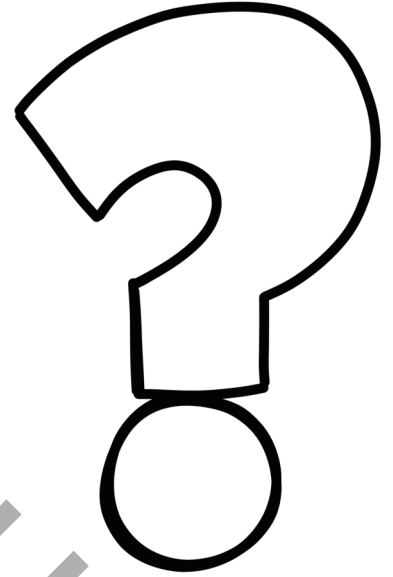


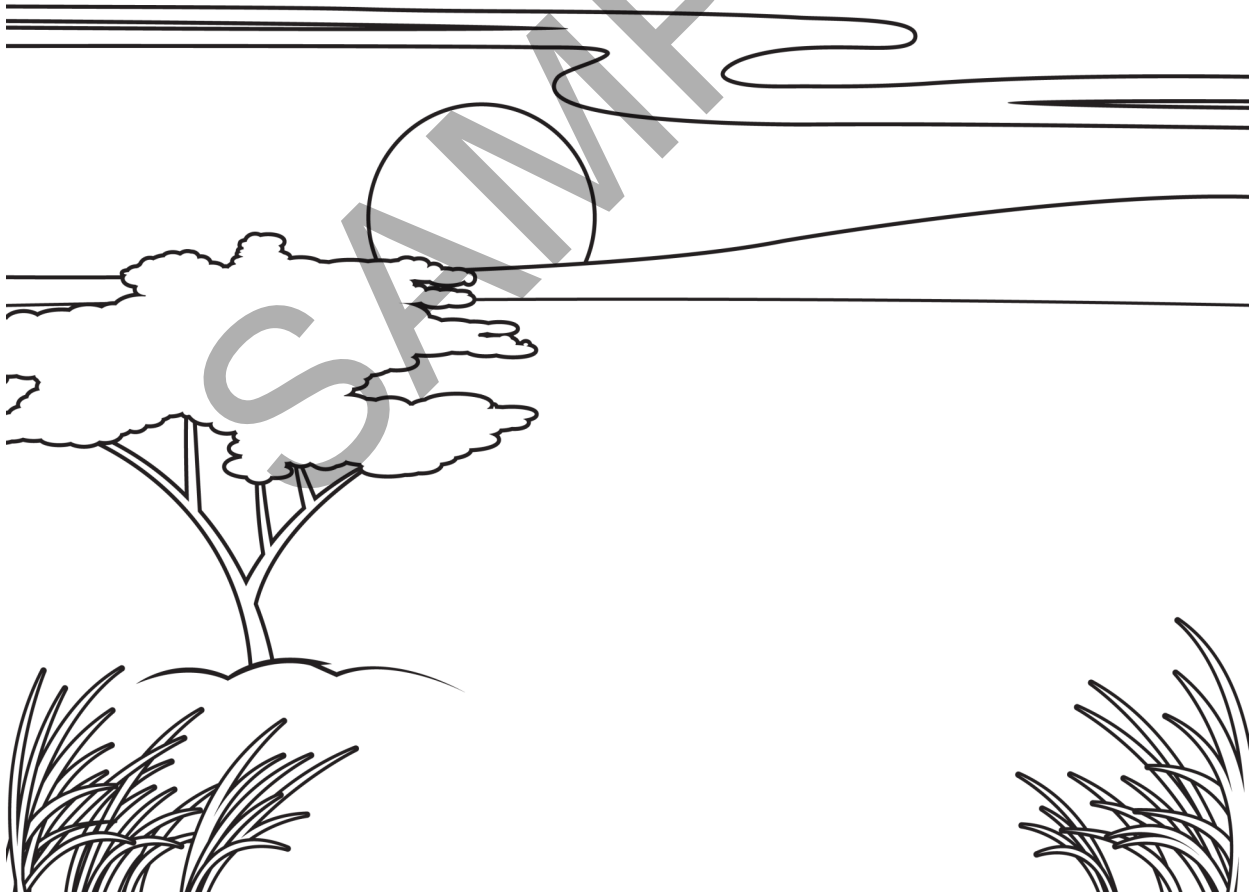
Animal Habitats of the World

What is a **habitat**? A habitat is a type of place that an animal usually lives. Every type of animal in the world has a place that is best designed for that animal to live and grow strong and healthy. Some animals need hot, dry deserts. Others need an ocean full of water. Some animals need very special places to live, like the koala who eats eucalyptus leaves and plants. Other animals can live almost anywhere you can imagine, like certain types of birds. Your home is even a habitat for your pets!

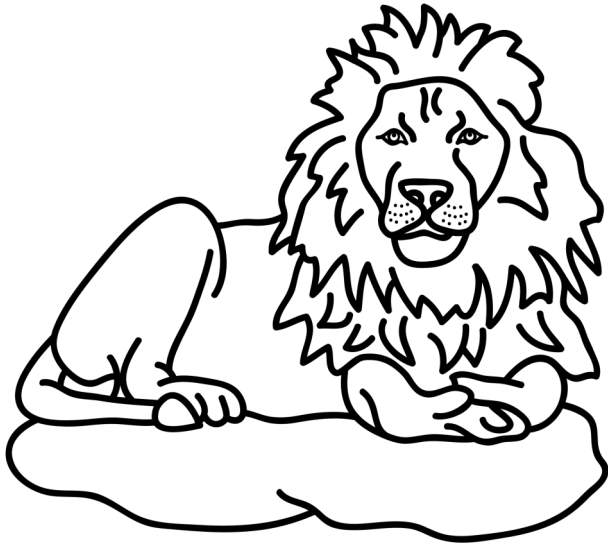


Because plants and animals are nearly everywhere in the world, habitats are everywhere, too. From the frozen arctic to the hot jungle, you can find habitats and the animals who live in them. Let's look in Africa for our first habitat.

Habitat



