

Ranger
Rick Jr.



Animal Fun for Young Children

Marvelous Manatees



WILD
Gliders

BEACH
ANIMALS

Summer
Reading

August 2020

*** Award-Winning Fun ***



Draw, Make, or Do!

CHAMELEON
by Lillian,
age 7



GIANT PANDA
by Advik,
age 5



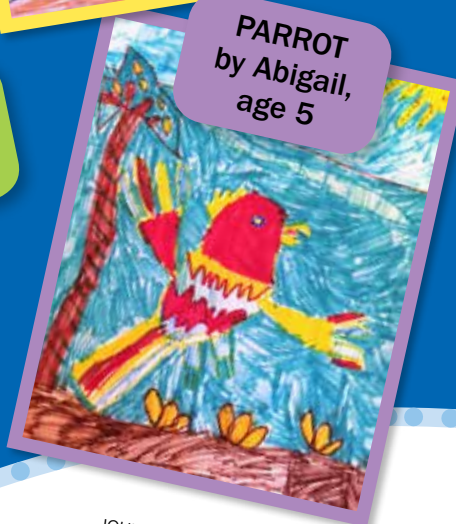
RATTLESNAKE
by Hannah, age 6



CRAB
by Emmett,
age 5



PARROT
by Abigail,
age 5



PRAYING MANTIS
by Jaden, age 7



Submit your drawings and photos online at RangerRick.org/rickysmail.

Or mail them to
Ricky's Mail
11100 Wildlife Center Drive
Reston, VA 20190

Include your name, address, and age on the back of your drawing or photo.

Use a QR reader to see more photos and drawings online.



Swim with the manatees at bath time.

Manatee Tub-Toy

RangerRick.org/manatee-tub-toy



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The praying mantis on page 2, the grasshopper on page 3, and the dung beetle on page 22 are all insects.



August 2020



Look INSIDE

ON THE COVER

A huge manatee swims peacefully with tiny fish. Turn to page 6 to learn about this gentle giant of the sea.

COVER PHOTO: CAROL GRANT

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Let's play a game!
Try to find me **4** more times in this issue!



Have you outgrown this magazine?
Switch to Ranger Rick.
Call 1-800-611-1599.

That's Wild!

FROG



Frogs don't drink water.

HOWLER MONKEY



The call of a howler monkey can be heard from three miles away.

OWL



An owl can fly without making a sound.

TIGER



Tigers have striped skin.



SHARK

WOMBAT



A wombat's pouch faces backwards.



A shark's skin is as rough as sandpaper.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY MINDEN PICTURES

FROG: SCOTT LESLIE
HOWLER MONKEY: MARK BOWLER / NPL
OWL: GLENN BARTLEY / BIA
TIGER: SUZI ESZTERHAS
WOMBAT: PETE OXFORD ©
SHARK: ALEX MUSTARD / NPL

We like to swim
in shallow,
warm water.

Some people call us
sea cows because
we are big, slow,
and eat sea grass.

Mary Lou and Mitch
are manatees. Let's learn
about their lives in the sea.

★ Meet the Manatees ★



Mary Lou and I have huge, paddle-like tails. We flap our tails up and down to swim.

We come to the surface of the water every few minutes to breathe.





We eat plants that grow in the water.

