

ANIMAL GUIDE TO AFRICA



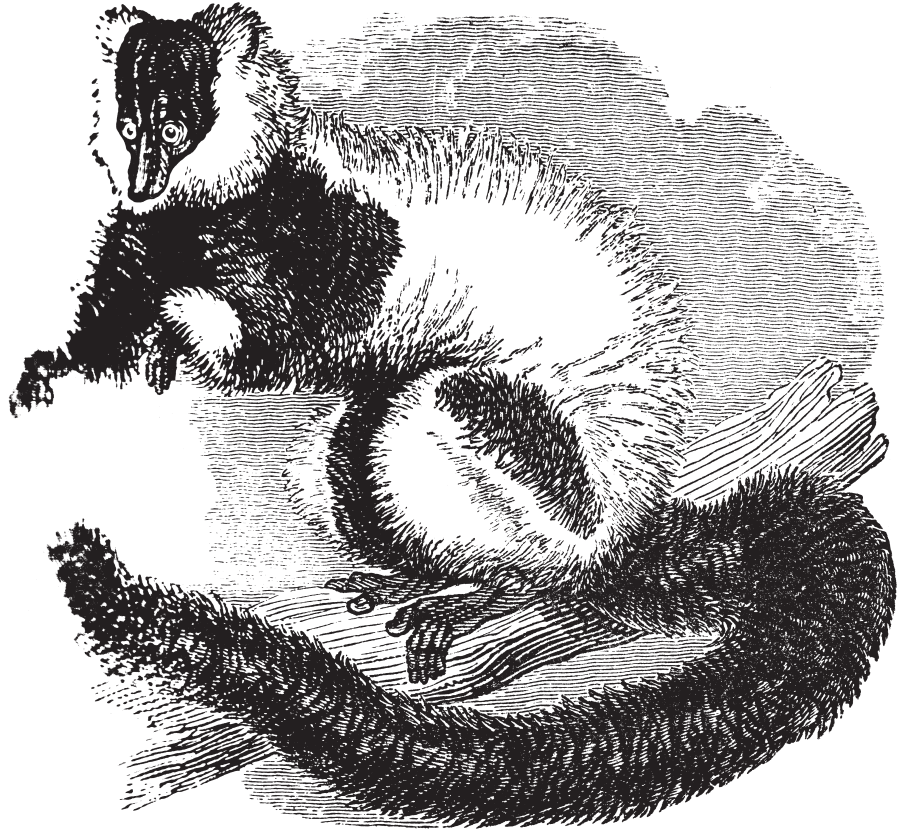
Supermarket
SCIENCE

Animal Guide: Madagascar Animals

Lemurs



Brown Lemur, Black and White Ruffed Lemur, Red Ruffed Lemur, and Black Lemur live in the rainforests of Madagascar—a large island off the coast of Eastern Africa. All of these lemurs are herbivorous and spend their days in the canopy. Most lemurs are endangered due to habitat loss.



Ring-tailed Lemurs



A Ring-tailed Lemur is easy to spot—it has black and white rings on its tail. This lemur lives in the Southern Madagascar’s brush, scrub forests, and deciduous forests. Madagascar is the only island in the world where lemurs are found. Ring-tailed Lemurs spend part of their days on the ground and part in the trees. They are herbivorous and eat mostly fruits.