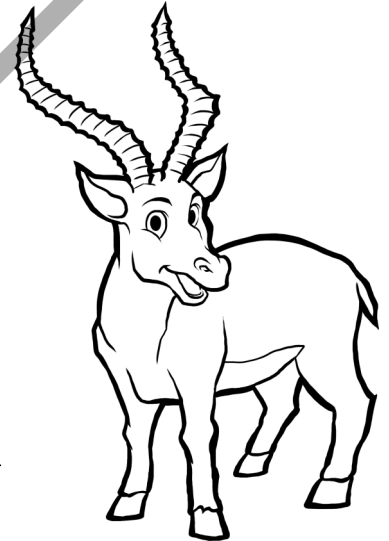
African savanna



More than two-fifths of Africa is savanna. There are wide open areas of tall grass with only a few trees scattered around, and there are woodland areas that have many more trees. Many incredible animals live in the **African savanna**. Perhaps one of the most famous is the **African lion**, one of the largest of the world's "big cats." Groups of lions are called prides.

African lion

The **impala** is an antelope that might be lunch for the lion if it's not careful! Thankfully, it is very good at running and jumping, which helps keep it safe. It can run up to 50 miles (80 kilometers) per hour and jump as far as 30 feet (9 meters) in one leap! The male impalas also have horns that grow up to 3 feet (90 centimeters) long that it uses to fight off enemies. Impalas enjoy eating the fruit, grass, and leaves they find in the savanna.

