



ca

AMERICA'S WILD ANIMALS

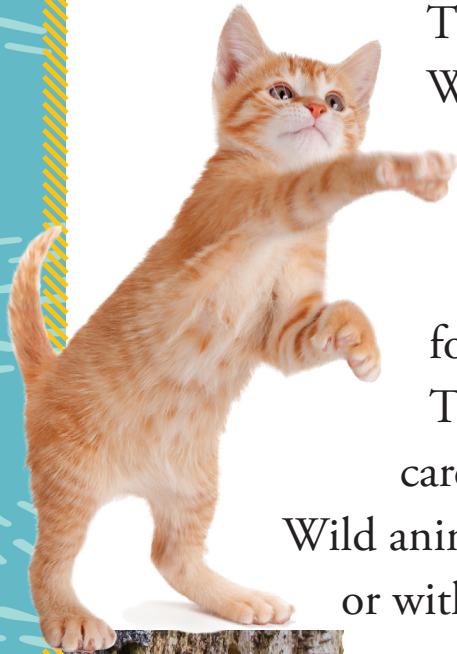


IFAW

International Fund for Animal Welfare

What Is A Wild Animal?

A jaguar cub rests in tall grass. A pet kitten plays in the sun. The jaguar cub and kitten look a lot alike, but they are not the same.



The jaguar cub is a wild animal.

What makes a jaguar cub wild, but not a kitten? Kittens are domestic cats. These cats have lived closely with people

for thousands of years. This changed them long ago. They are no longer wild. They need people to take care of them. Wild animals take care of themselves.

Wild animals find their own food and water. They live alone or with animals like themselves.



What Do Wild Animals Need?

Like all animals, wild animals have needs. They must have certain things in order to live. Wild animals need food to eat and water to drink. They need safe homes where they can live and raise their babies. They need places where they can live alone or with other animals like themselves. Wild animals also need space. They need space to roam and find food or mates or get away from predators.