Black Parrots



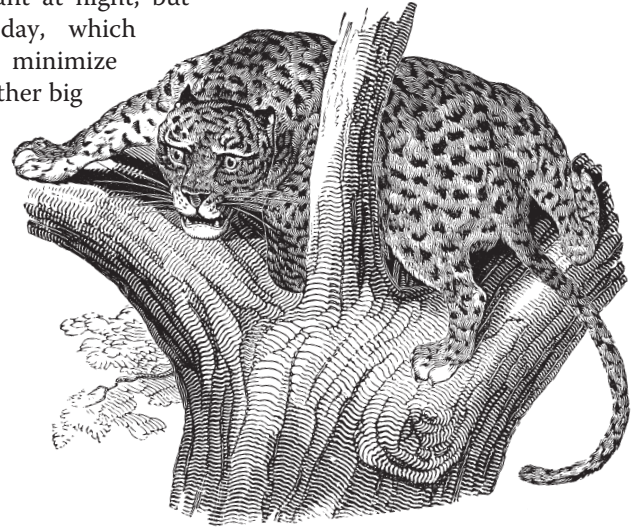
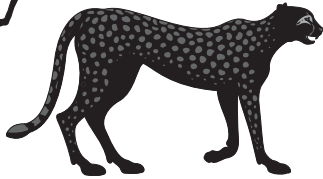
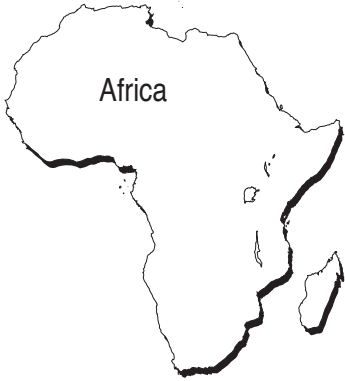
Black Parrot is a native of Madagascar—a big island off the Eastern coast of Africa—and the surrounding islands. It mostly eats fruits. Do you think it is active at night or during the day? Hint: Fruits are easier to spot during the day, when their bright colors are visible in the sun light.



Animal Guide: African Animals

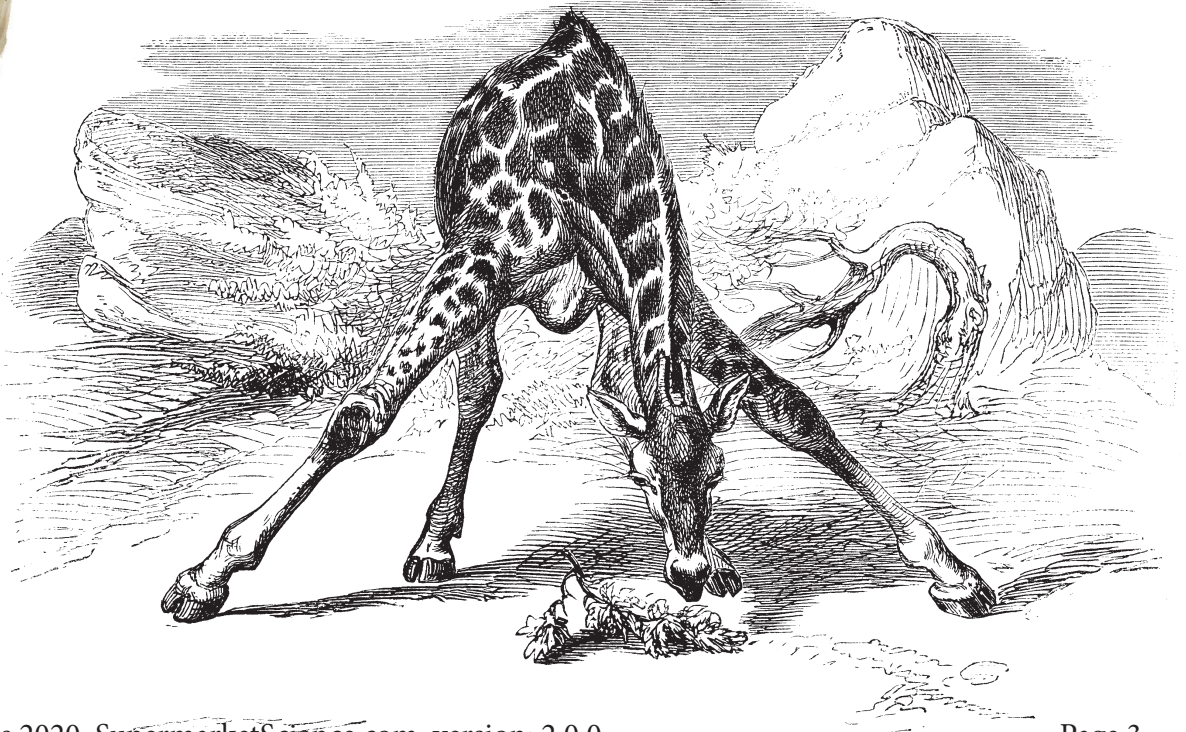
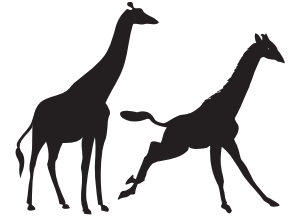
Cheetahs