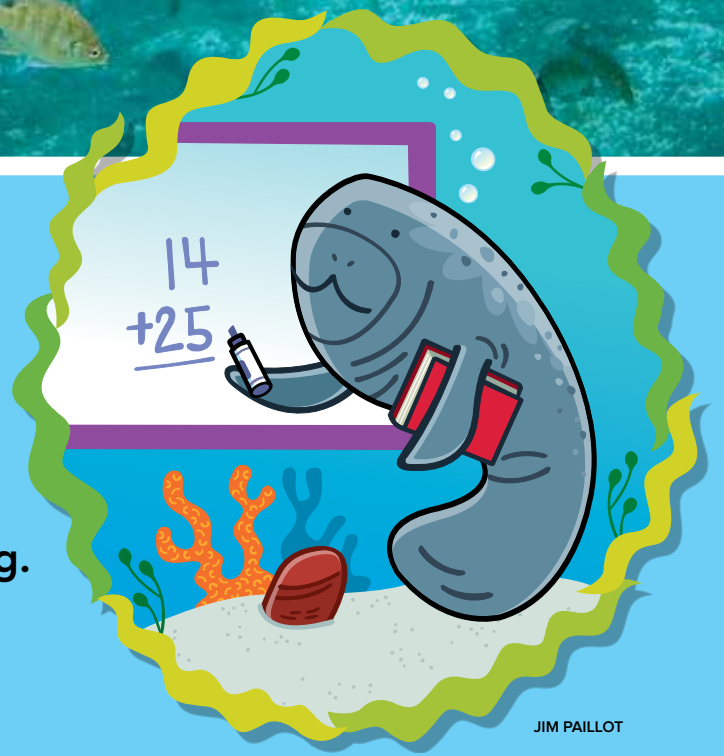


CAROL GRANT



Manatee Math

-  A manatee can weigh as much as 1,000 pounds. That's as much as five men.
-  A manatee can be 10 feet long. Use a tape measure to see how long that is.



JIM PAILLOT


DAVID SCHRICKE



Our flippers are like hands. We use them to hold food, scratch an itch, or say hello.



We have a calf named Mia. She is two months old.

 Watch Mary Lou and Mia.



Mia drinks milk from a nipple behind my flipper.



iHola!
Read the story in Spanish.
RangerRick.org/ManateesSP



The Visitor

STORY BY KATHY KRANKING ■ ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHRISTIAN SLADE

It was a hot summer day, but Ricky Raccoon, Bizzie Beaver, Flora Skunk, and Sammy Skunk hardly noticed the heat. They were very busy.

Bizzie was sailing in a pirate ship. Ricky was exploring a haunted house. Flora was at the top of a tree watching a bird build a nest. And Sammy was riding a dragon! They were doing all these things while relaxing in Sunny Meadow. How could this be?

It was reading time, that's how! Each of the friends was happily reading a favorite book.

Ricky was at a very exciting part of his story. Suddenly, he was interrupted by a sound.

"*Hmm, hmm, hmm-hmm, hmmm.*"
Someone was quietly humming.

Ricky looked up. The humming was coming from Bizzie.

"Bizzie, could you please be quiet?" Ricky asked. "I'm at the good part of my story!"

Bizzie looked at Ricky in surprise. "I am being quiet," he said.

"No," said Flora, "you were humming."

"Yeah," said Sammy. "I heard it, too."

"Oh, sorry," said Bizzie with a grin. "I didn't know I was doing it."

The friends settled back down into their books. But after a few minutes there came a quiet, "*Hmm, hmm, hmm.*"



“Um, Bizzie?” said Ricky. “You’re doing it again.”

“Oops!” said Bizzie. “I forgot.”

Everyone got back to their stories. But after a while, there was a quiet humming sound yet again.

“Bizzie!” exclaimed Ricky. “You’re humming again! I can’t concentrate!”

“No, I’m not!” said Bizzie.

Then . . . “*Hmmmmm, hmmmmm!*”

“That wasn’t me!” said Bizzie.

Suddenly something colorful darted past their heads.

“Hey!” said Flora. “There’s our hummer. When the hummingbird flaps its wings, it makes a humming sound.”

The little bird darted up and down, then all around them. They could see its green feathers shimmering in the sun. Then it zipped away.

The friends went back to reading. Sammy was right at the part where the fire-breathing dragon opened its huge mouth and . . . “*Hmmmmm, hmmmmmmmm!*”

The little skunk jumped at the sound right next to his ear. “Aaagh!” he cried. The others looked up and saw the hummingbird.

“It’s back!” Ricky said. “It likes us!”

“You mean it likes Sammy,” said Flora with a grin.

They watched as Sammy waved his arms at the hummingbird. “Shoo!” he said. “I’m trying to read.” He picked up his book again, but the hummingbird kept flying around him, darting here and there.

“This hummingbird likes me too much!” said Sammy. He got up and started walking away, but the hummingbird followed. Sammy started to run. The hummingbird flew after him.

Ricky, Flora, and Bizzie giggled as they watched the funny scene. First Sammy darted left. The hummingbird darted left. Then Sammy darted right. The hummingbird darted right, as well. Sammy began to zigzag. The hummingbird zigzagged, too! Now Ricky, Flora, and Bizzie were laughing even harder.