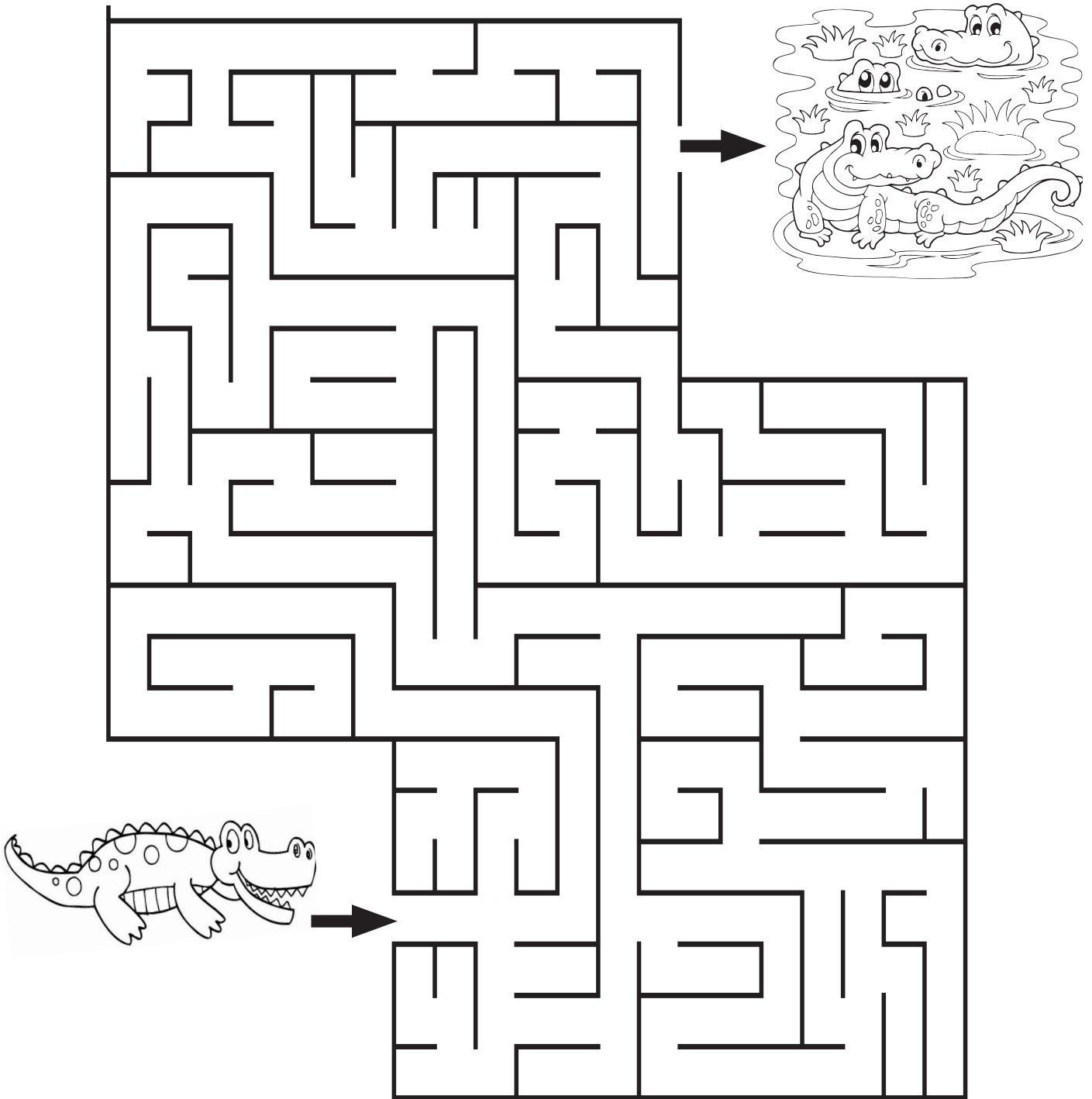
Wild Animals in the USA Jaguar



Did you know?

Jaguars are the largest cats in the Americas. They typically live in forests or woods, but they are also found desert areas, such as Arizona. They tend to stay close to water and they like to fish. They dip their tails into the water to lure fish, much like a fishing line!

Help the Alligator Find His Home



Did you know?

American alligators are the largest reptiles in the United States. Male American alligators average 8 to 10 feet long, while females tend to be slightly smaller.

Spot the differences...

There are 10 things that are different between the two pictures of the deer and his forest home.

Can you spot them all?



Think About It

How does the forest provide the deer with what a wild animal needs?

Keeping Wild Animals Wild

Wild animals live in nature all around us. Butterflies in your garden, birds roosting on buildings, or lizards resting on rocks – these are all wild animals! Some are really cute.

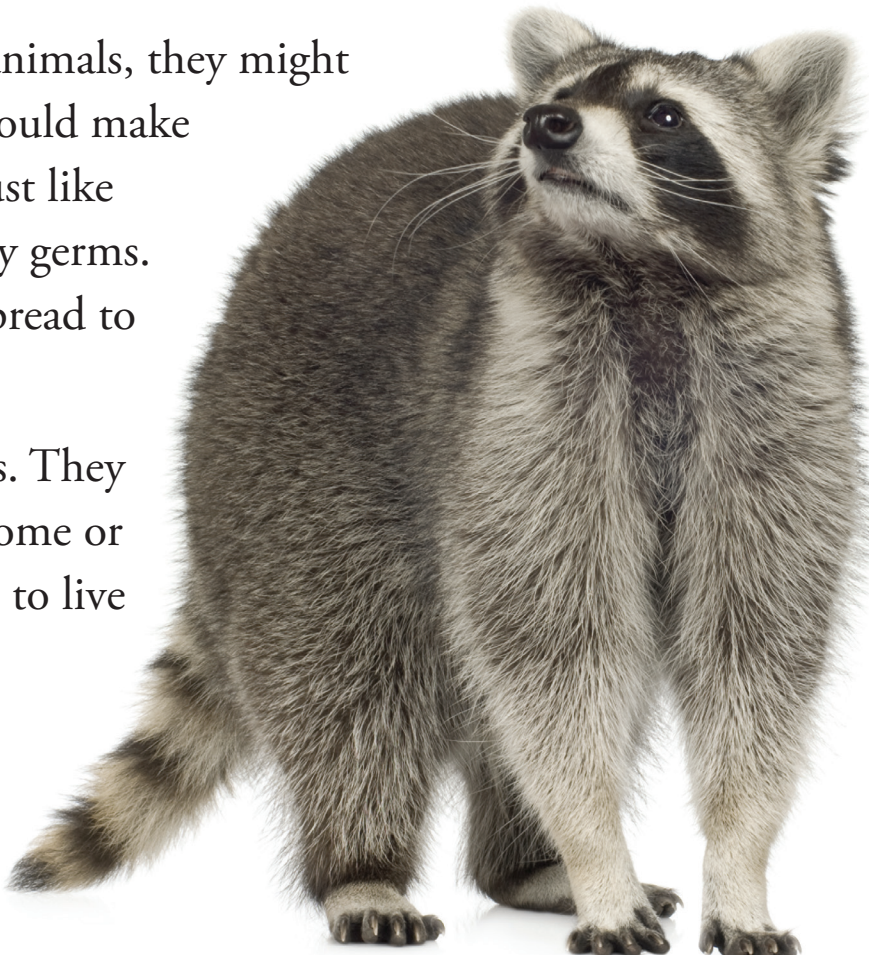
Some are really interesting. You might want to feed or pet them. **Don't do it!**