Cheetahs are the fastest living animals in the world! They can run at speeds of 70 miles per hour for short distances. Cheetahs run down their prey, gazelles and medium-sized antelopes. They live in the open grasslands of Africa, where there is enough place for them to stalk their prey. They hunt at night, but also during the day, which allows them to minimize competition from other big cats in the area (like lions). Cheetahs are carnivores. They are also endangered. Local farmers see them as a threat to their domesticated livestock and trap and kill them.



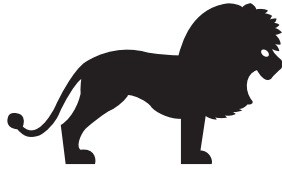
Giraffes

Giraffes, long-legged and long-necked mammals, come from the grasslands of Africa. They also sport extra long, prehensile tongues—18 inches long—to help them pull off leaves among the thorns of acacia treetops. And despite the difference in appearance, they only have seven neck vertebrae like you and me.

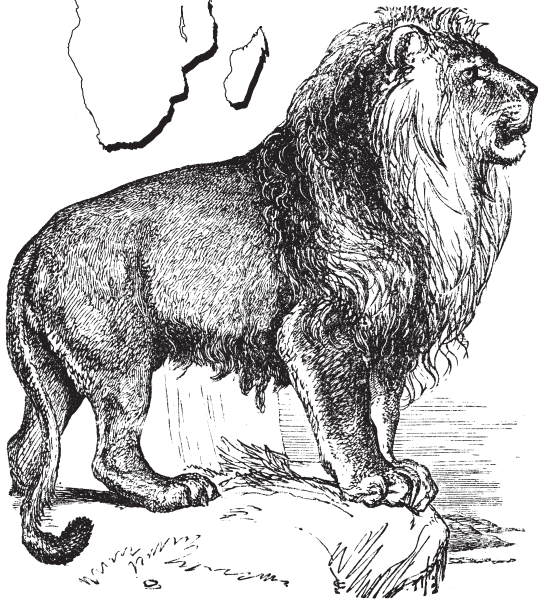
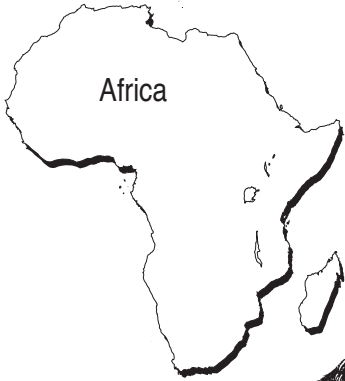


Animal Guide: African Animals

Lions



Lions are big cats. Thousands of years ago, lions were common through out Europe, Asia, and Africa. But now the only wild lions are found on the continent of Africa. Lions are nocturnal—they hunt at night. And like all cats, they are carnivores. But unlike other cats, lions live in prides: a family of lions with one male and several females and their cubs.



Sable Antelopes

Sable Antelopes are herbivores and eat grasses, leaves, and fruits. They live in the grasslands of Africa and never stray more than a few miles from a water hole.

Marabou Storks

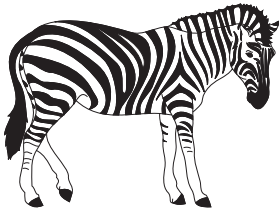


Marabou Storks are omnivorous scavengers from the grasslands of Africa. These are large birds with wingspans of four feet. Their long legs allow them to wade in the water to catch frogs, tadpoles, fish, crabs, and aquatic insects.