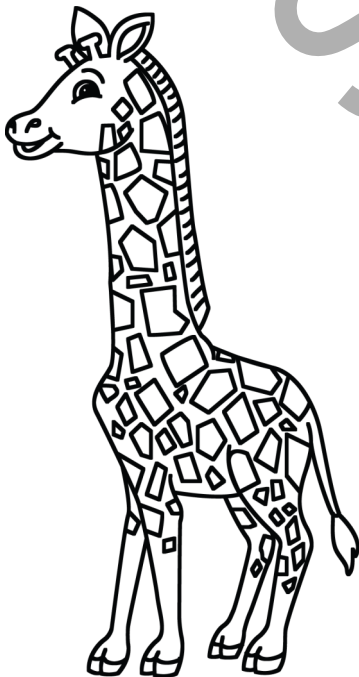
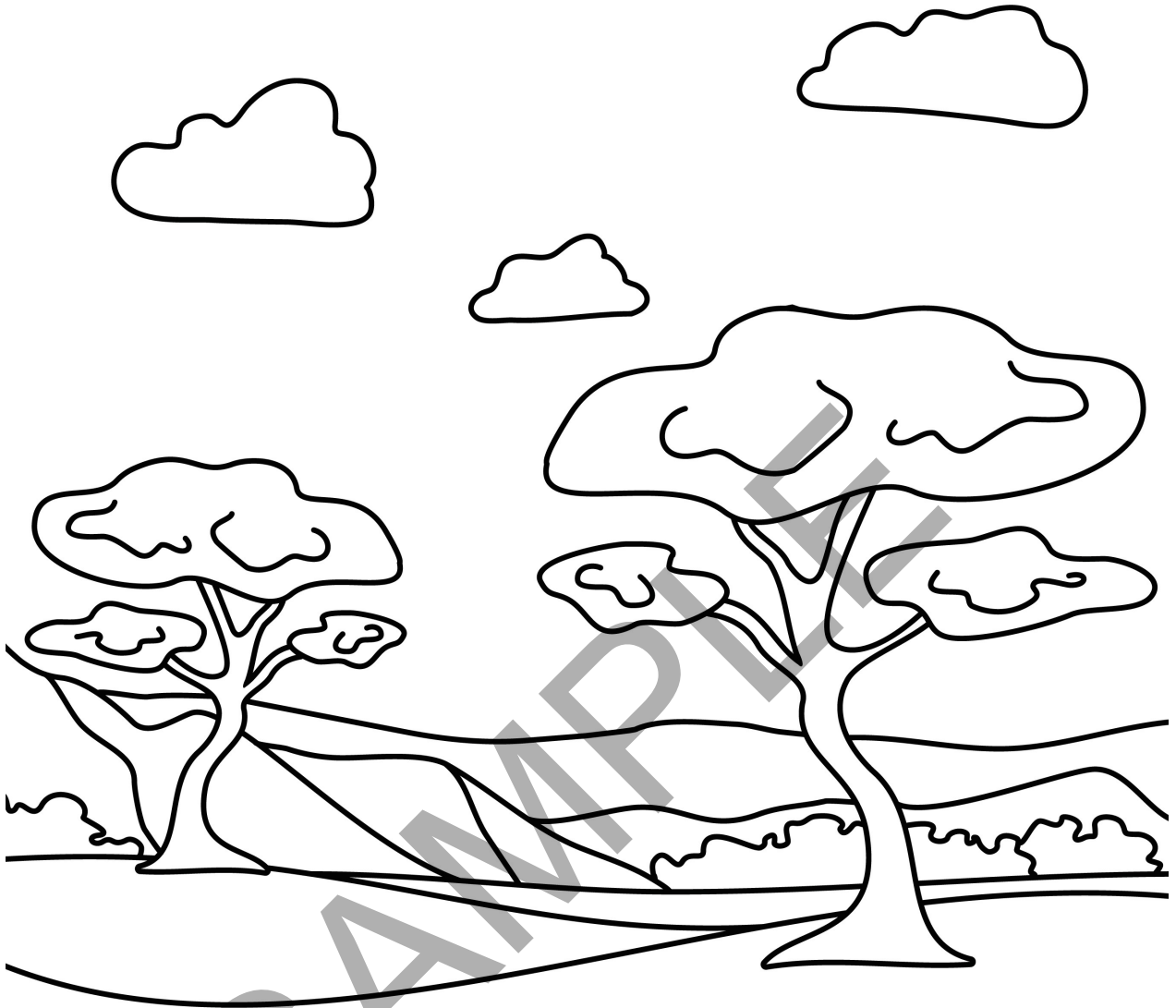