If you feed wild animals, they may learn to depend on you for food. But wild animals need the food that they naturally hunt for or find. Also, feeding wild animals may make them lose their fear of people. This is unsafe for both wild animals and people.

If you try to touch wild animals, they might get scared or hurt. This could make them bite or kick. And just like people, wild animals carry germs. Sometimes their germs spread to people.

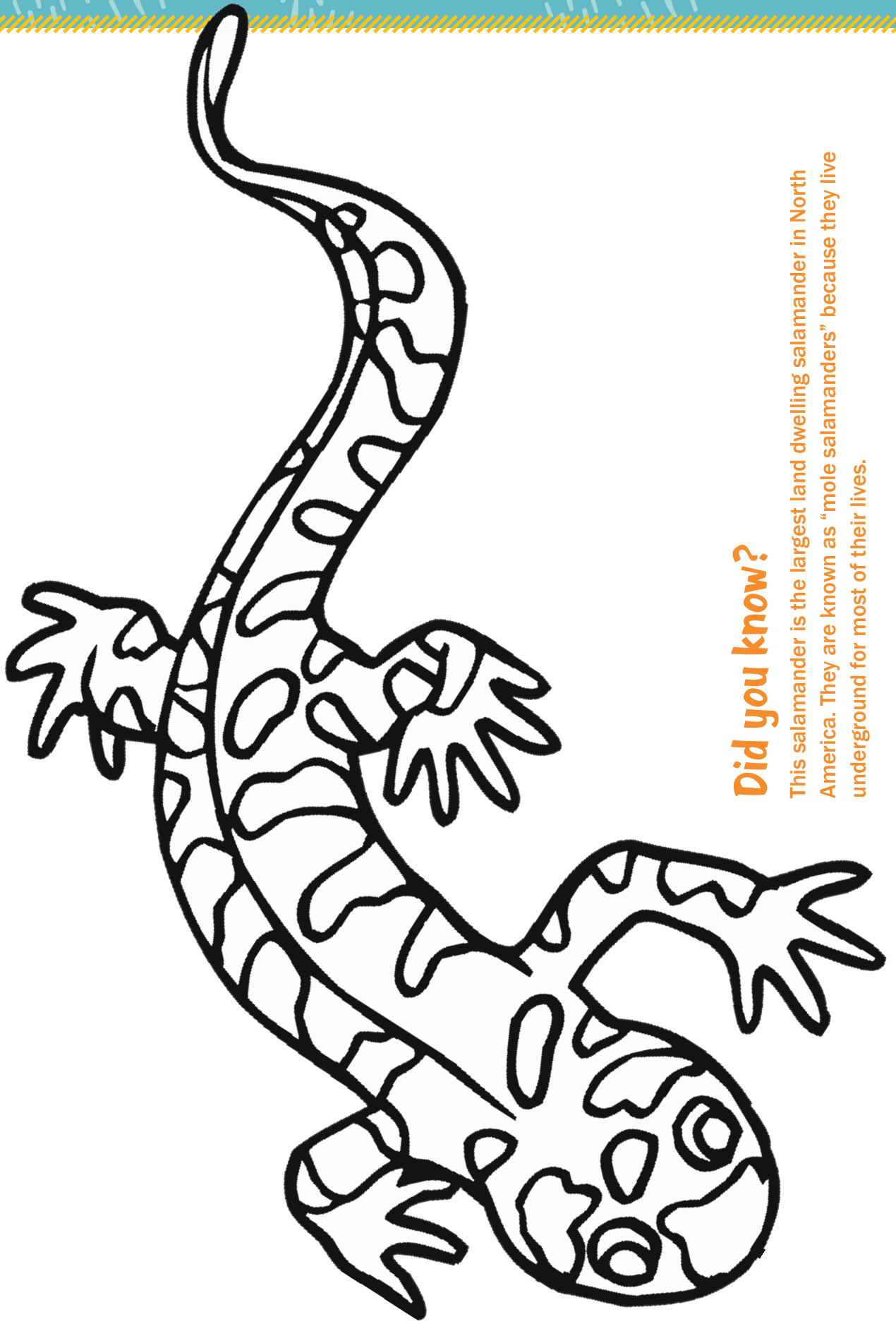
Wild animals are not pets. They should not live in your home or in a cage. They are suited to live in their natural homes.