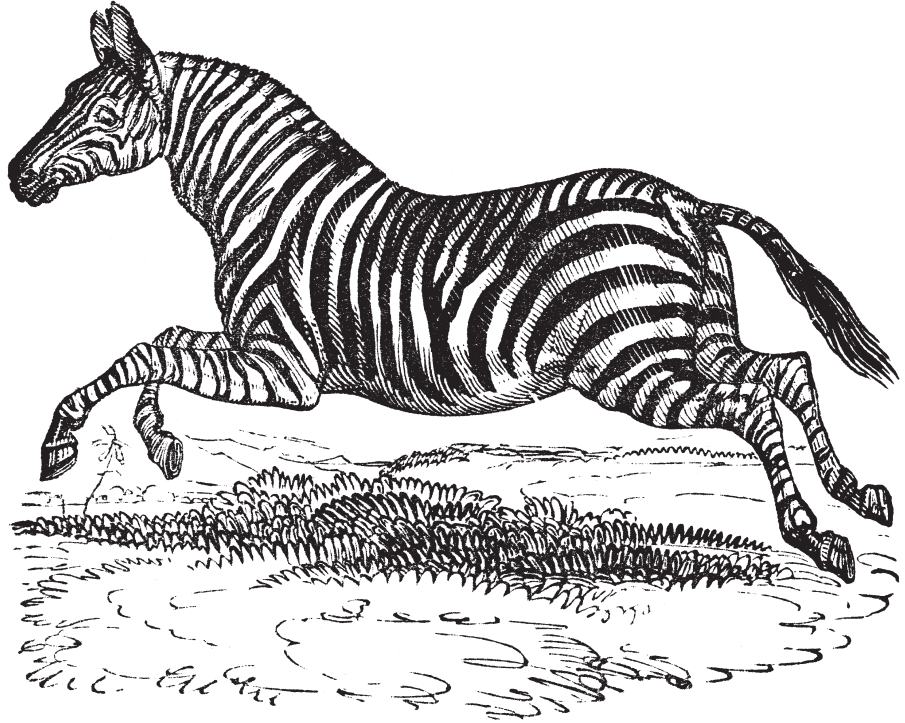
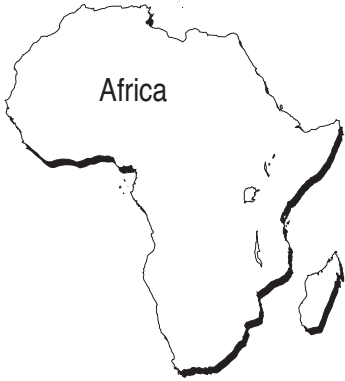


Animal Guide: African Animals

Zebra



Zebras are herbivores and live on the grasslands of Africa. The black and white pattern on their skin makes them difficult to spot among the grass and difficult to pick out one animal from among the herd. Lions prey on the weak, old, and young animals in the zebra herd.



Mandrills

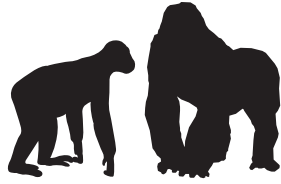


Mandrills live in the forests of Africa. Unlike Siamangs, their bodies are not built to swing from branch to branch. They mostly live on the forest floor. Males are much larger than females. What is the most visible adaptation of these primates?

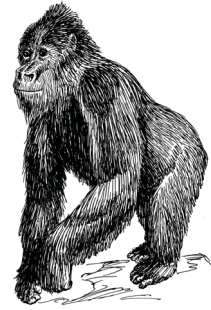


Animal Guide: African Animals

Gorillas



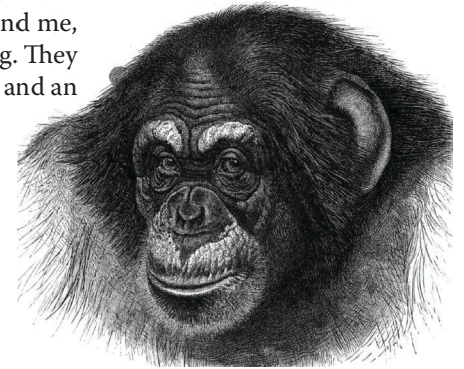
Gorillas are one of the African great apes. There are five members of the great ape family: gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos, orangutans, and us—humans. Gorillas are predominately folivorous (they eat leaves and stems). They live in large family groups composed of a dominant male, several females, and children.



