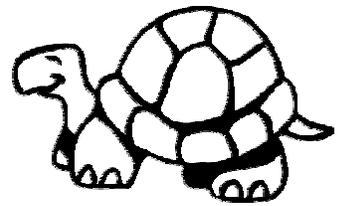


# WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE

# FUN BOOK



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

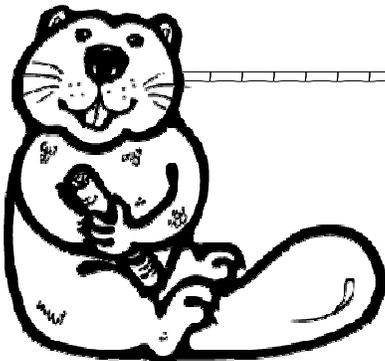


\_\_\_\_\_

SCHOOL:

\_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE ANIMAL:

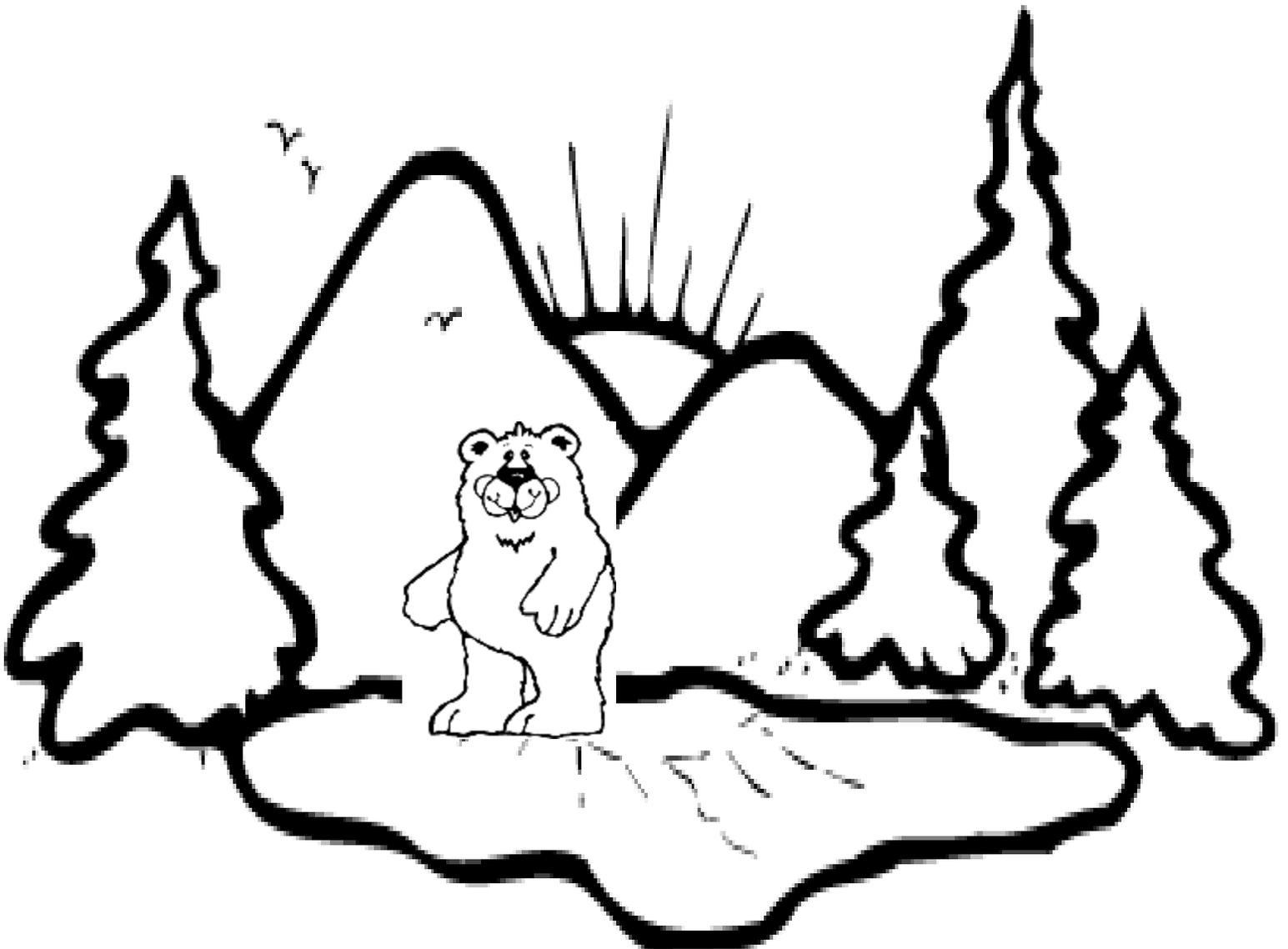


\_\_\_\_\_

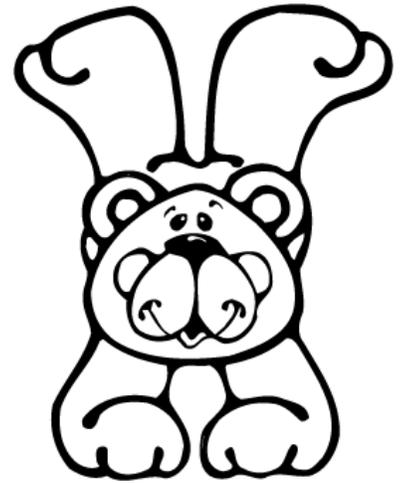


# WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE

Did you know you can help  
keep wildlife safe every day?



# YES, YOU CAN!

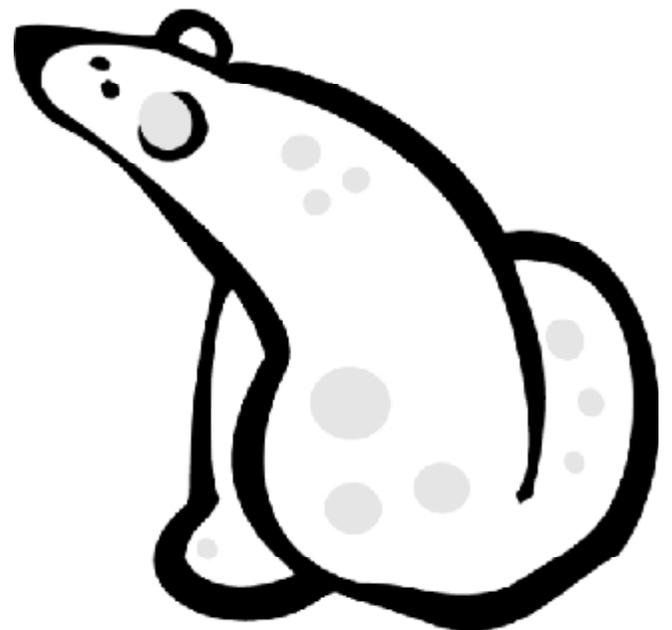


Never throw food or other litter out the car window. People food can attract wildlife to the side of the road where they might get hit by cars.

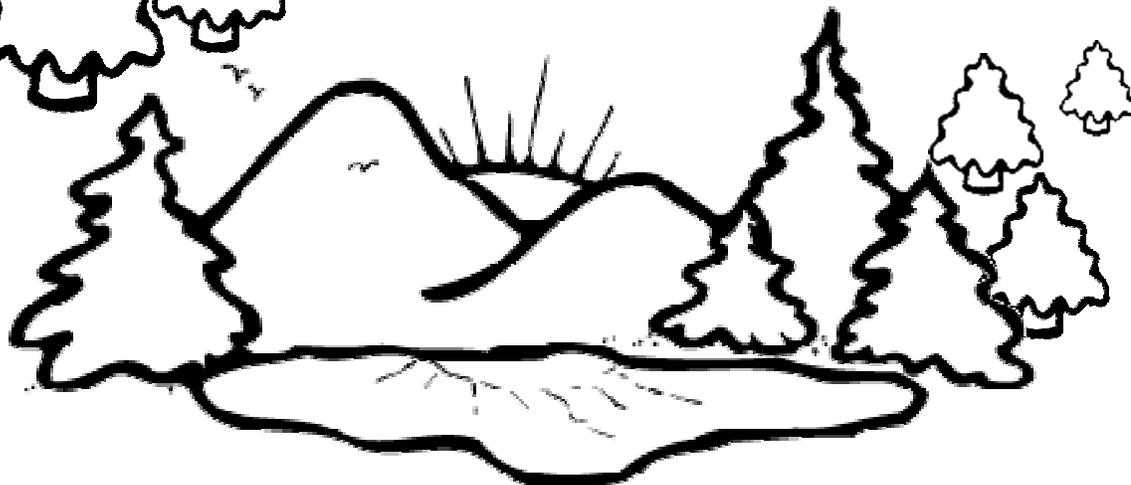
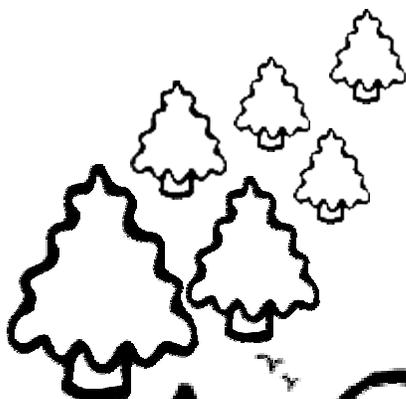