Impala



The **African wild dog** is not the kind of dog you would want for a pet! As a matter of fact, it's one of the animals that hunts impalas. It might seem strange that a small dog could bring down an antelope as large as the impala, but African wild dogs hunt in groups called packs that make them very dangerous. Their coats are spotted with different colors such as yellow, grey, black, and white. A mother can give birth to up to ten pups at a time, which is more than any other kind of dog has in one litter.

African wild dog



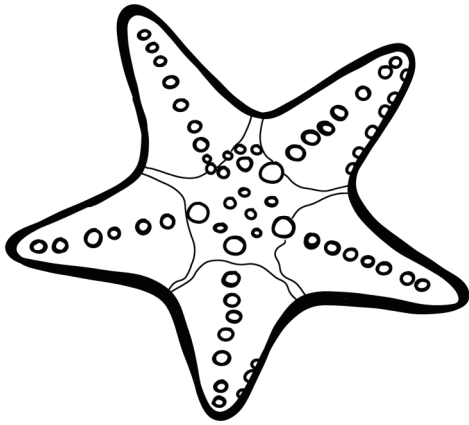
If you take a look around the more wooded areas of the African savanna, you'll find many more amazing animals. One I'm sure you've seen lots of pictures of is the **giraffe**. The giraffe is the tallest animal alive! It can grow to be 18 feet (5.5 meters) tall! Just its legs can be 6 feet (1.8 meters) long. Its neck can be even longer, even though it is made up of only seven bones—the same number of bones we have in our necks.

Giraffe



Beach

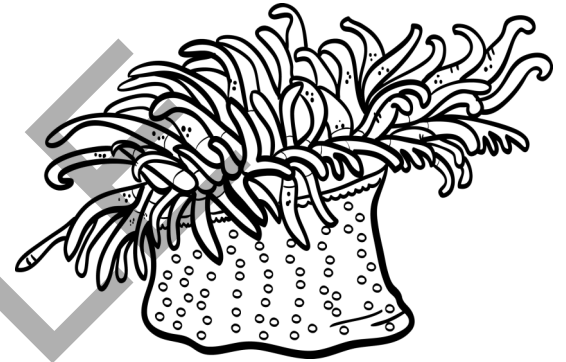
A **beach** happens just about anywhere land and water meet, so as you can imagine, there are all different kinds of beaches in all different parts of the world. Some are hot; some are cold. Some are sandy; some are rocky. On rocky beaches, when the tide goes out, water is left behind in tide pools. Tide pools are a special habitat all their own, giving ocean animals a place to live until the tide comes and washes them back out to the open water. Let's look at some of the animals that make their home in tide pools on the beach.



Despite its name, a **starfish** (or a sea star) is not a fish. Most starfish have five "arms" that reach out from their bodies. These arms have grooves in them full of tube feet. The tube feet have small disks that can grab onto other things using suction. All these tiny tube feet help starfish crawl and find food.

Starfish

A **sea anemone** looks more like a plant than an animal. It can be very small, only 1/4 inch (6 millimeters) wide or very large, more than 3 feet (90 centimeters) across. One side of the anemone has a foot it uses to hold onto rocks or shells. The other side has tentacles it uses to catch the small animals it eats.