Chimpanzees



Chimpanzees range in habitat from the savanna to the rainforest, but they never stray too far from trees. Like you and me, they are capable of eating everything. They like fruits, but would also find meat and an occasional insect a tasty treat.



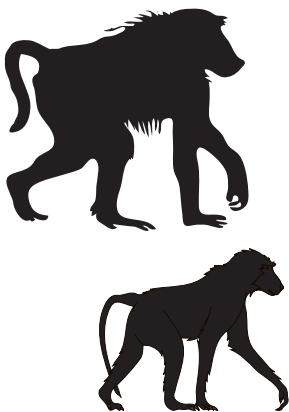
Bonobos



Bonobos are not chimpanzees, although they were historically mistaken for pygmy chimps. Bonobos are a distinct species of great apes and are closely related to humans. They are easy to tell apart from chimpanzees: they are slightly smaller, have longer arms and legs, have hair parted in the middle, and have little tail tufts. Bonobos are also the most peaceful of all great apes. They live in the southern shores of the Congo River in Africa. Chimpanzees live on the northern shores. Since neither of these species of great ape are good swimmers, each stay on their side of the river.



Baboons

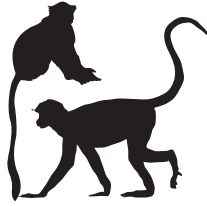


There are several species of baboons living in Africa. They have very long faces, like dogs. They live in large groups called troupes and are very territorial. They are omnivorous, meaning they eat everything they can find, catch, or pick: seeds, roots, leaves, fruits, insects, fish, rodents, birds, and even small antelopes. Males are much larger than females.



Animal Guide: African Animals

Patas Monkeys



Patas Monkeys hang out during the day in the grass savannas of Africa and eat everything (meat and vegetables). At night, they sleep.



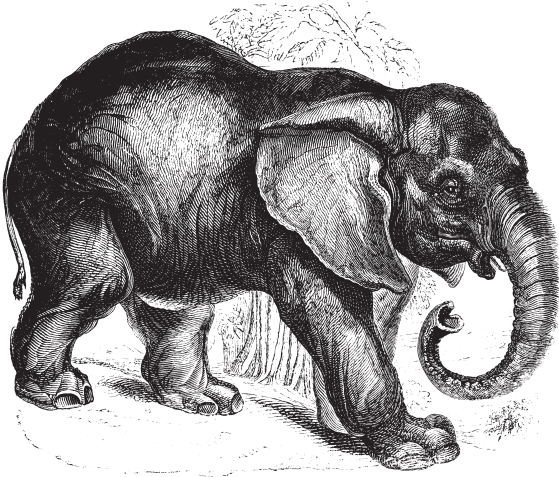
Black-and-white Colobus Monkeys



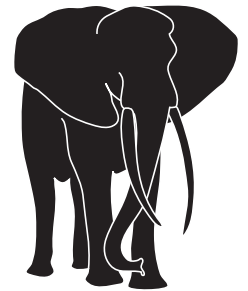
Black-and-white Colobus Monkeys live high up in the canopies of West African forests eating plants and fruits. Why do you think they are they so strikingly colored?



African Elephants

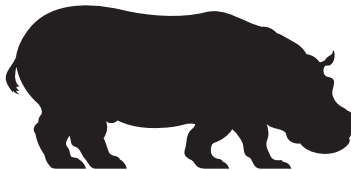


African Elephants are big-eared, thick-skinned mammals capable of living anywhere from the rainforests to the semi-desert habitats to the seashores to the mountainous habitats. And as their name implies, they come from Africa. They are happy gathering food during day or night. Do you think they eat meat or plants? You can tell the difference between Asian and African Elephants by the shape of their ears—the African Elephants have ears shaped like the African continent.



Hippopotamus

While they look sleepy during the day, wallowing in the water, these hippos are active at night. Their proper name is Nile Hippopotamus, and as their name implies, they live along the Nile River in Africa.



