

Tahoe Nature Activity Book



Nature Discovery Activities

www.tinsweb.org

Welcome to the

Tahoe Nature Activity Book



Hey Kids!

Are you curious about nature in your own backyard?

In this book, you can learn more about the natural wonders of the Lake Tahoe area. You will find a variety of fun natural science challenges to help you discover and learn about the many animals and plants around Tahoe. Let's get out and explore Tahoe's nature throughout the seasons.

Hey Parents & Teachers!

Activities in this book are designed to enhance grades K-2 curricula and align with Tahoe Institute for Natural Science (TINS) programming. TINS invites you check our calendar of events and join us for family nature outings around Lake Tahoe. We offer winter wildlife snowshoe treks, wildflower and birding outings, and more.

Become a TINS member to help support our in-school programs, special events, and hands-on science field trips. Members also receive discounts on summer camps.

The Tahoe Institute for Natural Science connects children and their families to nature to encourage greater appreciation, understanding, and stewardship of Tahoe's natural resources for generations to come.

Join TINS today: www.tinsweb.org



Will Richardson, Ph.D.
Executive Director



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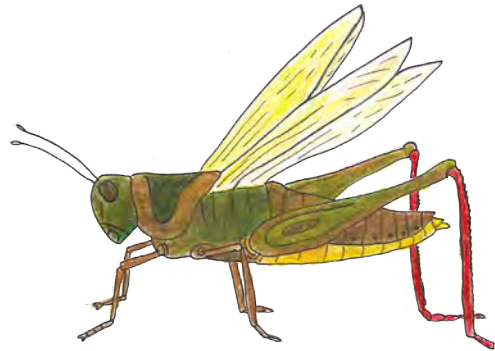
Investigating Insects

We live in a world of insects, the most abundant group of animals on earth!

Grasshopper Body Parts

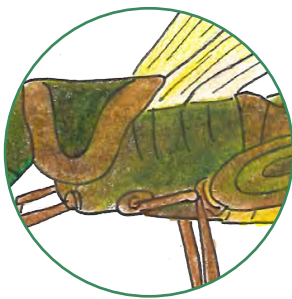
Insects have three main body parts:

- The **head** includes the eyes, two antennae, and mouth.
- The **thorax** is in the middle, where four wings and six legs are attached.
- The **abdomen** is the largest part and holds the insect's heart.



All insects have a hard outer shell (exoskeleton) that protects them from harm.

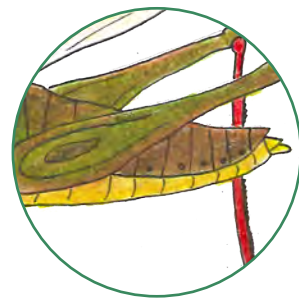
Write the name of the body parts you see:



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____

What is your favorite insect?



Draw the Pollinator

Using the clues provided, draw the pollinator that would think each flower is the tastiest.

Pollinators are animals that help plants reproduce, that is, make new plants.

The flowers create sugary nectar, and some pollinators drink the nectar as food.

As the pollinator moves from flower to flower, sticky pollen gets picked up and moved to different flowers. This starts the process of growing seeds, which become new plants.

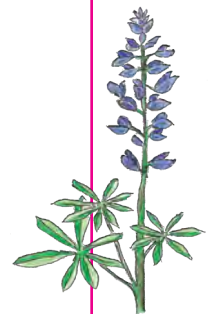
Yarrow has a cluster of flat flowers that acts like a landing pad for many pollinators.

(clue): This insect has four large wings and a straw-like mouth part for drinking nectar, called a proboscis.



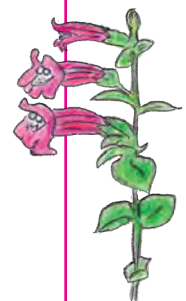
Lupine Most lupines have purple flowers and help the soil.

(clue): This pollinator is known for buzzing around flowers. Lupine is just the right shape, scent, and color to attract this insect.



Mountain Pride This bright flower grows in cracks of granite. These flowers have long tubular petals.