“You can’t out-zip a hummingbird, Sammy,” Ricky giggled.

Sammy swatted at the bird. “Why does it keep humming like that?” he asked, starting to get annoyed.

“I guess it forgot the words!” said Bizzie. Ricky, Flora, and Bizzie rolled on the ground laughing at Bizzie’s joke.

Sammy began to smile a little, too. He watched the hummingbird as it flew around. “You silly hummingbird,” he said. “I’m not a flower!”

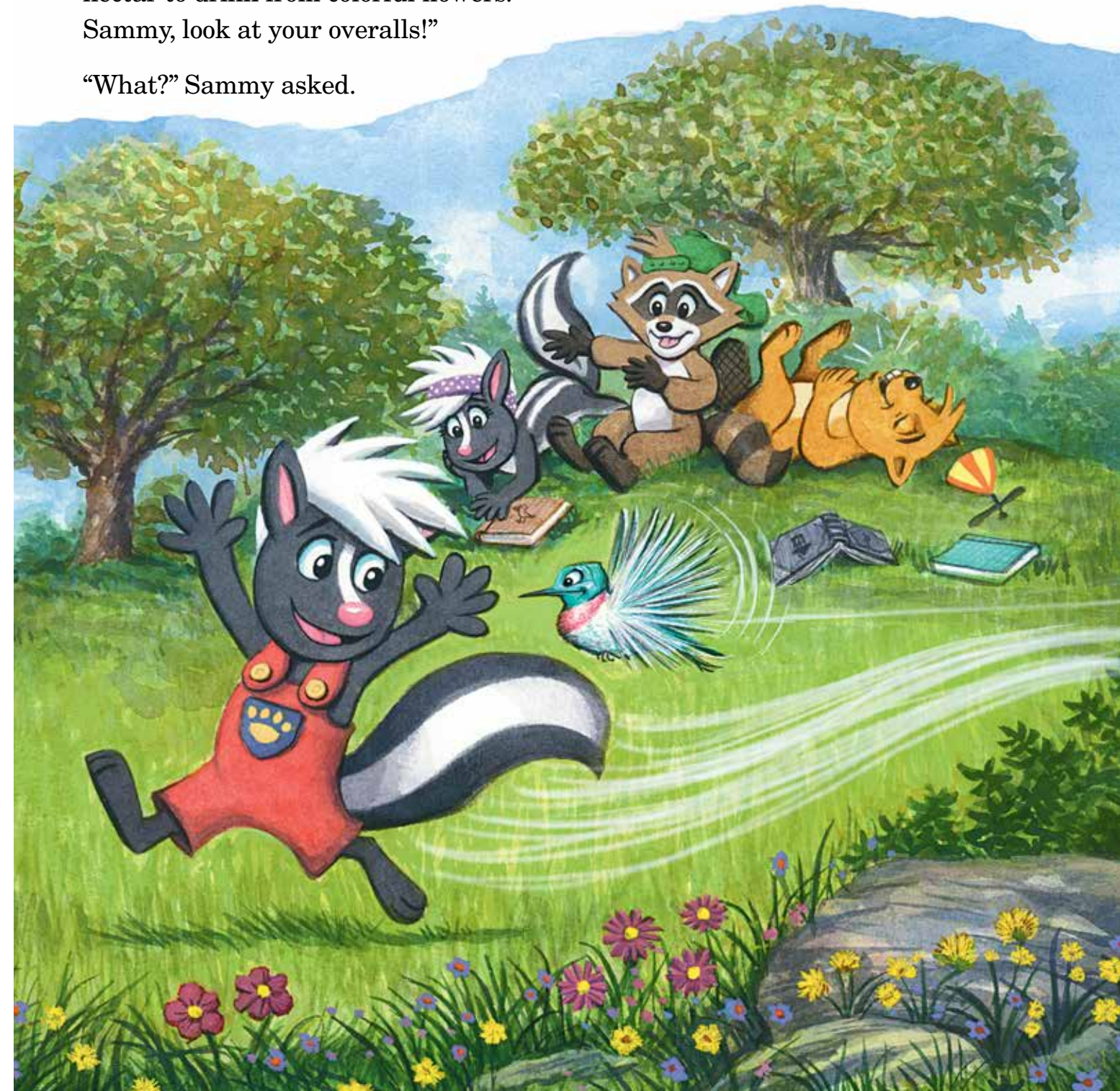
Suddenly Flora sat up and began flipping through her book. “Here, it says hummingbirds look for sweet nectar to drink from colorful flowers. Sammy, look at your overalls!”