Always help the driver of the car by watching out for wildlife on the sides of the road.

Drivers need to keep their eyes and attention on the road. When you're in a car, help the driver by not distracting them and watch out for wildlife.



Can you help the bear find his habitat?



# WHO LEFT THESE TRACKS?

Can you match the tracks to the animal they belong to?



Elk

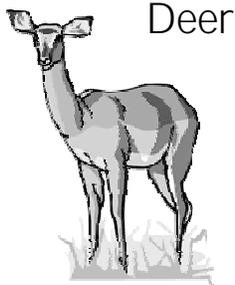


Black bear

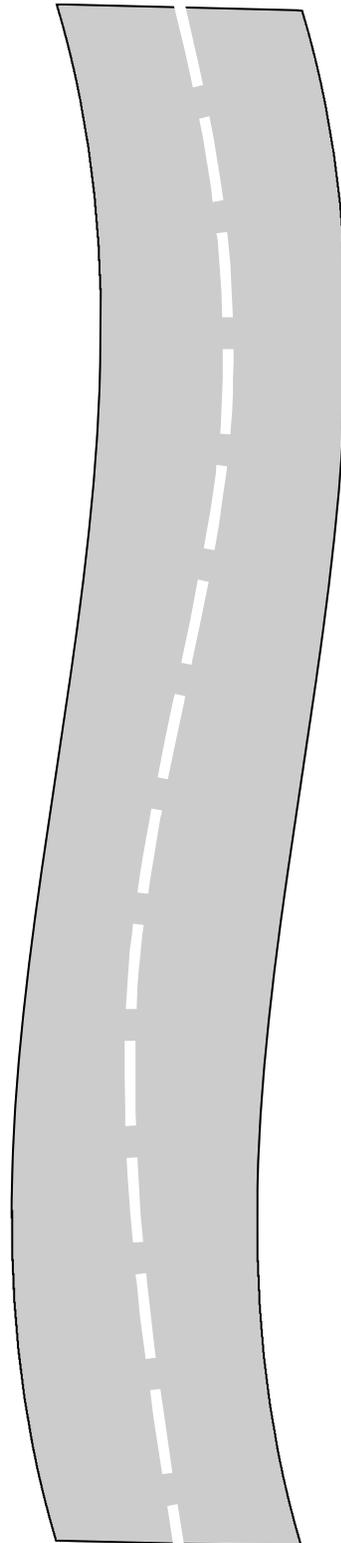
Raccoon



Grizzly bear



Deer



# WILDLIFE WORD SCRAMBLE

Some animals have trouble crossing the road.  
Unscramble these words to find out which animals  
need our help getting safely across the road.

RUTLET

\_\_\_\_\_

GROF

\_\_\_\_\_

LEK

\_\_\_\_\_

OXF

\_\_\_\_\_

DREAMLANSA

\_\_\_\_\_

KEANS

\_\_\_\_\_

REED

\_\_\_\_\_

RABE

\_\_\_\_\_

SOMEQ

\_\_\_\_\_

YNLX

\_\_\_\_\_

PREATHN

\_\_\_\_\_



# WILDLIFE WATCHER TIP # 1

Never throw food or other litter out the car window. People food can attract wildlife to the side of the road where they might get hit by cars.