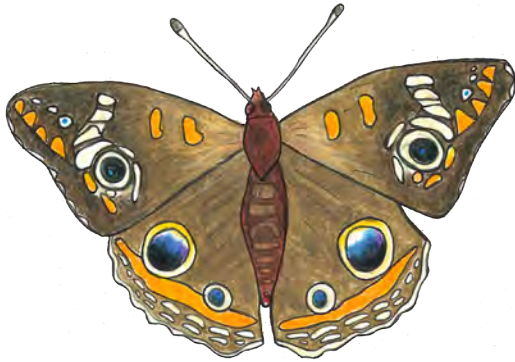
(clue): This pollinator has a long beak to reach the nectar deep within vase-like flowers. These birds can hover and fly in all directions.



Butterfly vs. Moth

Butterflies and moths are both beautiful pollinating insects. The best way to tell the difference between a butterfly and a moth is to look at their antennae.

Common Buckeye Butterfly



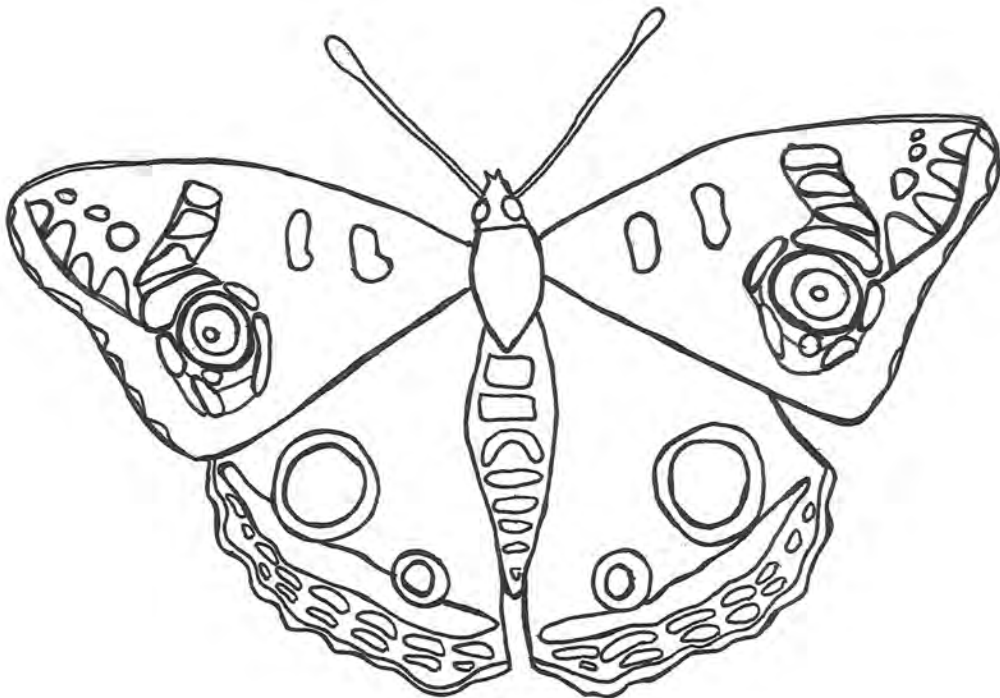
Butterflies usually fly in the daytime and have brighter colors. They tend to have a solid antennae with a ball on top.