“What?” Sammy asked.

“The hummingbird thinks you’re a big, red flower,” said Bizzie.

“Is that why it likes me so much?” asked Sammy.

“Yup,” said Ricky. “I’d say that hummingbird thinks you’re a real humdinger!”



GLIDERS!

These animals can't flap their wings and fly the way a bird does. But they can sail through the sky.



Turn the page to meet four more gliders.



1

Animals that glide have body parts that allow them to float gently through the air.

Flying Squirrel

A flying squirrel has furry flaps of skin between its legs. When the animal glides from tree to tree, the flaps work as a parachute.



2

NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL PHOTOS: KIM TAYLOR / NATUREPL ©



3



CHEN LEE / MINDEN PICTURES

Flying Frog

This flying frog has webbed skin between its toes. Each foot acts as a mini-parachute.



WALLACE'S FLYING FROG BY NICK GARBUTT / NATUREPL

Flying Snake

The paradise tree snake flattens its body when it wants to get from one tree to another. Then it flutters through the air like a ribbon.



CEDE PRUDENTE / AVALON / PHOTOSHOT / ALAMY





Flying Lemur

A colugo (kuh-LOO-goh) has a huge skin flap that allows it to glide. The flap stretches from the animal's jaw to its toes and down to the tip of its tail.



TIM MACMILLAN / JOHN DOWNER PRO / NATUREPL ©

Flying Dragon

This lizard has a flap of skin on each side of its body. When the lizard leaps out of a tree, the skin pops out like an umbrella.



SATOSHI KURIBAYASHI / NATURE PRODUCTION / MINDEN PICTURES



What else can glide? A paper airplane.
Go to [RangerRick.org/plane](https://www.RangerRick.org/plane) to make one.