# How many words can you make out of WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE ?

FIRE \_\_\_\_\_

THAT \_\_\_\_\_

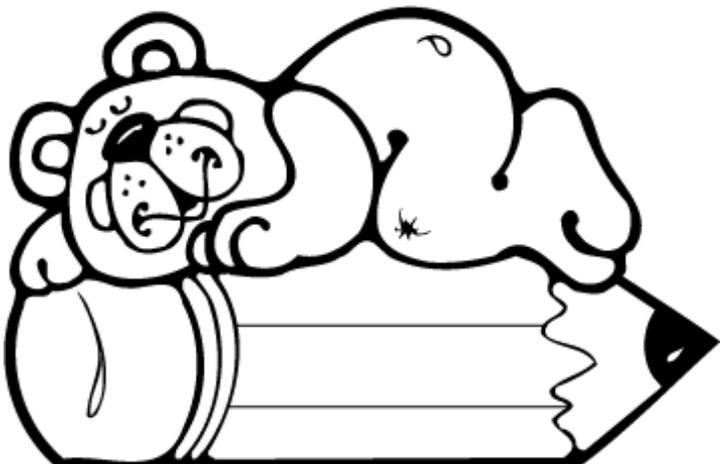
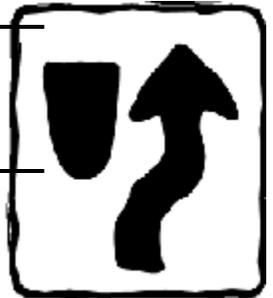
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



TOTAL:

\_\_\_\_\_

# WILDLIFE WATCHER TIP # 2

Always help the driver of the car by watching out for wildlife on the sides of the road.

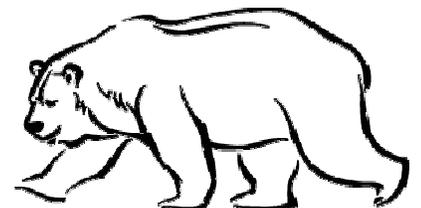
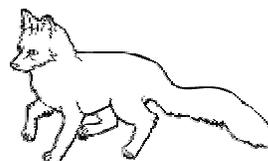
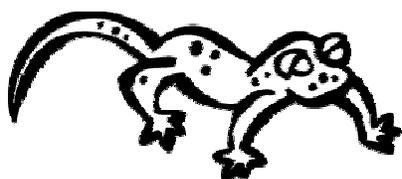
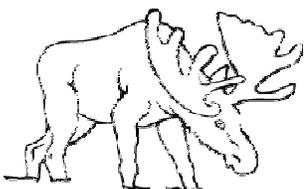
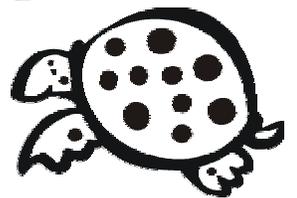
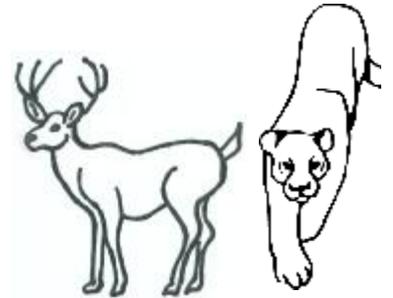


# A LONG WAY HOME

Many animals travel very long distances to find mates, food and homes. Along the way, they need to cross dangerous roads. That's why it's important for you to **WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE!**