Ceanothus Silk Moth



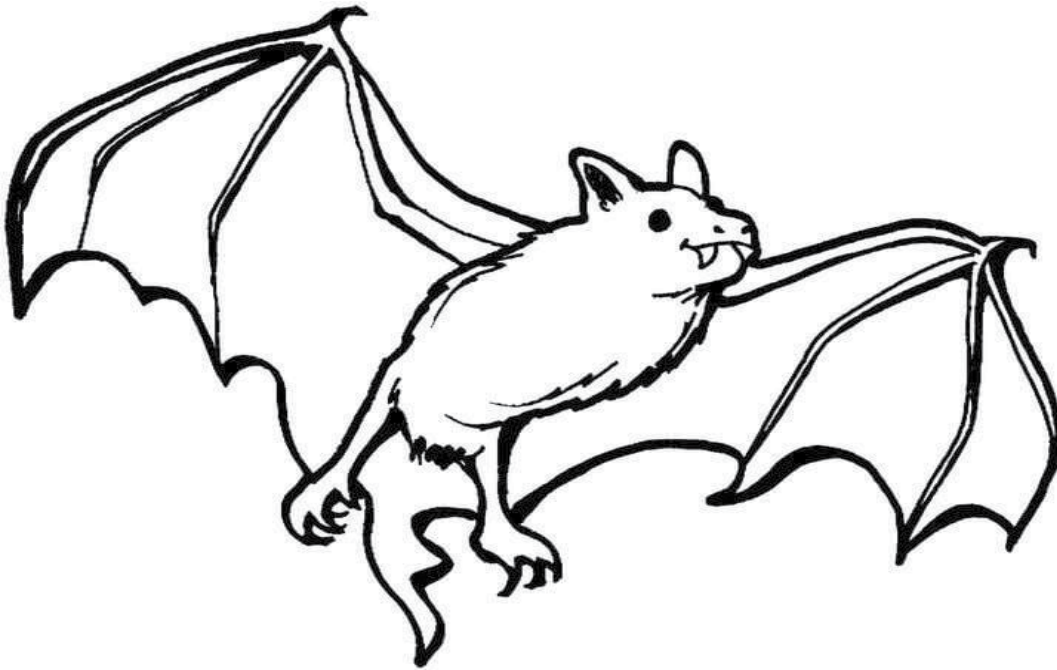
Moths typically come out at night and tend to be fuzzy. Their antennae look like feathers or threads and don't have a ball on top.

Now it is your turn to give this butterfly some color!



Bat Coloring

Brighten up the bats below with some color!