Wild animals belong in the wild!



I may look cute, but don't feed or pet me!

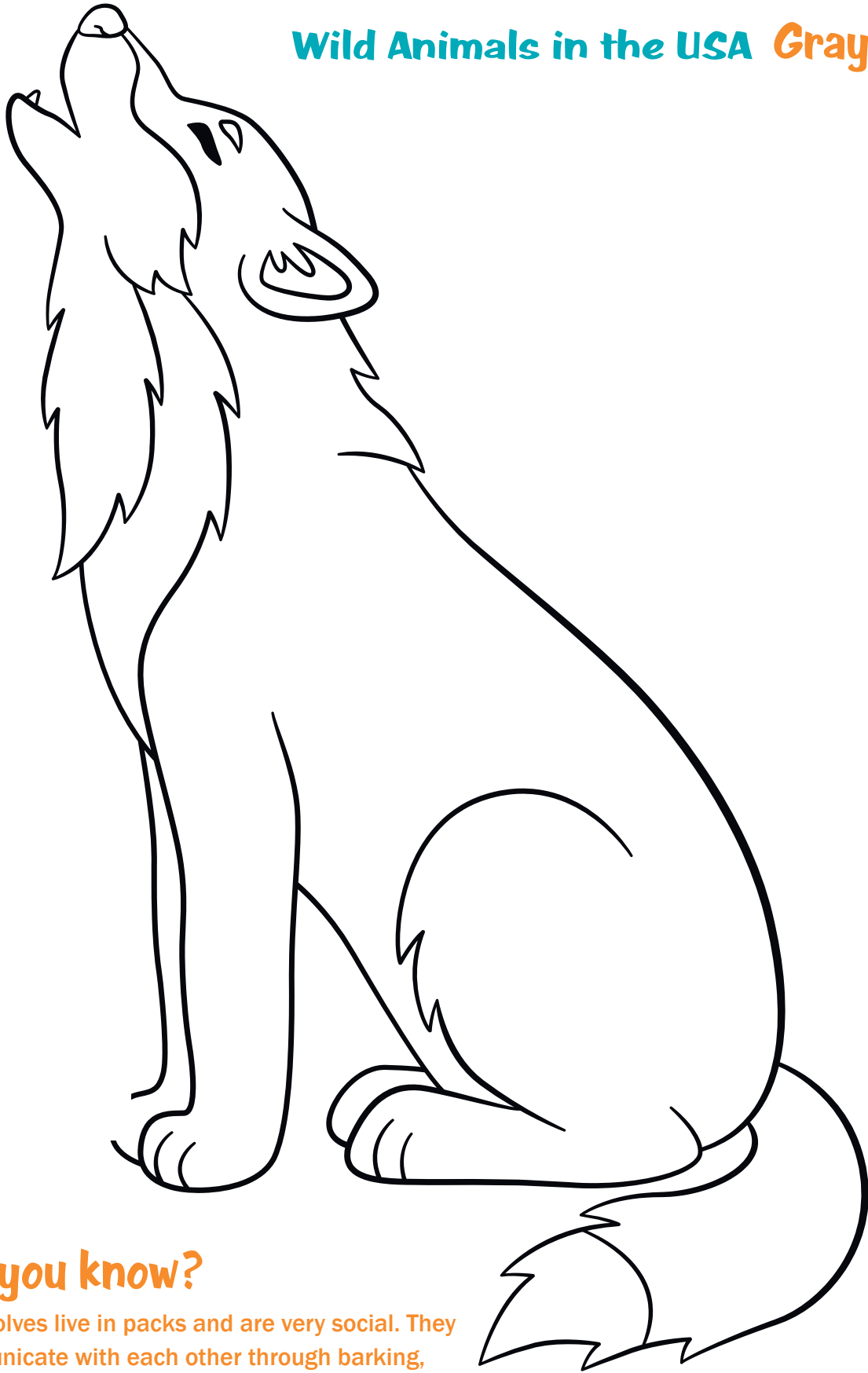
Wild Animals in the USA Tiger Salamander



Did you know?