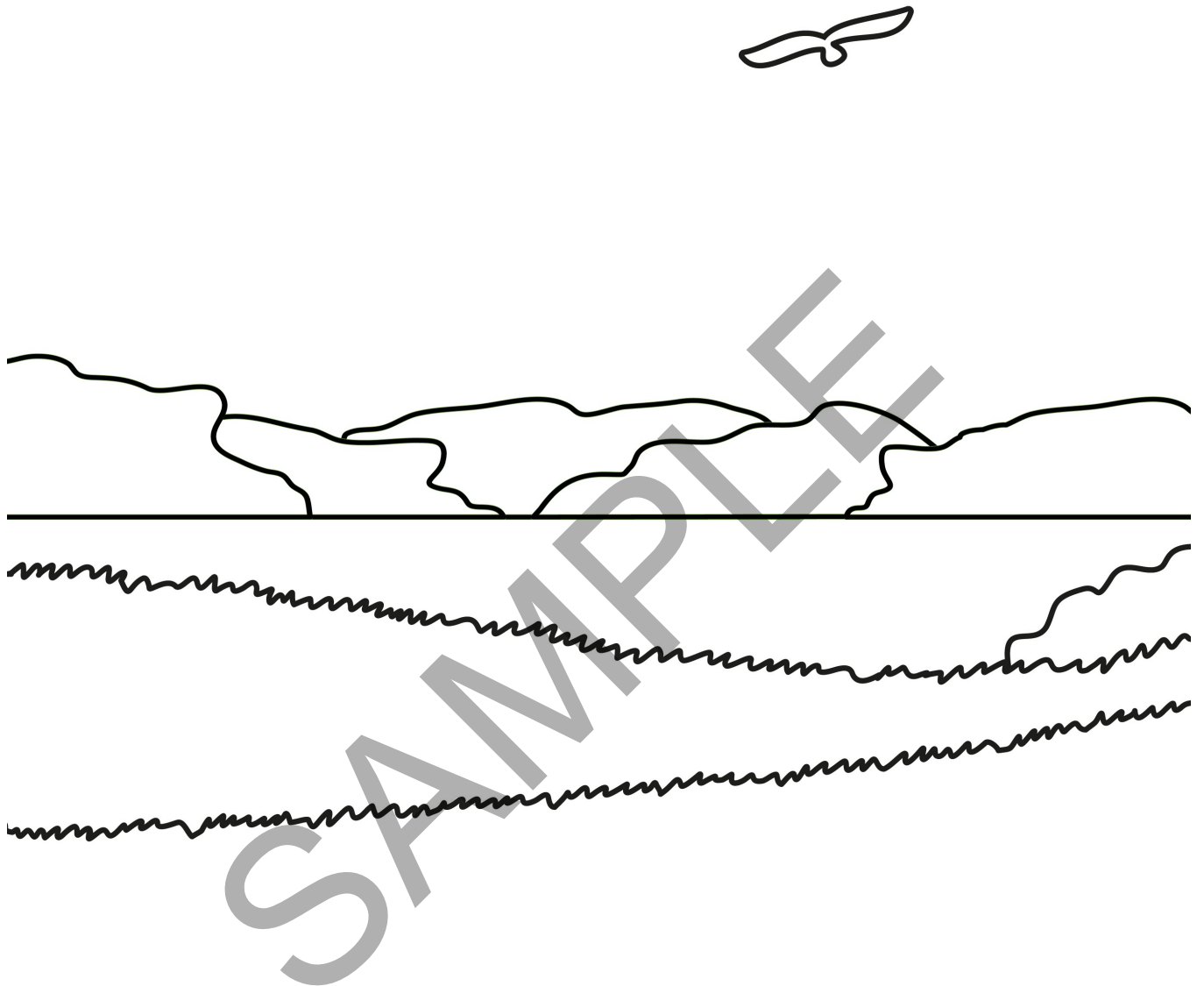


Sea anemone



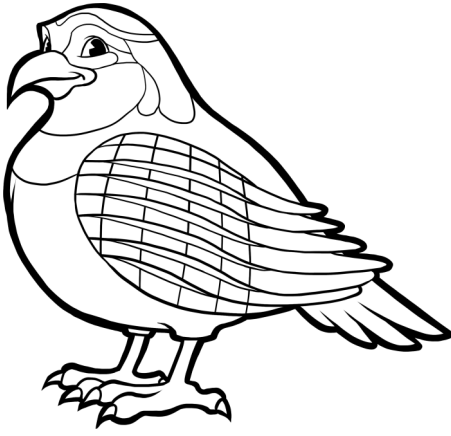
A **hermit crab** is not what you'd call a friendly animal. It makes its home in the shell of another animal, like a snail. Usually, it waits until the snail is done using the shell, but sometimes, it will pull a snail right out of its shell and move in! The hermit crab uses two limbs to hold onto the shell and uses its other legs and claws to walk.

