

Perfect for
Grades 2-5!

The NOCTURNALS

Activity Kit with Printables



Use *The Nocturnals* Fiction and Nonfiction to Integrate Reading, Science and Fun!

Turnkey ELA Activities

- Host a Read Aloud in Your Classroom with Discussion Questions
- Easy-to-Use Graphic Organizers: Character Map, Story Map and Venn Diagram
- Creative Worksheets: Fill in the Story, Vocabulary Word Search and Create Your Own Adventure

STEM Activities

- Discover the Science Behind Different Animal Tongue Lengths
- Draw Your Own Images of *The Nocturnals* Animals to Create Trading Cards
- Create Paper Masks for *The Nocturnals*
- Play the Endangered Animal Matching Game

Middle Grade Books



All books leveled for Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell AR Quiz Available for *The Mysterious Abductions* (ATOS 4.2) and *The Ominous Eye* (ATOS 4.4)

Grow & Read Early Readers



All books leveled for Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Read All 8 of *The Nocturnals* Grow & Read Books!

*New Nonfiction Companion

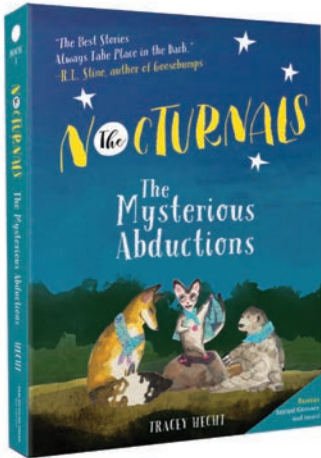
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THE MYSTERIOUS ABDUCTIONS BOOK CLUB QUESTIONS



1. Dawn, Bismark, and Tobin make up a team, the Nocturnal Brigade. How did the Brigade meet? What qualities do each of those three characters possess that help make them work so well together? Do they have qualities that might hurt the team?
2. The book takes place at night and all of the characters are nocturnal. Can you think of reasons it might be good for animals to be awake at night? Can you think of characteristics in Dawn, the fox, Bismark, the sugar glider and Tobin, the pangolin that are important to their nighttime survival?
3. If you were to pick one character from *The Mysterious Abductions* who is the most like you, who would it be and why? Who is the most unlike you and why? Which character from the book would you most want as your friend and why?
4. What are your favorite locations in the book and why? If you could visit the world of The Nocturnal Brigade, which things from the book would you most want to see? Where do you think these animals might live in the real world?
5. Bismark is an outspoken character. He boasts about his own superior qualities and his affections for Dawn. Do you think Bismark is actually a confident character? If so, why? If no, why not?
6. Dawn is the leader of the Brigade. What does she do to bring the animals together as a team? What does she do when she meets Ciro, the coyote? How does she talk to Boris, the crocodile when she meets him? Do the animals respect her?
7. When Tobin first meets Cora, the wombat, Cora is afraid to speak. How does Tobin try to coax her out of her shyness? What things could you reveal about yourself that might make someone in your life feel less shy around you?
8. Why don't Dawn and Bismark trust Jerry, the jerboa? What does he do to the Brigade that makes them worry about his character? Does he redeem himself in the book?
9. Bismark speaks many languages, as do the bats. What languages are in the book? Are you able to give examples of phrases in any of these languages? Can you come up with some new phrases that Bismark might say? Can you come up with some that the bats might say?
10. Explain the rules of NOC HOC. Which animals are used as equipment in the game? Discuss the actions of the offense and defense.
11. What happens to Boris in the final scenes of *The Mysterious Abductions*? What are the other characters' responses to his actions? How would you have handled Boris?
12. What things in the book would you have done like the Brigade? What things would you have done differently?
13. Discuss the meaning of poaching and endangered species in the wild. Are any of the animals endangered species? Why is poaching wrong? How do both affect the environment?