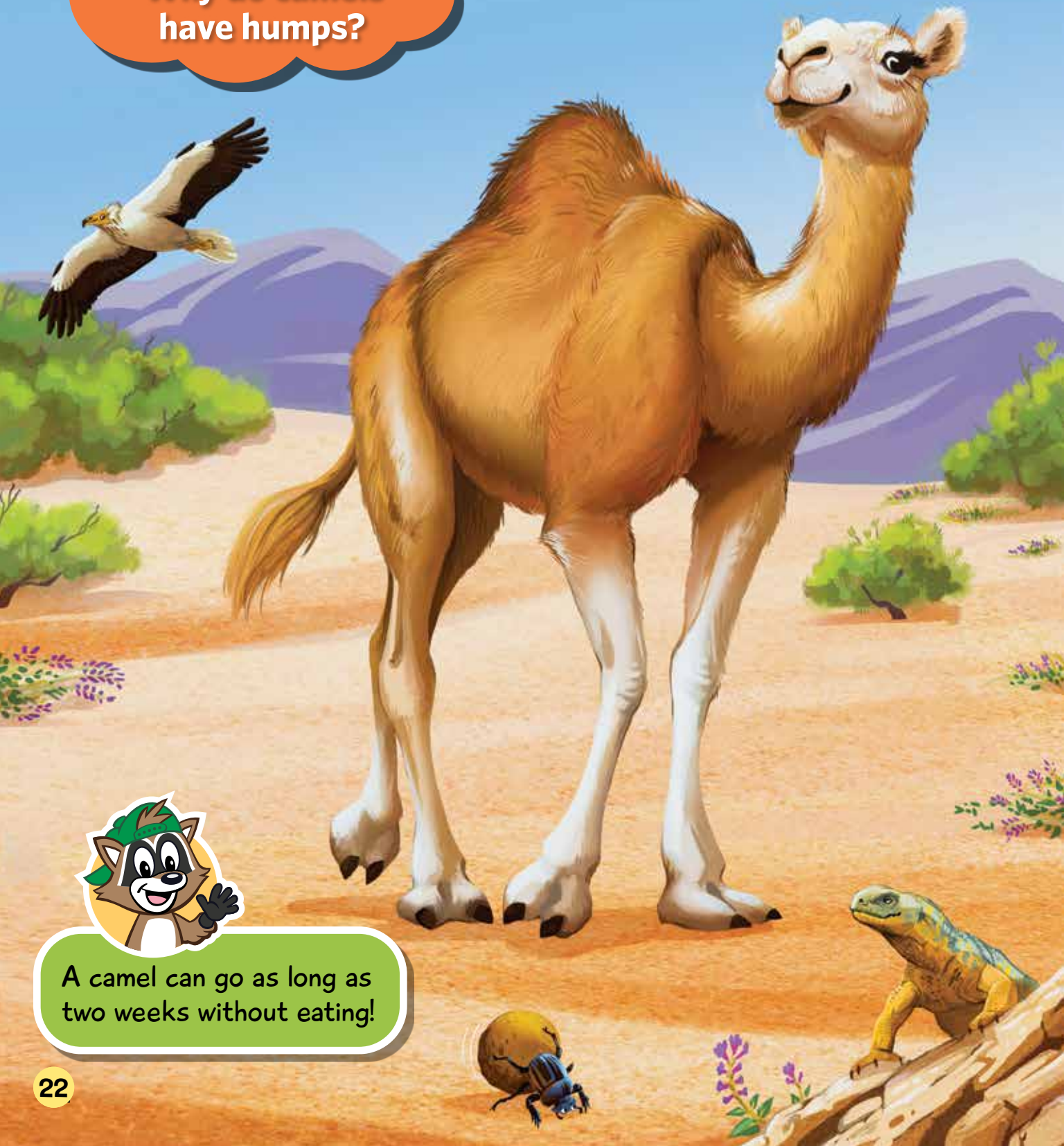


Ever WONDER?

Why do camels have humps?

A camel's hump is filled with fat. A camel lives off this fat when food is hard to find.

ILLUSTRATION BY VIRGINIA GREENE



A camel can go as long as two weeks without eating!

THE ADVENTURES OF Bonnie & Chester

Speed of Lightning

I don't like the look of those dark clouds.

Me neither.

Chester, where did you go?

Bonnie looked everywhere for Chester.

I'm under here.

Wow! When you get scared, you can move as fast as lightning.