Animal Guide: African Animals

Eland Antelopes



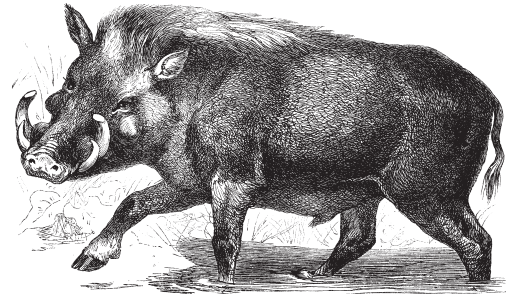
Eland Antelopes are the largest species of antelope. This animal stands about six feet tall and has spiral horns that are about 18 inches long. Eland Antelopes live in the plains and savanna of East and South Africa. They eat grasses and leaves.



Warthogs



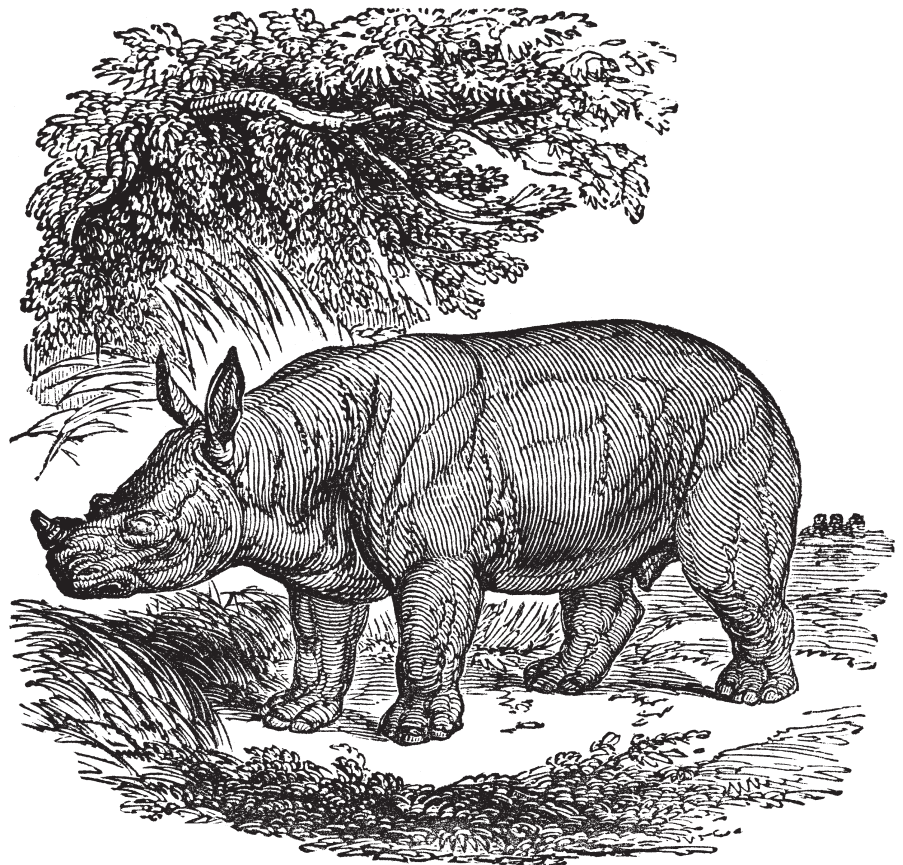
Warthogs are not too distant relatives of domesticated pigs. They live in African savannas and spend their days digging and nibbling on plants.



Black Rhinoceroses



There are barely 3,000 Black Rhinoceroses left in the wild, in Eastern and Southern brushlands of Africa. An adult rhino can weigh as much as a car—5,000 pounds. They browse on twigs and leaves but don't graze on grass.



Animal Guide: African Animals

Black and White Casqued Hornbills



Black and White Casqued Hornbills are frugivorous (fruit-eating) birds from Central Africa. How can you tell their diet from the shape of their beaks?