The Mysterious Abductions
HC ISBN: 978-1-944020-00-2
PB ISBN: 978-1-944020-02-6
eBook ISBN: 978-1-944020-01-9
AR Quiz: 4.2 ATOS | Lexile 530L
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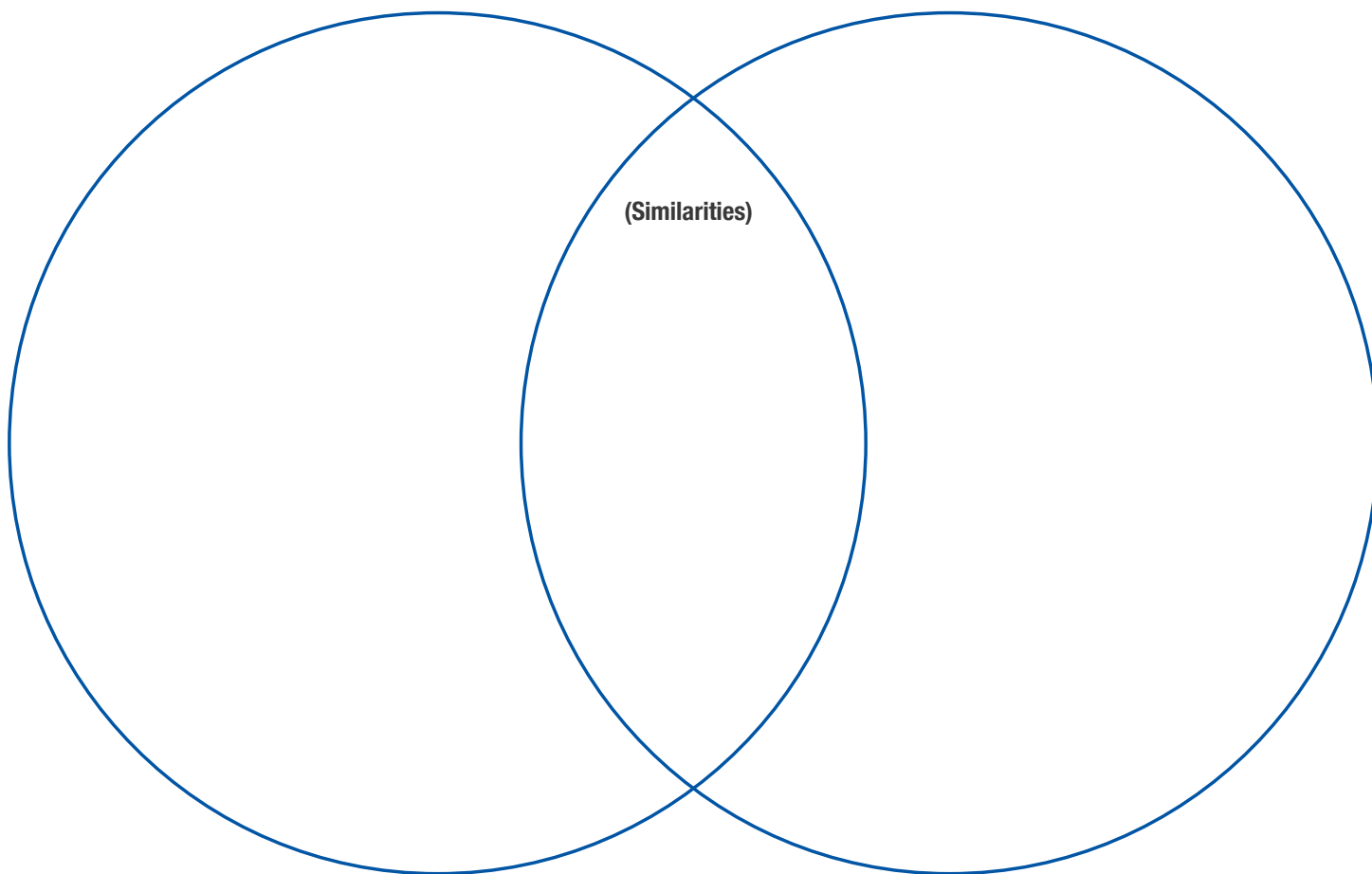
Compare and Contrast Venn Diagram

Pick two *Nocturnals* books. Compare and contrast the stories using the Venn diagram below. *How are the stories similar? Different? What is the theme or central message in each book? What can the reader learn from the characters or events?* Use examples from the books to support your answers.



Book Title

Book Title



Identify a Problem in *The Nocturnals*

What is the problem? How does each character feel about the problem? How do the characters identify a solution? Use the graphic organizer below to use illustrations and writing to describe a problem and its solution from *The Nocturnals*. Use examples from the book to support your answers.



PROBLEM What went wrong?

SOLUTION How was the issue fixed?