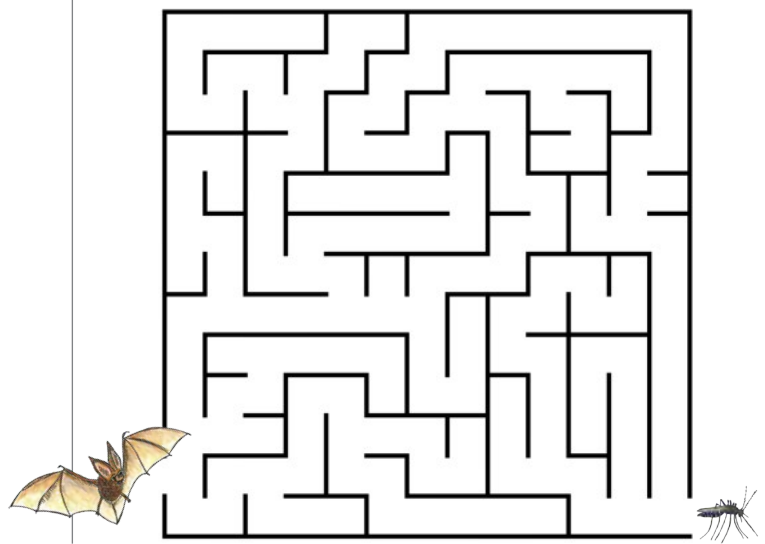
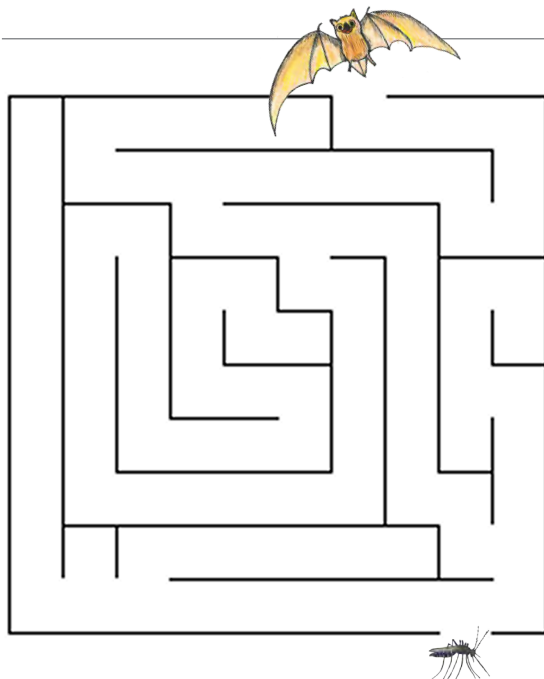
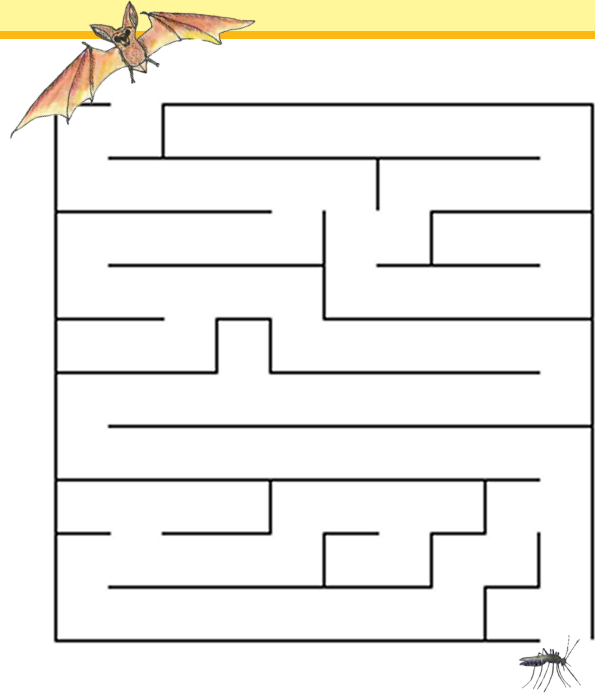
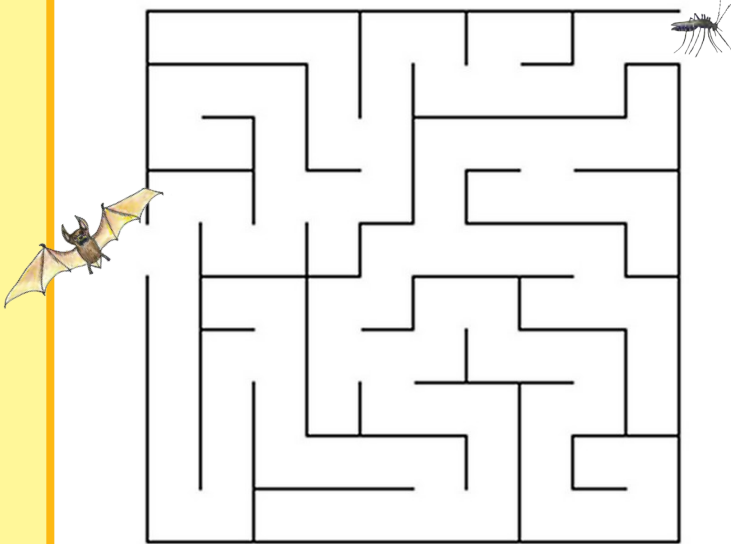


Why do you like bats? _____

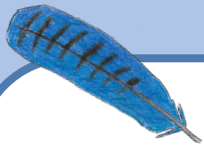
Superpowered Bats



Show these bats the way to their food through tracing a path to the insects.