Hermit crab



Prairie

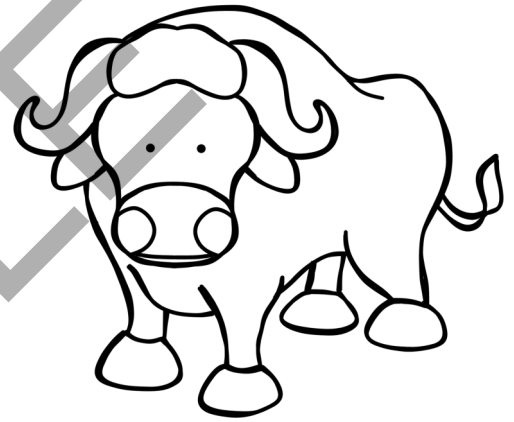
A **prairie** is a place that is mostly covered by tall grasses. The land can be flat or hilly. It can look like a sea or carpet of grass. The grass can grow taller than a person! There are prairies in different parts of the world, including the American Midwest, the Prairie Provinces of Canada, the Pampas of Argentina, the veld of South Africa, the Canterbury Plains of New Zealand, and parts of Europe. We're going to learn about three types of animals who call the prairie home.



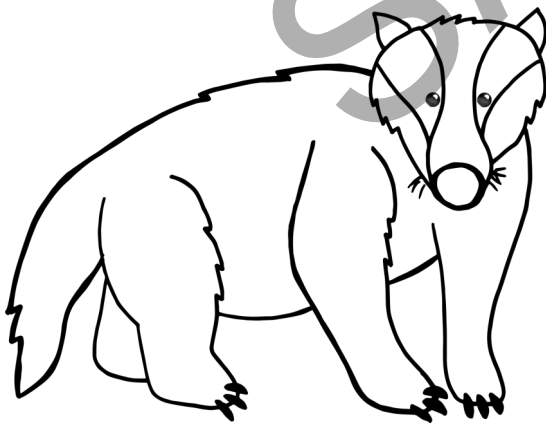
Quails are small birds that live on every continent except Antarctica. They are usually around 8 to 12 inches (20 to 30 centimeters) long. Males are often brown or gray with patterns of reddish-brown, blue, white, or black feathers. Females are usually brown, tan, or gray. They blend in well with the grasses they live in. Quails live in groups called coveys during the autumn and winter.

Quail

The **bison**, which in America is often mistakenly called a buffalo, has a large head and neck and humped shoulders. Unlike true buffaloes, which have 13 pairs of ribs, the bison has 14 pairs. Bison are brown and black and have horns like cattle. An adult male bison, called a bull, can be 10 to 12.5 feet (3 to 3.8 meters) long and weigh between 1,600 to 2,000 pounds (726 to 910 kilograms), though very large bison can weigh as much as 3,000 pounds (1,400 kilograms).



Bison



Badgers are mammals that live in North America, Europe, and Asia. They have short bodies, black feet with long claws, and short, bushy tails. Badgers can dig very fast and dig burrows to live in or use to escape predators. Badgers come out mostly at night and like eating squirrels, birds, lizards, rabbits, some rodents, and insects. Female badgers have anywhere from one to five badger cubs at one time.

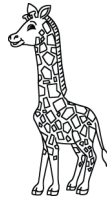
Badger

Review

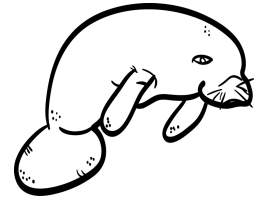
Which of the following animals does not live in the African savanna? Draw an X over it.