(Create an Illustration)

(Create an Illustration)



(Describe a Problem)

(Describe a Solution)

Write one character trait in each of the ovals. Write one supporting detail in each of the rectangles.

CHARACTER MAP



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Animal
.....

Appearance
.....
.....
.....

Hero or Villain
.....

Personification
(How does this animal seem like a person?)
.....

Backstory
(What do we know already?)
.....

Photo or Drawing
.....
.....
.....

STORY MAP

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Setting

Characters

Problem

Solution

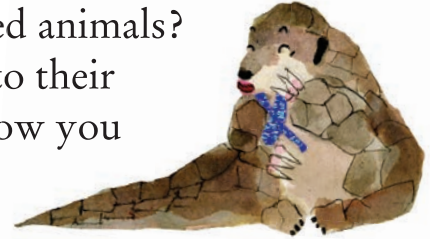


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Endangered Animals Matching Game!



Where in the world would you find these endangered animals?
Draw a line and match the endangered animals to their geographic location. Then read on to discover how you can help save these unique creatures!



Sunda Pangolin

New Zealand



Aye-Aye

Southeast Asia



Woylie

Northern Africa & Asia



Jerboa

Australia



Tuatara

Madagascar

Check the answer key to see how many animals you matched correctly. Don't worry if you got less than a perfect score; now you can tell your friends about these unusual endangered animals. Interested in learning more?

READ THE FOLLOWING RESOURCES!

www.earthday.org/ • www.worldwildlife.org/initiatives • www.pangolins.org/ • www.nwf.org/

Pangolin – Southeast Asia; Aye-Aye – Madagascar; Woylie – Australia; Jerboa – Northern Africa and Asia; Tuatara – New Zealand

— ANSWER KEY —

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N^{The}CTURNALS WORD SEARCH

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

ADVENTURE
BATS
BISMARK
BRIGADE
CHAMPION
CROCODILE
DANGERS

DARKNESS
DAWN
ESCAPE
FLAPPING
FOX
MOONLIGHT
MYSTERY

NOCTURNALS
PANGOLIN
POMELO
PROWLERS
QUEST
RODENT
SCURRYING

SHRIEKED
STARS
SUGAR GLIDER
TOBIN
TREMBLING
UNDETECTED
WOMBAT

The NOCTURNALS FILL IN THE STORY GAME

How to Become a Member of The Nocturnal Brigade

Do you want to join the _____ Nocturnal Brigade? Great! You will be _____ with Dawn the fox, Tobin the pangolin, Bismark the sugar glider and _____ a very brave _____.

ADJECTIVE
VERB ENDING IN ING
NAME OF SOMEONE IN THE ROOM
ANIMAL

The Nocturnals follow these _____ guidelines in our daily adventures.

ADJECTIVE

1. Members always meet at night in front of the big _____ when the moon is _____ and the stars are _____.

NOUN
ADJECTIVE
ADJECTIVE

2. The group _____ a cape made from _____ snakeskin that Bismark _____ took from one of our _____ who attacked him in the _____ forest.

PAST TENSE VERB
ADJECTIVE
ADVERB
PLURAL NOUN
ADJECTIVE

3. We like to eat _____ pomelos, a/an _____ fruit that looks like a _____ and tastes like a _____.

ADJECTIVE
ADJECTIVE
NOUN
NOUN

4. We help other _____ animals when they are in trouble in the _____ forest that is filled with many _____.

ADJECTIVE
ADJECTIVE
PLURAL NOUN

So, if you think you can _____ by these guidelines then you can be a member of the Nocturnal Brigade!

VERB

• **Directions:** Take turns choosing a word for each part of the speech to help the Nocturnal Brigade fill in the story.
• If you're playing alone, fold along the dotted lines to hide the story.