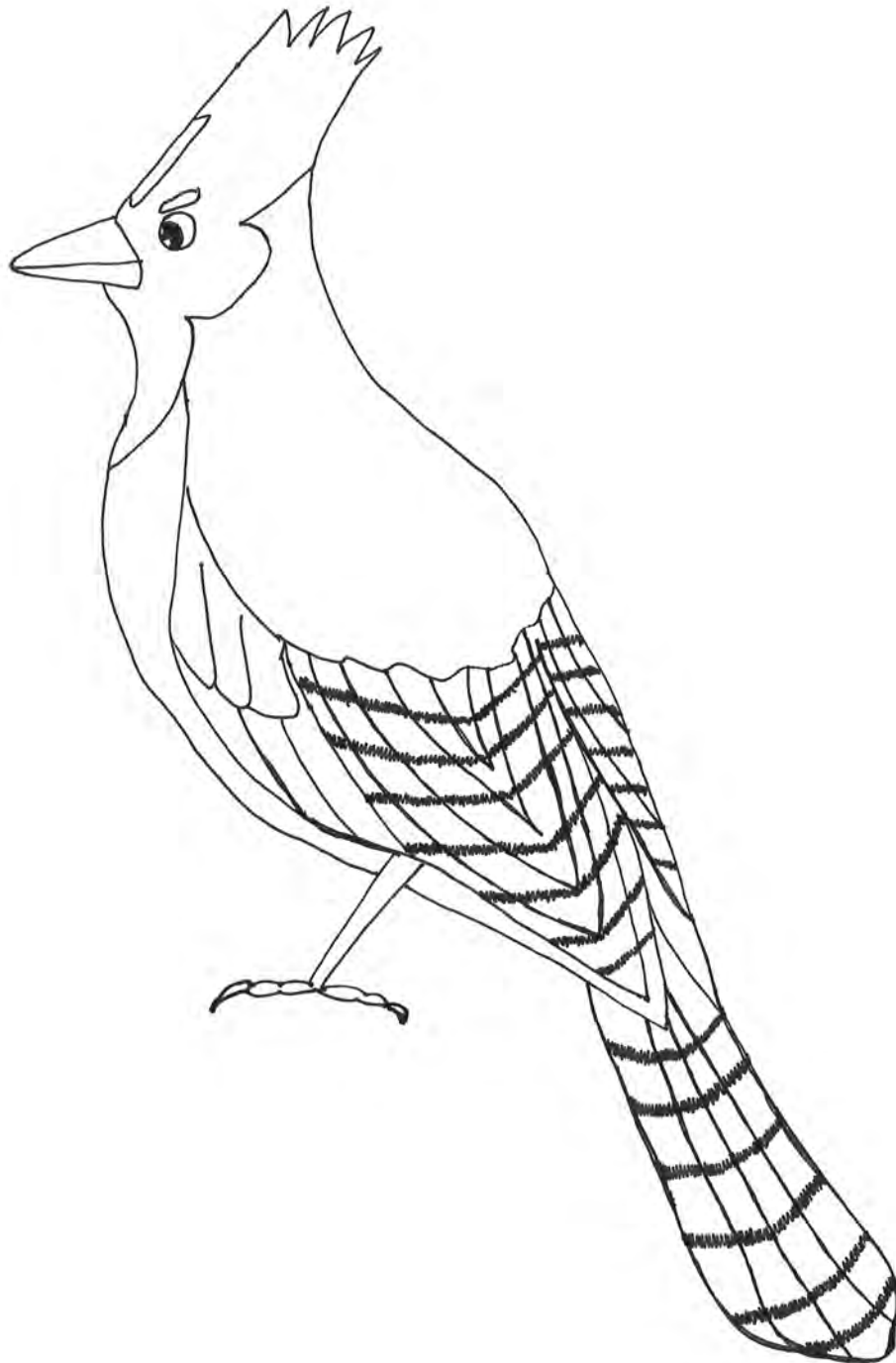
Bats use a superpower called echolocation to chase and eat their favorite food, insects. Echolocation allows bats to know what is around them using sounds made with their nose or mouth rather than using their eyes to see. This superpower also helps bats avoid crashing into things in the dark of night, when they are awake and active.



Tahoe's Beautiful Birds

Have you ever seen a bird that is blue with a black head? This common Tahoe bird is a Steller's Jay. They can copy the sounds of other birds like a Red-tailed Hawk...Squawk!!