Okapis



Okapis are close and only relatives of giraffes. They live in the jungles of Africa and are well adapted to a life in a dense forest. They are the only mammals that clean their ears with their tongues! And for their large size, they are remarkable that okapis were only been discovered in 1901.

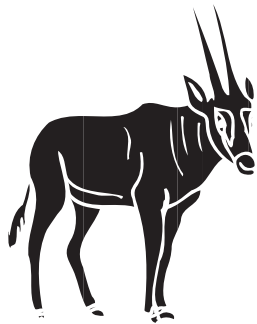


Meerkats



Meerkats come from Africa. They are mostly carnivorous omnivores—they can eat everything but prefer to munch on poisonous scorpions. They're mammals and belong to the same family of animals as mongooses. Meerkats create subterranean cities of borrows and live in large communities, where all the animals in a family group look out for each other. Compare their lifestyle to that of Prairie Dogs.

East African Oryxes



Oryxes have adapted to survive extreme heat and drought. They live in savannas and semi-desert regions of Eastern Africa. Oryxes live in small herds and feed on grasses, leaves, and fruits. They are predated upon by lions, leopards, and hyenas.

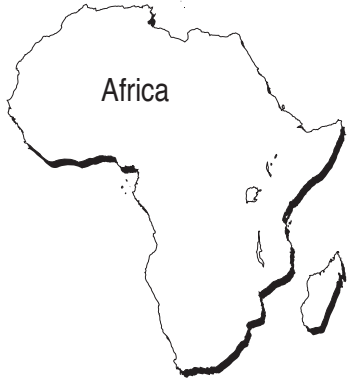


Animal Guide: African Animals

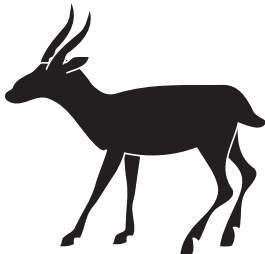
Addaxes



There are only about 200 Addaxes left in the wild. Their beautiful horns made them a favorite trophy of African hunters. They live on the outer edges of the Sahara Desert and their feet are adapted to walk on sand. They can go for weeks without a drink of water.



Gazelles



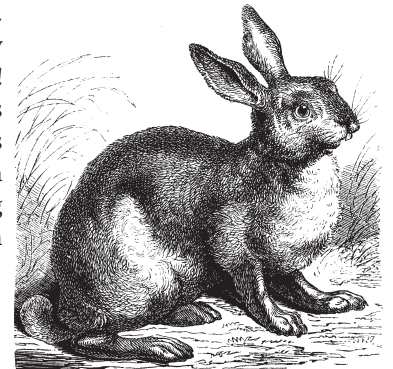
Gazelles are medium-sized antelopes. They are adapted to live in particularly dry places on the African continent, like parts of the Sahara Desert. They live in small herds and have an average life span of about 12 years. They feed on various desert shrubs and occasionally rear up on their hind legs to reach the tender shoots and leaves of taller plants.



Rabbits

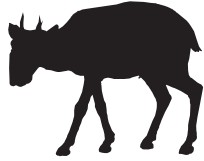


There are forty different species of hares and rabbits. They inhabit grassy areas, where they forage for food at dawn and dusk. Rabbits live and raise their young in burrows. They are herbivores. Their front teeth (incisors) are always growing. If these teeth don't get enough use, they could drill through the rabbit's lower jaw! Rabbits are now found on all continents except Antarctica. But having rabbits is not always a good thing. Do some research on rabbits in Australia for an interesting story about how a non-native species can do to an environment.