• Adjective: _____

• Verb ending in ing: _____

• Name of someone in the room: _____

• Animal: _____

• Adjective: _____

• Noun: _____

• Adjective: _____

• Adjective: _____

• Past tense verbs: _____

• Adjective: _____

• Adverb: _____

• Plural noun: _____

• Adjective: _____

• Adjective: _____

• Adjective: _____

• Noun: _____

• Noun: _____

• Adjective: _____

• Adjective: _____

• Plural noun: _____

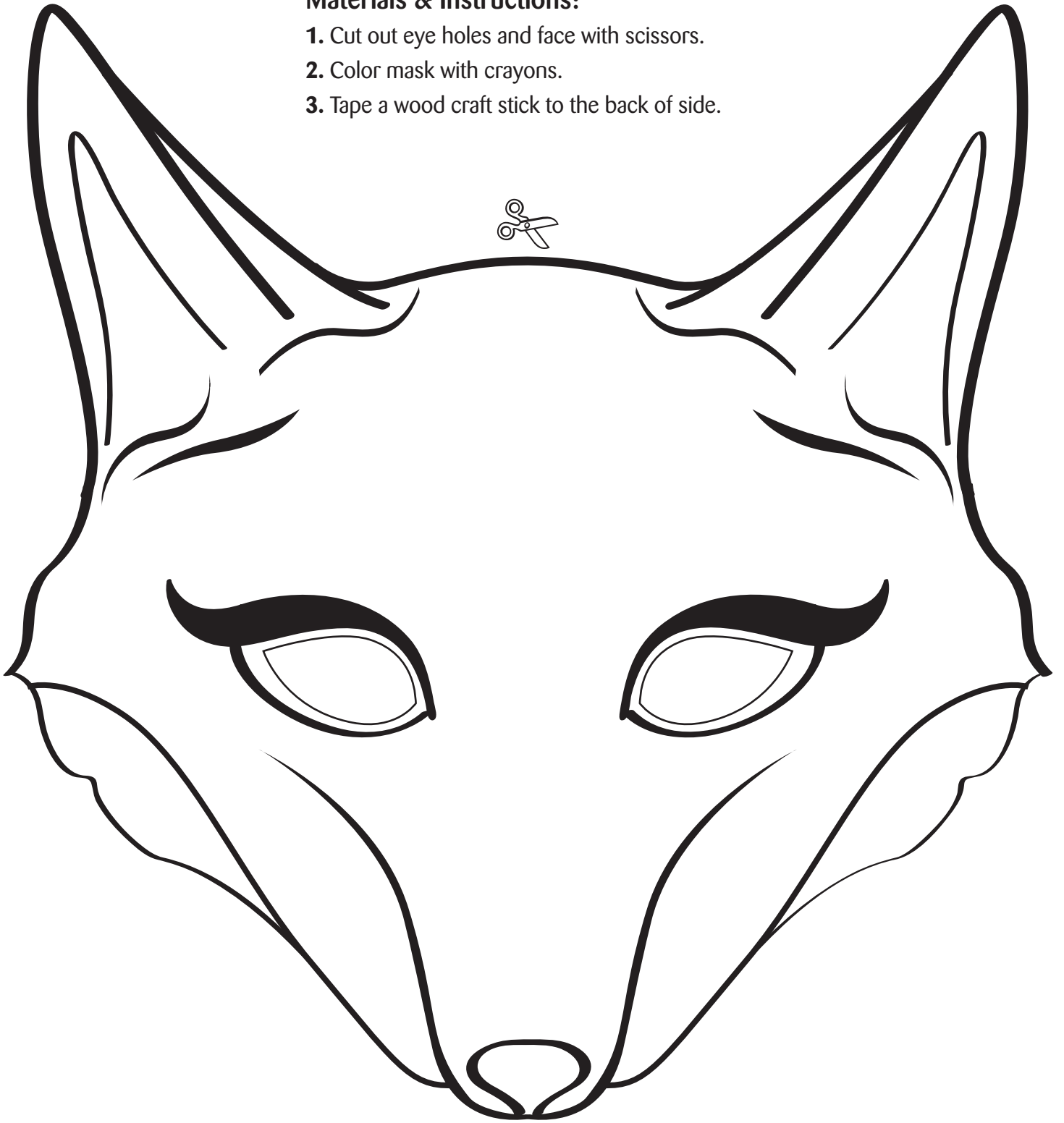
• Verb: _____



Dawn the Fox Mask

Materials & Instructions:

1. Cut out eye holes and face with scissors.
2. Color mask with crayons.
3. Tape a wood craft stick to the back of side.



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Bismark the Sugar Glider Mask

Materials & Instructions:

1. Cut out eye holes and face with scissors.
2. Color mask with crayons.
3. Tape a wood craft stick to the back of side.



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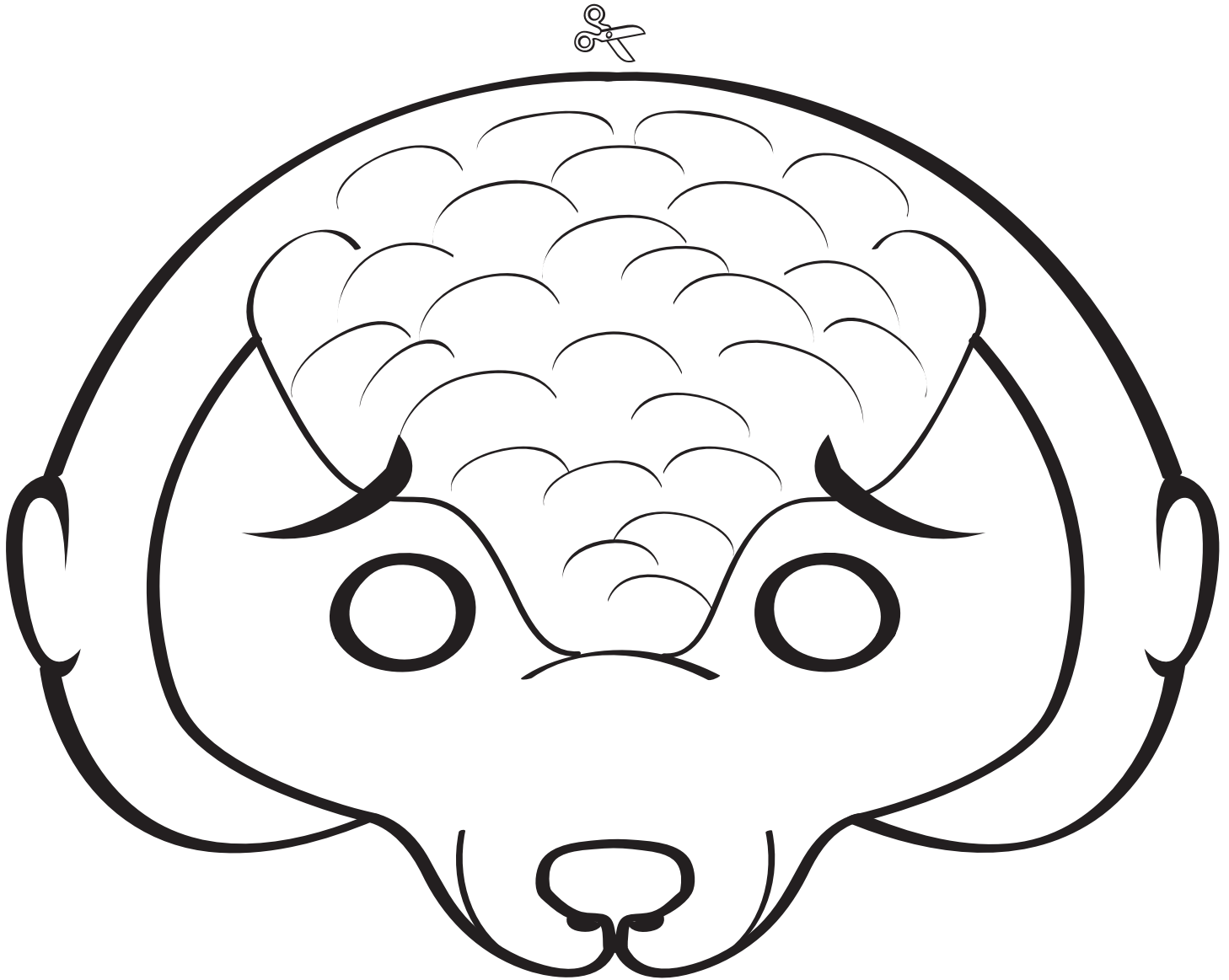
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Tobin the Pangolin Mask

Materials & Instructions:

1. Cut out eye holes and face with scissors.
2. Color mask with crayons.
3. Tape a wood craft stick to the back of side.



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Tongue-Tied Science Activity

How long is your tongue compared to other animals' tongues?