Color in the Steller Jay below...SQUAWK

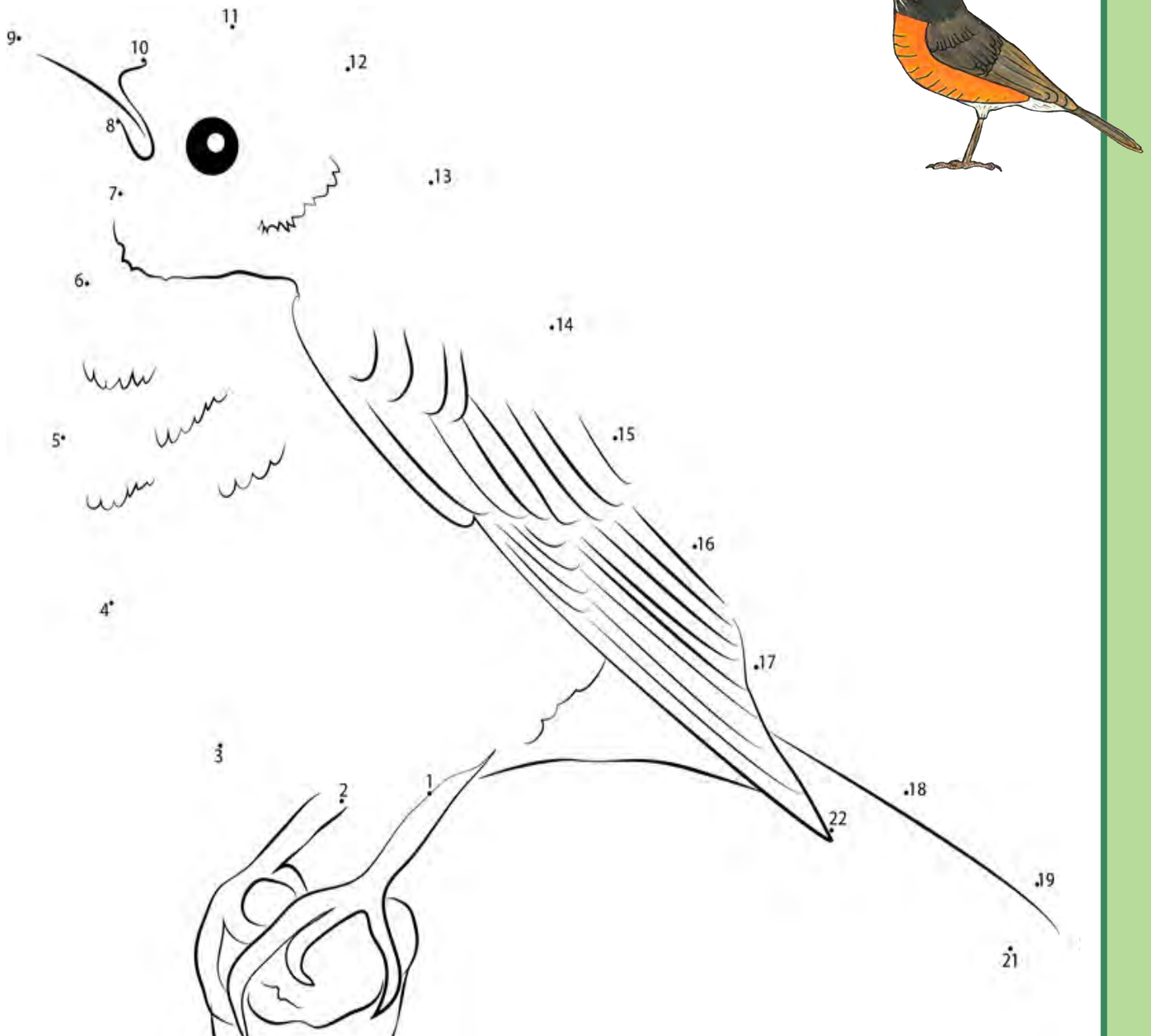


Rockin' Robin, Tweet-a-lee

Start at Dot 1 and draw a line to Dot 2. Continue your line to each number until you have connected all the dots and drawn the animal.

What do you give a sick bird?

Tweetment!





Insect Illustrations



Draw four kinds of insects found near your home or school. Use what you have learned about insects to label their body parts.

Draw a bug found on the ground.

This insect's name is: _____

Draw a flying insect.

This insect's name is: _____

Draw a colorful bug.