Impala

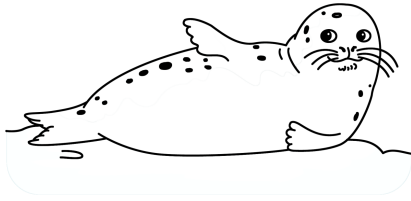


Giraffe



Manatee

Which of the following animals live in the arctic? Draw a circle around it.



Harp seal



Camel

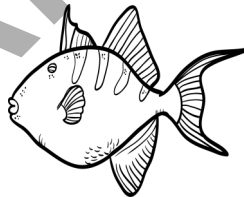


Wombat

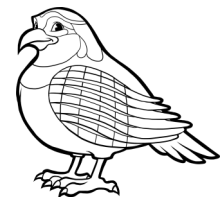
Which of the following animals does not live in coral reefs? Draw an X over it.



Sea urchin

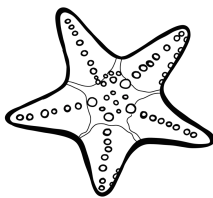


Triggerfish



Quail

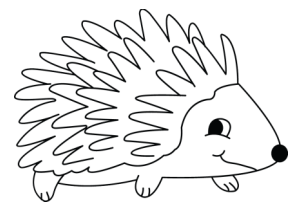
Which of the following animals could you find on the beach? Draw a circle around it.



Starfish



Rooster



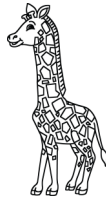
Hedgehog

Review Answer Key

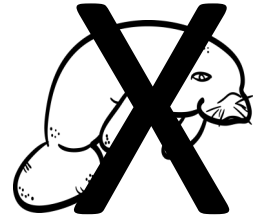
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Impala

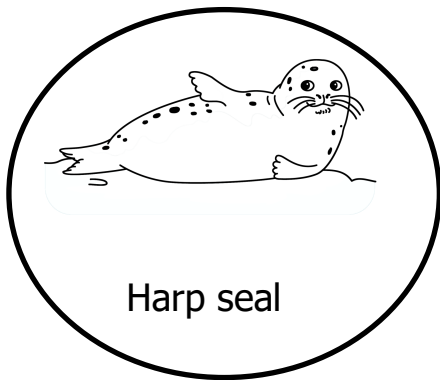


Giraffe

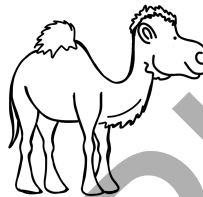


Manatee

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Harp seal

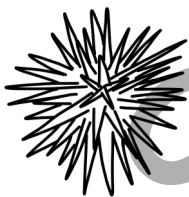


Camel

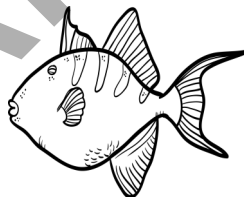


Wombat

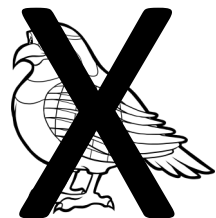
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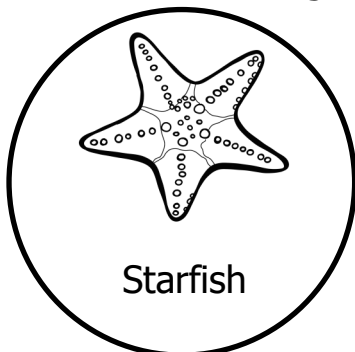


Triggerfish



Quail

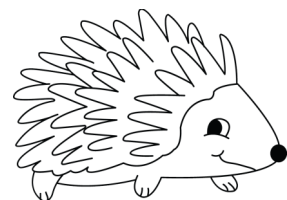
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Starfish



Rooster



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