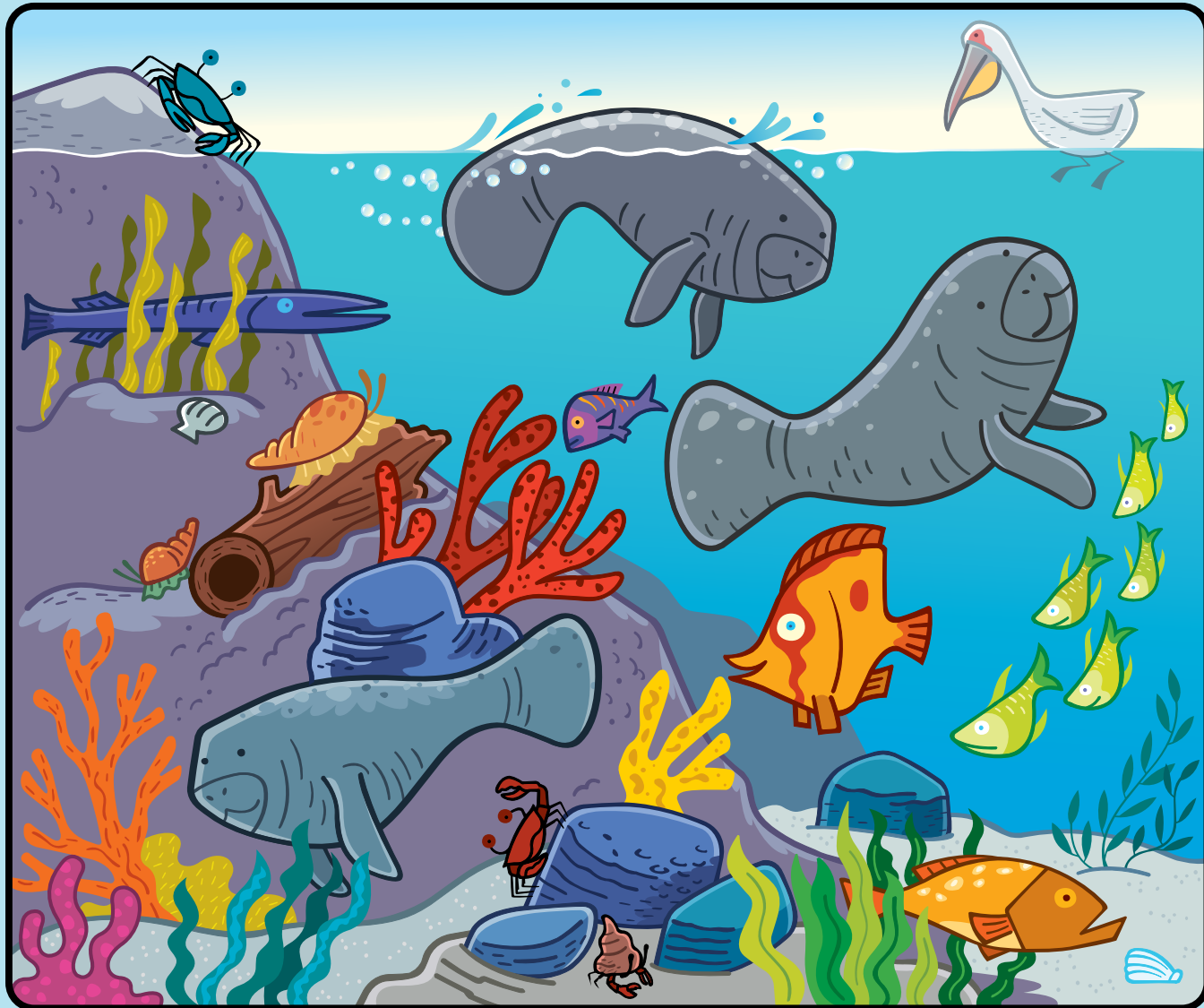
THE END

ILLUSTRATIONS BY PARKER JACOBS

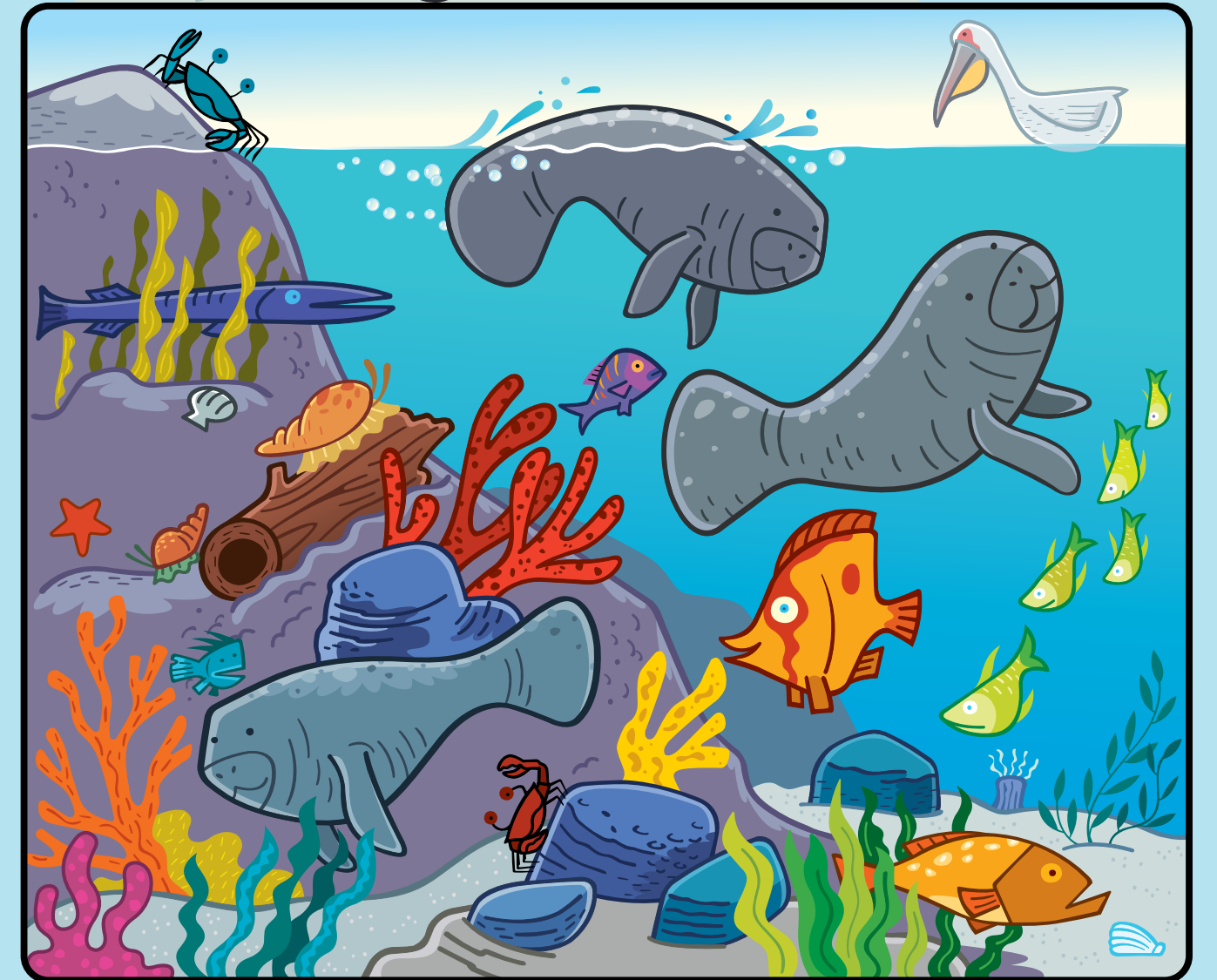
Animal Fun

ILLUSTRATION BY JIM PAILLOT

Look at these two pictures. Find eight things that are different.



What's the difference between manatees and mermaids?
Mermaids are not real.