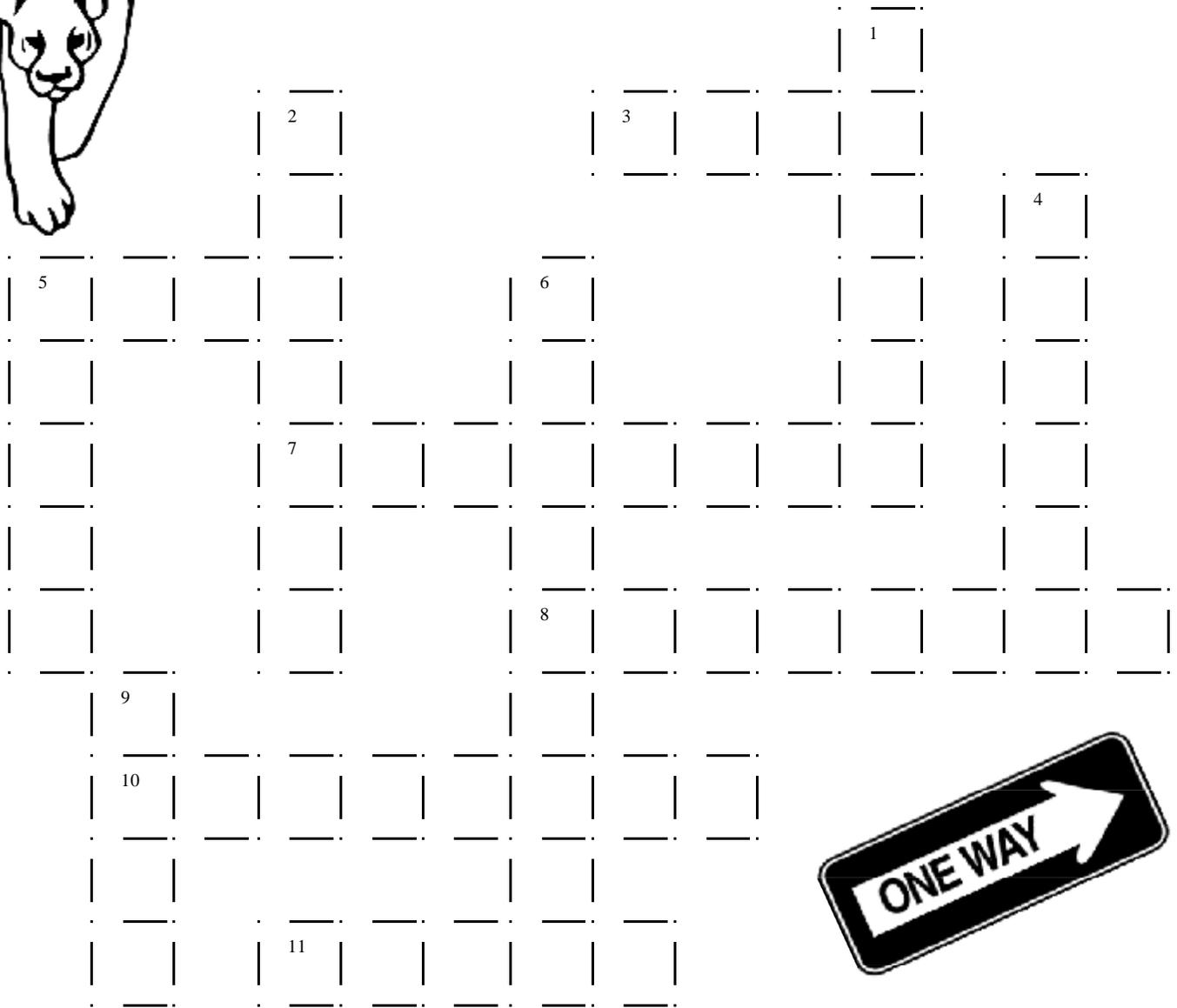
Can you guess how far these animals travel?

1. You might think that \_\_\_\_\_s move slowly, but they move 250 yards a day.
2. How far can you jump? \_\_\_\_\_s travel just a few inches with each leap, but they can move 25 miles every year.
3. \_\_\_ have a reason to toot their own horns because they travel as much as 2,600 miles during their lifetime.
4. You'll have to chase this \_\_\_ because they travel over 100 miles to find a home.
5. Maybe they meander, but a \_\_\_\_\_ can travel 500 feet to reach a pond.
6. \_\_\_\_\_s can slither as much as 750 feet every day!
7. Oh dear! If you were a \_\_\_\_\_, you would travel 100 miles to find mates.
8. Even though they spend so much time hibernating, a \_\_\_\_\_ can travel 1,500 miles in one year!
9. A \_\_\_\_\_ might need help carrying those big antlers to travel over 350 miles.
10. They may not be pink, but a \_\_\_\_\_ can travel 150 miles every month.