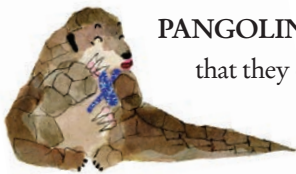
The Nocturnal Brigade has faced many unique animals along their adventures. In *The Nocturnals: The Hidden Kingdom*, Tobin the pangolin gets caught, literally, in a tongue twister with King Kami the chameleon. A pangolin's tongue is roughly equal to its body length, and a chameleon's tongue is usually about 1.5 times the length of its body!

In this Tongue-Tied Science Activity, you will:

- Learn how to use a measuring key
- Identify and measure different tongue lengths
- Draw your own animal tongues
- Discover how the length of a human tongue compares to other animals' tongues

Scientific Background

The tongue is a muscle in the mouth that helps us and other animals taste, chew, and swallow food. On average, a human's tongue is 10 centimeters long. While humans have the unique ability to use our tongues for speech, other creatures have also found their own special uses for their tongues.



PANGOLINS, unlike humans, are unable to chew because they do not have teeth, so they need to catch small insects that they can swallow whole. They are able to do this by using their long, sticky tongues to trap and eat insects.

When not in use, a pangolin's tongue is rolled up deep in its chest cavity to its last pair of ribs. When extended, the pangolin's tongue is about 40 centimeters long, or the length of its entire body!

A **CHAMELEON'S** tongue is also unique and has adapted to rapidly catch prey that strays within striking distance. This remarkably long tongue can measure 1.5 times the chameleon's own body length (almost 68 centimeters for the 45-centimeter Veiled Chameleon species) and extends faster than the human eye can follow, hitting prey in about 30 thousandths of a second!



References:

- <https://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/01/160105-chameleons-tongue-speed-animals-science/?user.testname=lazyloading:1>
- <https://phys.org/news/2016-06-tongue-chameleon-sticky-secret-revealed.html>

Instructions

- Using the box on the right, review the tongue lengths and the measuring key.
- Start with the human. From the mouth, measure and label the average human tongue length.
- Draw the average human tongue with the correct length, using a pink crayon or marker.
For fun, use a funky color instead!
- Repeat Steps 2 and 3 for Tobin the pangolin and King Kami the chameleon.
- Compare your results!

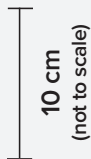
Tongue Lengths

Average Human: 10 cm

Pangolin: 40 cm

Chameleon: 70 cm

Measuring Key



10 cm
(not to scale)



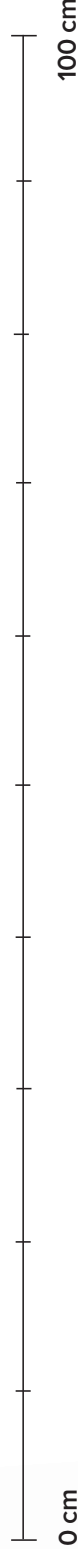
0 cm



100 cm



0 cm



100 cm



0 cm



100 cm



SUGAR GLIDER

Petaurus breviceps

Sugar glider

PANGOLIN

Manis javanica

Malayan pangolin

WOMBAT

Lasiorchinus krefftii

Northern hairy-nosed wombat

FOX

Vulpes vulpes

Red fox

PANGOLIN

Pangolins are covered from just above their nostrils to the tips of their tails by rows of hard, overlapping, movable sharp-tipped scales. They are between 79 and 88 cm, including their tails which are prehensile (or capable of grasping.) These very rare animals are mainly solitary and very timid. Pangolins move quickly when threatened and are strong diggers and climbers.

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SUGAR GLIDER

Sugar gliders are very small creatures with their head and body measuring 12-33cm and their tail somewhere between 15-48mm. They have a gliding membrane from the outer side of their forefoot to their ankle of the rear foot, enabling them to glide up to 45 meters. One of a sugar glider's most distinguishable traits is the stripe down their back to the end of their nose and on the sides of their faces.

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FOX

Red foxes are not always red; their coats range in color from a pale yellowish to a deep brown with white or ashy undersides. Red foxes are 45-90cm long with tails 30-55cm long. Their graceful frames can run up to 48km/h and jump up to 2m high. Foxes often live in dens that have been abandoned by other animals

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WOMBAT

Wombats have thick stocky bodies about 1 m long. These large headed creatures have small eyes, pointed ears, and long whiskers. Wombat's eat grass with their continuously growing molars. Their bad eyesight and good sense of hearing and smell leads this animal to burry tunnel systems in deep sands.

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