1

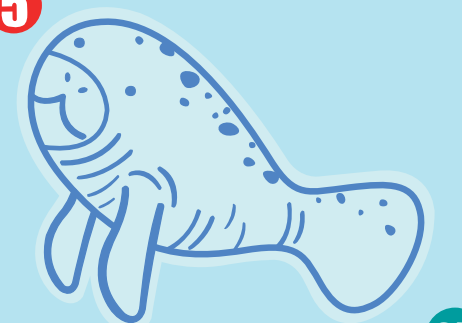
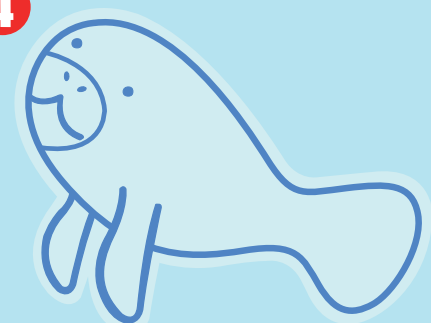
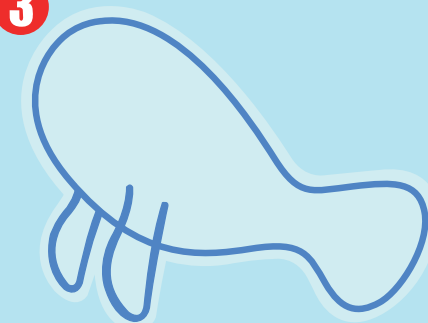
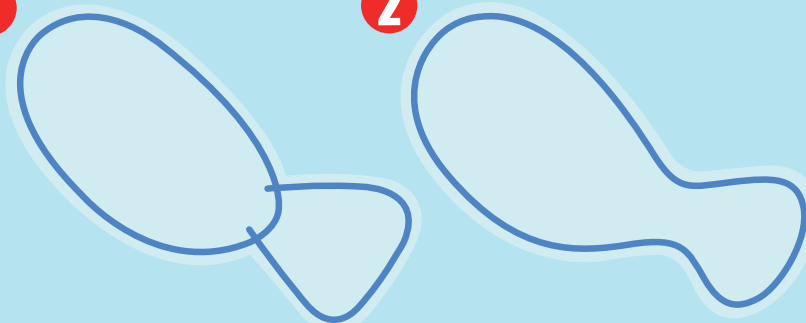
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3

4

5

Let's **DRAW** a **Manatee**
 Grab a pencil and an eraser.