# Wildlife Crossing CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- 3. Like a \_\_\_ in the headlights
- 5. Kids like to play Leap\_\_\_
- 7. Animals that don't live in a barn
- 8. Animals that don't make it safely across the road
- 10. This helps animals cross by going OVER the road
- 11. Some of them are chocolate, but not in the wild

### DOWN

- 1. \_\_\_ the gap
- 2. My way or the \_\_\_
- 4. Some animals dig their own \_\_\_ under a road
- 5. Don't \_\_\_ me in
- 6. This helps animals cross by going UN- DER the road
- 9. King of the \_\_\_



# Secret Message

Can you crack the code and decipher the message?

— — — —  
14 12 5 22

— — — —  
2 12 6 9

— — — —  
22 2 22 8



— — — —  
21 9 12 14

— — — —  
8 18 23 22

— —  
7 12

— — — —  
8 18 23 22

— — — —  
16 22 22 11

— —  
26 13

— — —  
22 2 22

— — —  
12 6 7

— — —  
21 12 9

— — — — — — — — —  
4 18 15 23 15 18 21 22

!



A = 26  
B = 25  
C = 24  
D = 23  
E = 22  
F = 21  
G = 20  
H = 19  
I = 18

J = 17  
K = 16  
L = 15  
M = 14  
N = 13  
O = 12  
P = 11  
Q = 10  
R = 9

S = 8  
T = 7  
U = 6  
V = 5  
W = 4  
X = 3  
Y = 2  
Z = 1

# WILDLIFE WATCHER TIP # 3

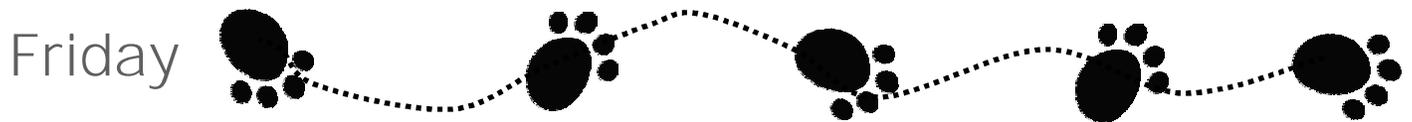
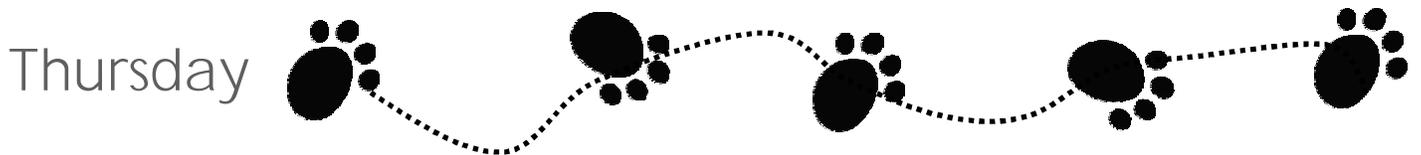
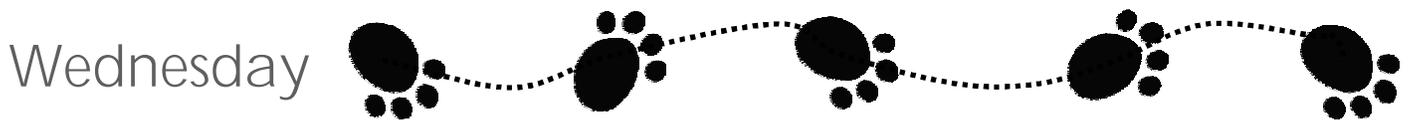
Drivers need to keep their eyes and attention on the road. When you're in a car, help the driver by not distracting them and watch out for wildlife.



# WATCH OUT FOR WILDLIFE JOURNAL



Count all the animals you see on or near the road every day for a week.  
Circle a paw print for every animal, and write down which species you see.



TOTAL: \_\_\_\_\_

Hello Parents!

Did you know that there are over four million miles of roads and highways in the United States and almost 250 million cars? Many of those roads we drive on were built through wildlife habitat, posing a dangerous barrier to animals that need to move around to find food, mates and homes. When those animals have to cross a road, both the animal and the drivers are in danger.