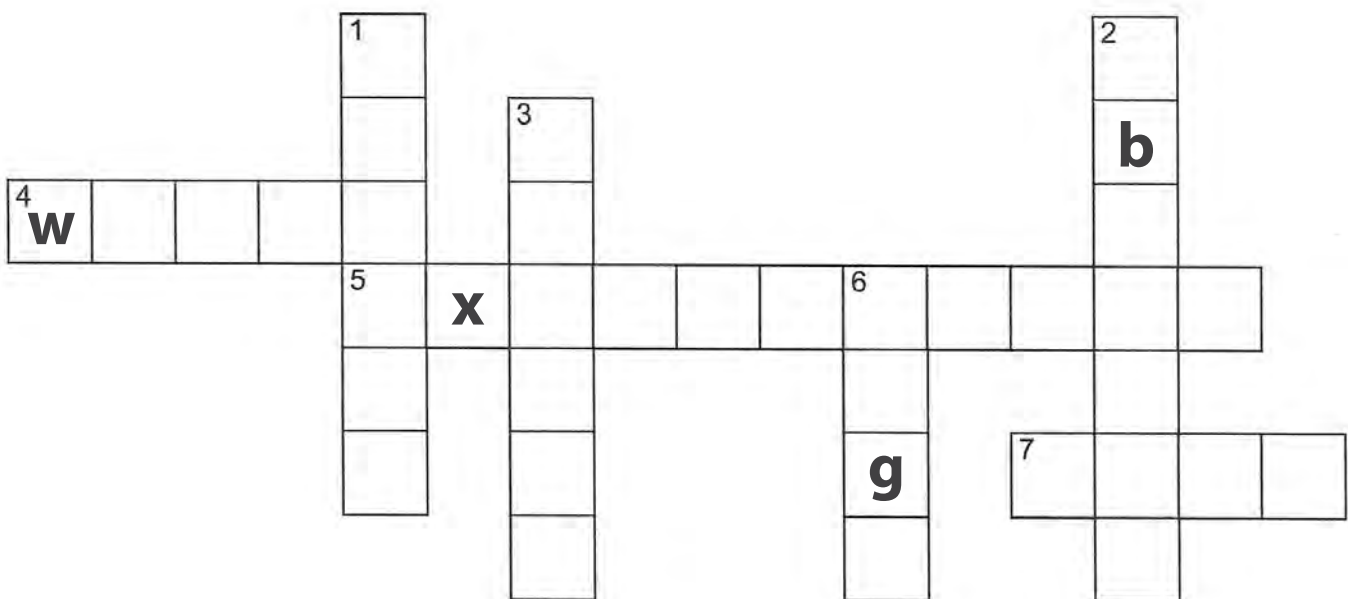
This insect's name is: _____

Draw a bug on a log.

This insect's name is: _____

Insect Crossword Puzzle!

See if you can identify the body parts of an insect by solving the crossword puzzle.

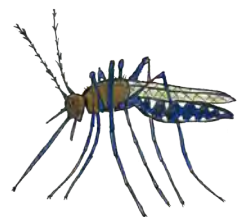


DOWN

- 1 A bug with three main body parts
- 2 The third and final section of an insect
- 3 The middle section of an insect where the legs attach
- 6 All insects have six of these

ACROSS

- 4 Many insects have four of these
- 5 The hard, protective skeleton covering an insect
- 7 The part of an insect where the antennae are connected



Who Lives Where I Live?

Get outside, explore where you live, and look for the following categories.
Draw what you have found.

Mammal



Mammals have fur or hair, give live birth, feed milk to their babies, and are warm blooded.

Are you a mammal too?

Bird



Birds feathers keep them warm and help them fly. More than 300 types of birds live at Lake Tahoe.

What birds can you find?

Insect



Insects have important jobs. They are food for animals and break down dead plants.

Where might you find an insect hiding?

Tree



Trees and other plants supply oxygen in the air we breathe and provide shelter for many animals.

Name something made from trees.

A Note to My Nature Friend

Write a letter to your favorite animal. Tell this animal what you like about it. Draw this animal. Mail in this page with the membership form filled out by your parent to become part of the TINS community.

