



Animal Secrets



photo courtesy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Mini Fact:

A male bear is called a **boar**, a female bear is called a **sow**, and a baby bear is called a **cub**.

How are you like a bear? Could a deer jump over your dad's head?

An exhibit called "Animal Secrets" at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, encourages kids and families to look at the world as a naturalist does. The exhibit was created by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry in Portland. It continues in Pittsburgh until December. The exhibit will also travel to Rochester, Minnesota, and Chicago.

In the woods

In one of the exhibit sections, visitors meet animals of the forest by entering their environments. For example, kids can crawl into a hollow log and see where a raccoon makes its home.



Kids discover fish in an eagle's nest at the Animal Secrets exhibit. Can you think of why there are fish in the nest?

• **Animal secret:** An American beaver can **fell**, or cut down, a tree in just three minutes using its front teeth.

Exploring the meadow

In another section, visitors can part the grass in a meadow to follow animal footprints and listen to sounds to track animals.

• **Animal secret:** Using their long, powerful legs, deer can run up to 40 mph and jump over a 6-foot-tall person.

Along the stream

Animal Secrets shows kids how to look more closely at nature and find the answers to questions about animals.



Visitors can create their own stories about the animals who live near the stream and help them build homes using trees and logs.

A dry stream table in the exhibit teaches how animals find food and shelter and take care of their babies.

• **Animal secret:** Beavers are especially equipped to work underwater. When they swim underwater, their nose and ear valves close to keep water out.

In the cave

Visitors to the cave area use their senses of sight, hearing and touch to learn about animals who live in and visit caves, such as bats. They also get to solve an animal mystery using bones, fur and tracks.



A dad and daughter build a giant model of an ant.

• **Animal secret:** Bears, like humans, use trails and roads to get to their food and water sources.



photos courtesy Carnegie Museum of Natural History

A young naturalist carefully examines and sorts rocks and shells to create his own museum collection.

Be a naturalist

In the Animal Secrets exhibit, kids can become **naturalists**, or experts in the study of natural history. Students can work with real field equipment to examine natural items, just as professional naturalists do.

Kids can compare five animal skulls and create a museum exhibit out of natural artifacts, or items from our environment. Puzzle pieces with different animals tracks can be assembled to figure out which animal made the tracks.

• **Animal secret:** Foxes stalk their prey, much like a cat. They are also known to play with their catch before killing it.



Resources



On the Web:

- omsi.edu/for-kids
- youtu.be/FTHEjKnfqCQ

At the library:

- "Woods, Ponds & Fields" by Ellen Doris
- "Caves: Mysteries Beneath Our Feet" by David L. Harrison

Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of animals are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:



- ANIMALS, ARTIFACT,
- CAVE, COLLECTION,
- ENVIRONMENT,
- EXAMINE, EXHIBIT,
- EXPLORE, FELL,
- MEADOW,
- NATURALIST, NATURE,
- PUZZLE, QUESTIONS,
- SECRETS, SORT,
- STREAM, WOODS.

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

Cook's Corner

Cucumber Snacks

You'll need:

- 1 large cucumber
- 1/2 cup low-fat cottage cheese
- 2 tablespoons fat-free mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup light sour cream
- 2 tablespoons grated parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon dill weed

What to do:

1. Wash and peel cucumber; cut into 1/4-inch-thick slices (approximately 15 rounds).
2. Place all other ingredients in a small bowl and mix well.
3. Top cucumber rounds with evenly divided cheesy mixture.
4. Chill for 30 minutes.



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

Puzzling

Unscramble the words below that remind us of animal secrets.



- asauntrilt _____
- deilf _____
- peoerxl _____
- nevenoritnm _____

Answers: naturalist, field, explore, environment.

Mini Joke



Tammy: What animal has a bill but is not a bird?
Terry: A ger-bill!

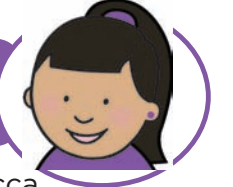
Eco Note



Japanese researchers say that social ranking among roosters determines which is first to crow at the break of dawn. Scientists from Nagoya University say the rooster that first gets to proclaim "cock-a-doodle-doo" is the bossiest one. When that one is removed, the next-bossiest gets to crow first.

adapted with permission from Earthweek.com

Thank You



The Mini Page thanks Becca Shreckengast, director of exhibit experience at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for help with this issue.

Teachers:

For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bbs.amuniversal.com/teaching_guides.html

The Mini Page® © 2015 Universal Uclick

Books from The Mini Page are wonderful resources and make great gifts! See all of our Mini Page products at MiniPageBooks.com, or call 844-426-1256 for more information. Mail payment to: Universal Uclick, Mini Page Books, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106. Include \$4.00 shipping and handling per order.



Original Mini Page format and includes Mini Spy puzzles.

\$15.99