In fact, 1.5 million wildlife-vehicle collisions happen in the U.S. every year, resulting in 300 human deaths, 29,000 injuries and over \$1 billion in property damage. Most of the animals struck are killed instantly or die later away from the road. For some species like the Florida panther, roads and roadkill are pushing them closer to extinction.

**Watch Out for Wildlife** is an annual outreach event by Defenders of Wildlife to reach out to drivers, teach them how to drive smarter in wildlife areas and what to do if they hit an animal. See more at [WatchOutforWildlife.org](http://WatchOutforWildlife.org).

Your child may not be old enough to drive, but it's never too soon to start teaching her or him to be aware, so when she or he does begin driving, watching for wildlife will be second nature. Young drivers ages 15-24 are more likely to be involved in a car accident with a large animal than any other age group.

We developed the Watch Out for Wildlife Fun Book for children and a Teachers' Guide. The WOW Fun Book includes a variety of games and activities for children to enjoy either with supervision or on their own. The WOW Fun Book highlights the Wildlife Watcher tips:

#1—Never throw food or other litter out the car window. People food can attract wildlife to the side of the road where they might get hit by cars.

#2—Always help the driver of the car by watching out for wildlife on the sides of the road.

#3—Drivers need to keep their eyes and attention on the road. When you're in a car, help the driver by not distracting them and watch out for wildlife.

For you, we have also included a driver tip sheet to help you avoid and prevent collisions with wildlife and a handy reference sheet to keep in your glove box in the event you are involved in a collision.

Sincerely,



Patricia A. White  
Director, Habitat and Highways Campaign



# Watch Out for Wildlife Driver Tip Sheet

## Top 10 tips to help you avoid and prevent collisions with wildlife



- 1. Be particularly alert when driving in wildlife areas**
  - Drive with increased awareness when traveling in signed wildlife areas. Crossing signs are generally placed in known wildlife movement areas and wildlife-vehicle collision hot spots. Take notice of crossing signs along your regularly traveled routes and avoid getting habituated to them.
  - Wildlife are more likely to be found near wooded, wetland or agricultural areas, and wherever roads cross streams.
  - Pay attention to both sides of the road by scanning from side to side. If you have passengers, ask them to help you keep an eye out for animals.
  - Practice active driving. Distracted driving, such as driving while talking on your cell phone, text messaging or chatting with passengers is even more dangerous in wildlife areas.
  - As always, make sure you and your passengers wear seatbelts.
- 2. Slow down and increase the following distance between you and other cars**
  - When traveling at a higher rate of speed, your ability to take evasive action is greatly reduced.
  - Reducing your speed will increase your response time to avoid colliding with a crossing animal.
- 3. Limit driving in wildlife areas at night**
  - During dusk and dawn a driver's visibility is lowest and wildlife traffic is highest.
  - Except in foggy or snowy conditions, use your high beams to illuminate more of the road and the road-sides.
  - Avoid overdriving your headlights. At speeds above 45 mph, your headlamps can't sufficiently illuminate objects and terrain at the end of the beam for you to take evasive action. When nighttime speed limits exceed 45 mph, it is easy for a motorist to be comfortable with a familiar route and drive too fast for conditions. Better that you arrive at your destination a few minutes late than to arrive very late and with an insurance claim.
  - Look for animals' reflective eyes, often visible from a distance. Note that the eyes of a moose do not reflect light like a deer's eyes.
  - Keep your dashboard lights on low and don't use internal lights that can cause a glare on the inside of the windshield and reduce visibility.
- 4. Be especially careful if you are on a motorcycle**
  - Motorcyclists are particularly at risk. While only 2% of deer-car collisions result in human fatalities, 85% of deer-motorcycle collisions involve human fatalities.
  - Drive with caution, particularly at night.
- 5. Keep up with regular auto maintenance**
  - Make sure your windshield is clean and your dashboard is clear of objects that would obscure your ability to see animals on the road.
  - If you regularly drive in wildlife areas, invest in bright headlights.
- 6. Think like an animal - be familiar with wildlife behavior**
  - You can't always anticipate the unpredictable actions of wildlife traveling across roads, but you can better prepare yourself by learning about wildlife behavior.
  - Wildlife move across the landscape for a wide variety of reasons and at different times of the year, such as mating and hunting seasons. Also be more vigilant of wildlife moving if there are active wildfires in the area.
  - Many wildlife species travel in large groups or herds. Where you see one, many more may be nearby. Watch for mother and offspring groups.
  - Your car is not a natural predator and the animal does not know to get out of your way. Even if an animal sees you, it may still jump in front of your car.
  - If an animal crosses safely in front of your car, proceed with caution because it may turn and try to cross back.
- 7. Don't litter**