This salamander is the largest land dwelling salamander in North America. They are known as “mole salamanders” because they live underground for most of their lives.

Wild Animals in the USA Gray Wolf



Did you know?

Gray wolves live in packs and are very social. They communicate with each other through barking, growling and howling, as well as body language, “dancing,” and scent-making.



Be Aware and Take Care

Wild animals are everywhere!
When you go outside:

- Keep your eyes and ears open.
- Slow down, go around and don't step on.
- Walk quietly—don't disturb!
- If you see an animal that needs help, ask a trusted adult to call for help.



Black-footed ferrets are one of the kinds of wild animals protected by laws in the United States because they are in danger of becoming extinct.

Wildlife Need Us!

Some animals, like dinosaurs, once existed but are now gone forever. This is called becoming **extinct**. Unfortunately, there are many kinds of animals in the United States and all around the world that are in danger of becoming extinct.

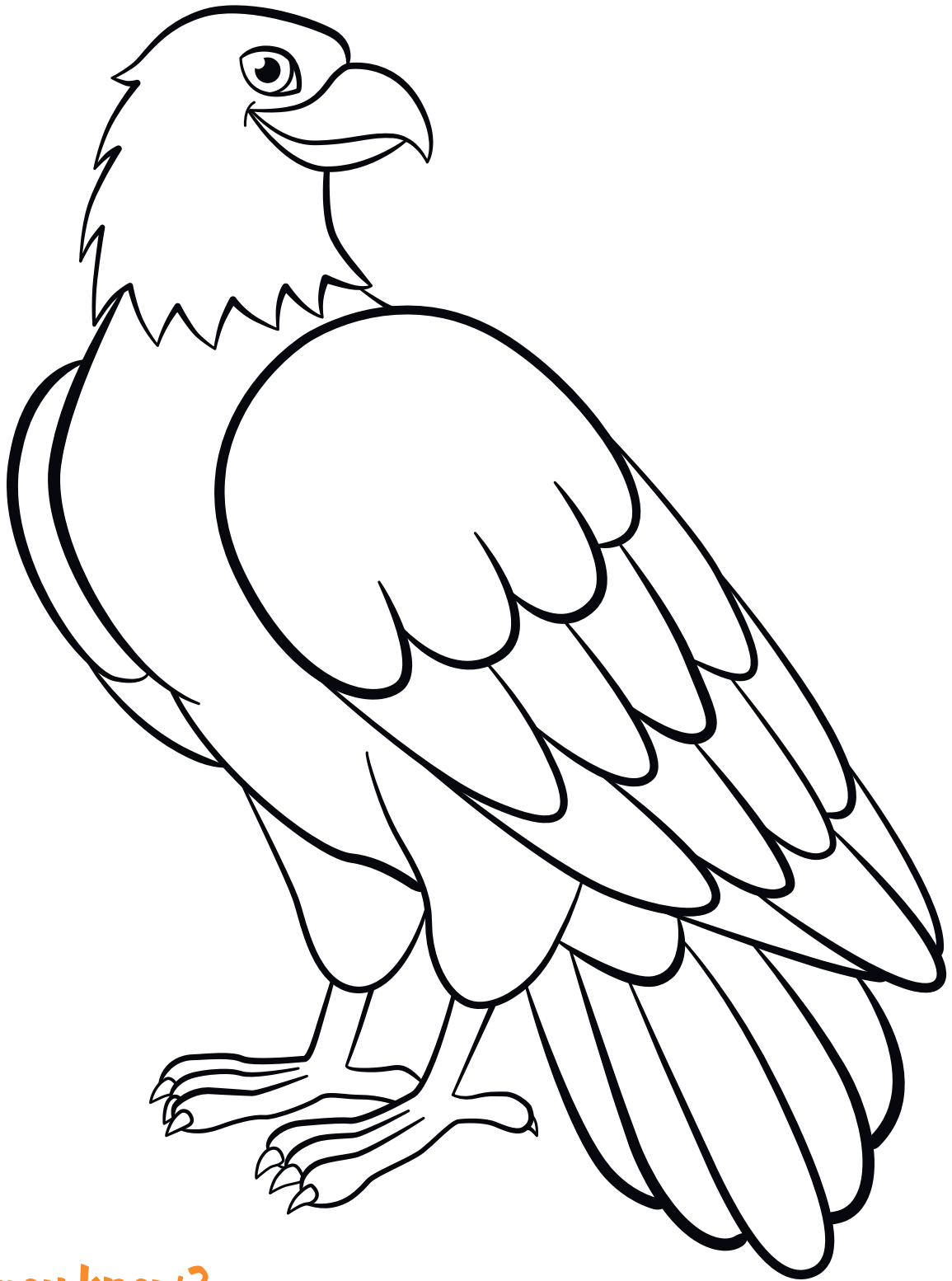
Sometimes this is because of natural changes to the places that animals live that make it hard for them to survive. Sometimes there is not enough of the food they need to eat or temperature changes make it too hot or too cold.