Dear _____,

Your Friend,





Membership Form

Hey Kids! Do you want you and your parents to become a member of TINS? You can do so by filling out your information via tinsweb.org or by filling out the sheet below, and sending it to: TINS, 948 Incline Way, Incline Village, NV 89451.



☐ **YES, I want to help support the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science by becoming a member!!**

Please select a membership & rate: ☐ New Membership ☐ Renewal (*only fill out for changed info*)

☐ Student \$20 ☐ Regular \$35 ☐ Family \$60 ☐ Supporting \$100
☐ Sustaining \$250 ☐ Patron \$500 ☐ Benefactor \$1000+

- ☐ Check this box if you do not wish to receive the free shopping tote.
☐ Check this box if you want to help support TINS without a membership.
☐ Check this box if you prefer to receive our newsletter, Tanager, as an emailed PDF instead of a mailed hard copy.

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____ (*make check payable to "Tahoe Institute for Natural Science"*)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: () _____ Email: _____

(*Our email list is used for announcements of upcoming walks, talks, and other events*)

How did you hear about TINS? _____

Would you like to join using your credit card? Please provide the following information.

Card Type: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

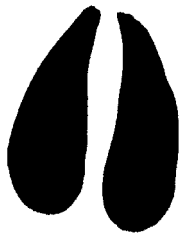
Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ CVC: _____

Signature: _____

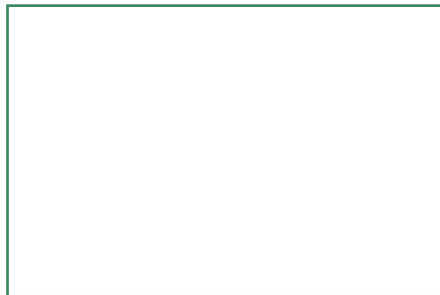


Match the Tracks

Draw the animal that leaves each footprint below.



A Herbivore Track



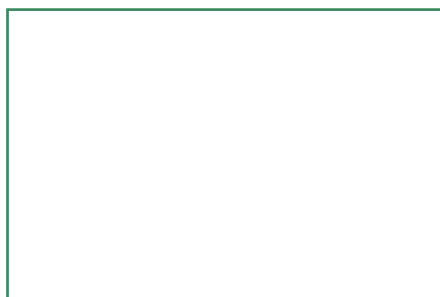
(Hint):

This animal loves to eat grasses, flowers and shrubs.

Males grow antlers on their heads. Females give birth to young called fawns.



A Carnivore Track

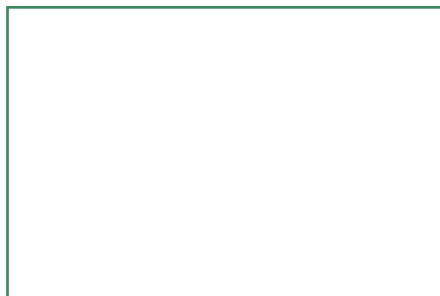


(Hint):

These animals yip and howl to one another and sometimes hunt together as a pack for smaller animals before going to bed in their dens.



An Omnivore Track



(Hint):

This big, black bird can be rather chatty. This intelligent bird has many calls and can even mimic other animals' sounds.

What's for dinner?

Animals of all kinds eat different food.

Carnivores eat only meat.

Omnivores eat meat and plants.

Herbivores eat only plants.

Are you a carnivore, omnivore, or herbivore?

Sketch tracks you found while in nature:



Explore Tahoe with TINS

We invite you and your family to join us as we explore the many different habitats and ecosystems around Lake Tahoe throughout the seasons.

Join us for family outings, help support our mission to encourage greater appreciation, understanding, and stewardship for Tahoe's natural resources and receive special member benefits.

Check out our calendar and become a member today:

www.tinsweb.org

Thank you to our generous sponsor:

Mountain Hardware & Sports

for underwriting education programming at the Tahoe Institute for Natural Science and the production of this nature activity book.

Since 2010, TINS has served over 53,350 students.



K-2 TINS 2020 Nature Activity Book @ 2020 Tahoe Institute for Natural Science
Activities: Sarah Hockensmith, Kendal Scott; Artwork: Sarah Hockensmith; Graphic Design: L. Dezin

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