Some species enjoy "human" food just as much as we do and will be attracted to roadsides if they smell fast food containers, apple cores, candy wrappers, soda bottles, etc.
- 8. Don't rely on "deer whistles" or other gadgets**

Car-mounted, air-activated or ultrasonic deer whistles have been sold to the general public since the 1970s, claiming to alert deer to the approach of a vehicle and scare them away from roads. The effectiveness of deer whistles has not been proven. Most studies are based on nonscientifically defined anecdotal evidence.

# Watch Out for Wildlife Driver Tip Sheet

## Top 10 tips to help you avoid and prevent collisions with wildlife



### 9. What to do if you see wildlife on or near the road

- Brake firmly but try not to lock your brakes.
- Do not swerve and leave your lane. Many accidents occur when drivers swerve to miss an animal and collide with cars in oncoming lanes or fixed objects such as trees on the roadside.
- If you encounter a group of animals blocking the road, don't try to drive through the group or get out of your car. Try flashing your lights and honking your horn to encourage them to move along.
- Once the animals have moved out of the roadway, proceed with caution until you are out of the area.

### 10. What to do if you hit an animal

- Pull off to the side of the road and put on your flashers. Use flares or reflective triangles if you have them to warn other drivers.
- Don't approach a wounded animal; it may kick, bite or gore you.
- Report it to the state wildlife and transportation agencies, as well as your local police and insurance company. Wildlife and transportation agencies need to keep data on where wildlife-vehicle collisions occur.
- Once alerted, wildlife agents can treat injured animals, examine dead ones, and search for any young left behind.
- If you hit what you believe to be an endangered or threatened species, immediately report it to the state department of natural resources and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

### WHAT MORE YOU CAN DO

#### *Get involved in your local government*

§ Attend county commission, zoning or metropolitan planning organization meetings.

§ Vocalize your concern about loss of wildlife habitat to new road construction and urban expansion.

#### *Write to your state transportation agency*

§ Express your concern about the rapid loss of wildlife habitat to new road construction and expansion.

§ Encourage them to incorporate wildlife considerations into future transportation planning and the renovation of existing infrastructure.

§ Inquire about their current efforts to reduce the impacts of transportation on wildlife.

### HELPFUL LINKS

Dangerous States for Deer-Vehicle Collisions

[http://www.statefarm.com/about/media/media\\_archive/deer.asp](http://www.statefarm.com/about/media/media_archive/deer.asp)

Responsible Driver Tips – Orwell, Ohio Police Department

[http://www.orwellpolice.com/responsible\\_driver.htm](http://www.orwellpolice.com/responsible_driver.htm)

How to Avoid a Moose or Deer Collision

<http://www.wikihow.com/Avoid-a-Moose-or-Deer-Collision>

Deer-Vehicle Crash Countermeasure Toolbox

<http://deercrash.com/Toolbox/index.htm>

Hints for the Highway – What Can Drivers Do

<http://www.wildlifeaccidents.ca/hints.htm>

"Don't Veer For Deer" Safety Campaign

[http://www.dps.state.ia.us/commis/pib/Releases/2006/10-05-2006\\_Deer.htm](http://www.dps.state.ia.us/commis/pib/Releases/2006/10-05-2006_Deer.htm)

# Watch Out for Wildlife!



## WHAT TO DO IF YOU HIT AN ANIMAL

- 1. Pull off to the side of the road, put on your flashers and use flares or reflective triangles to warn other drivers.**
- 2. Don't approach a wounded animal.**
- 3. Take note of your location and the species if possible before reporting it to the appropriate authorities.**

**State wildlife agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Transportation agency:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Local police:** \_\_\_\_\_

**If you hit an endangered species, immediately report it to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: 1-800-344-WILD**

Tear this out, fill in the information and keep in your glove box for a quick reference.