Some animals are in danger because of the things that people do, like hunting to make money or building roads through their natural homes.

Fortunately, there are laws to help prevent wild animals from becoming extinct. We can still see eagles in our skies, right whales in our ocean, and many other wild animals in the United States because these laws have protected them.

We all need to respect wild animals and their homes. This is important because all animals have a role to play in our world.

Wild Animals in the USA **American Eagle**



Did you know?

Even though they have the word “bald” in their name, these birds actually aren’t bald at all! The name comes from an old word that means “white headed”, which they do have.

Wild Animals in the USA **Right Whale**

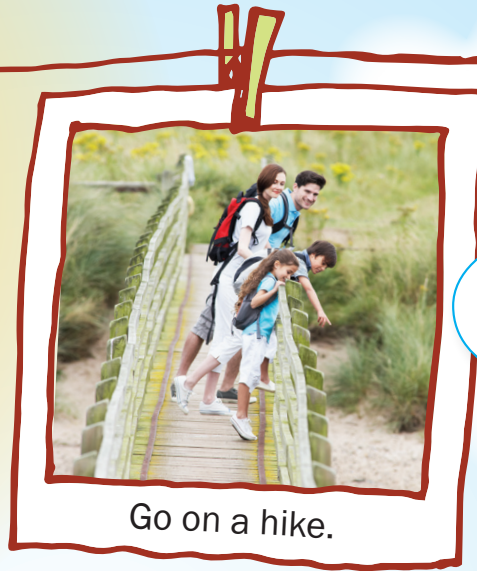


Did you know?

They don't have teeth! Instead they have a mouth full of long bristles called baleen. They take in big gulps of sea water and eat the small fish and other tiny creatures that get caught in the baleen strands.

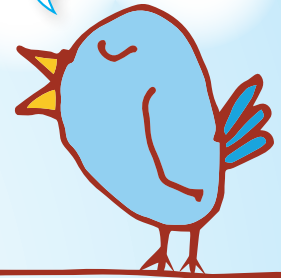
Watching Wildlife

Wild animals can be fun to observe—from a distance. When we see wild animals, it's important that we don't harm or disturb them, and we keep ourselves safe, too. Here are some ways to watch wildlife:



Go on a hike.

Stay on the path.



Go canoeing.



Walk along a beach.

Take only photos.



Look out the window.



Bring binoculars and go bird watching.

Draw a picture

of a wild animal that you like and are concerned about.
Where does it live? Show this in your picture too.

Shadow Animals

Can you guess what wild animal shadows are shown on this page? Write the name in the space provided. Then, try making shadow animals with your own hands by using these pictures as a guide.



Answers: Wolf, Butterfly, Bear

Color and cut-out the bear body, head and face. Then glue them all together to make your grizzly.

Wild Animals in the USA Grizzly Bear

HEAD

BODY

FACE

Did you know?

Grizzly bears hibernate in the winter. They dig dens in the hillside. Females give birth during this time, usually to twins.



North America



IFAW

International Fund for Animal Welfare