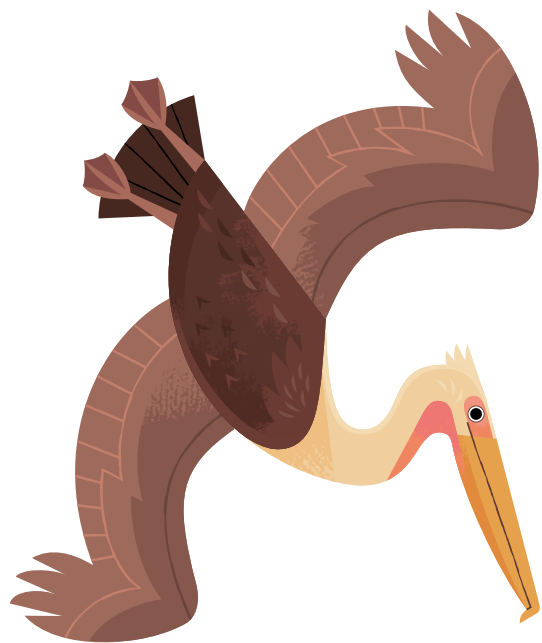




We live at the ... **BEACH**

A beach is the land along the edge of an ocean or lake. The sandy beach we live on is far from the United States.

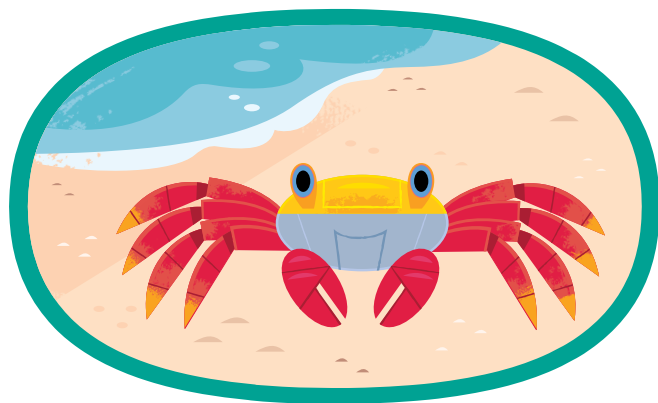
Pelican dives for fish.



Marine iguana
(ih-GWAH-nuh)
sits in the sun.



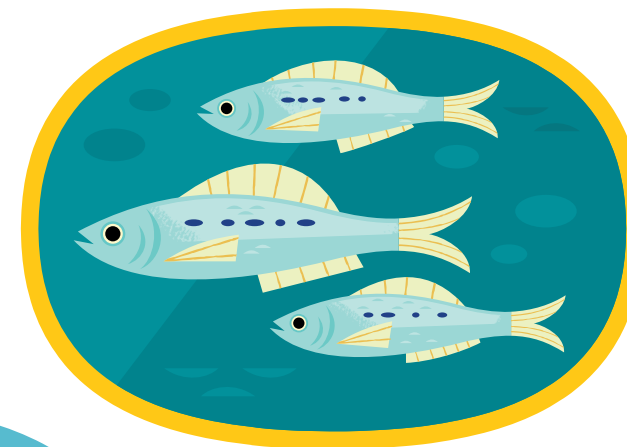
A colorful **crab** scurries across the sand.



I live at the beach, too. Guess who I am.

1

I love to eat fish.



2

I walk on four flippers.

3

I bark like a dog.





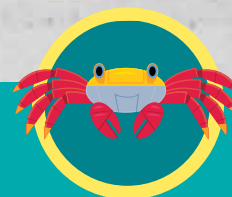
BEACH BUDDIES

Beach time is
playtime for two
sea lion pups.

BEACH ANIMALS



PELICAN



CRAB



MARINE IGUANA



SEA LION



LOOK INSIDE

Can you find
three insects?

AGNIESZKA BACAL / SHUTTERSTOCK ©

Ready...Set... **STINK!**

by Ellen Lambeth

Some skunks have spots.
Some skunks have stripes.
But all are black and white.
And when a skunk
Rears up like this,
It makes a scary sight.

You're in a place
You shouldn't be.
You'd better move away.
Because this skunk
Is telling you,
"Watch out, I'm going to spray!"