Animal Guide: African Animals

Duikers



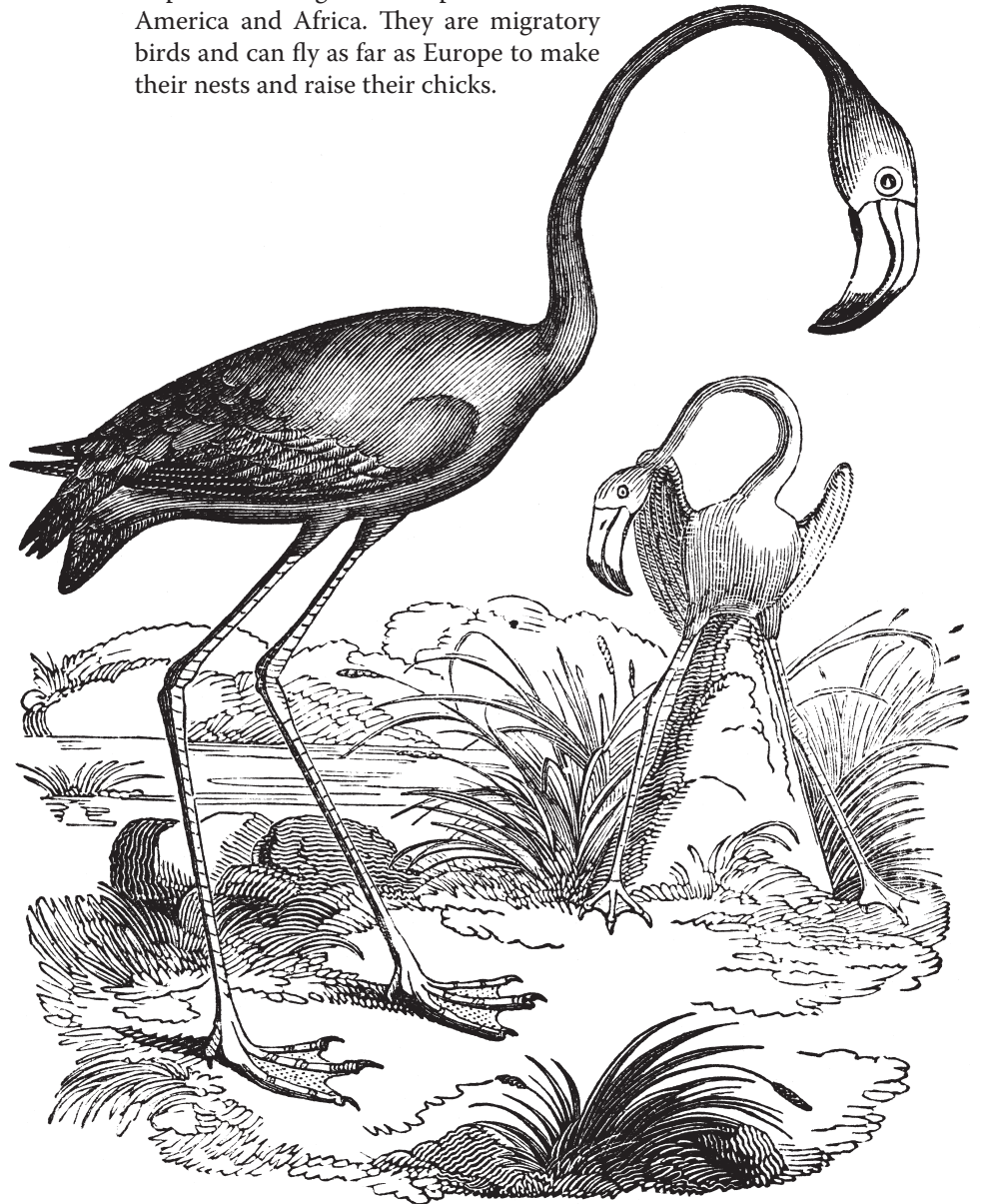
Duikers are nocturnal, African antelopes and have the largest brain (relative to their body size) of all antelopes! Why do you think their eyes are so big? There are several different species of duikers: there are Blue Duikers, Red-flanked Duikers, Gray Duikers, and even Zebra Duikers. They forage on fallen seeds, fruit, and berries. They also eat moss and bark—they are herbivores.



Flamingos



Flamingos are aquatic birds. They are filter feeders, just like the Blue Whales (the giant leviathans of the seas). Flamingos use their beaks to sift small shrimps out of the water—they tilt their heads up-side-down and use the top of their beaks as a spoon. Flamingos live in parts of South America and Africa. They are migratory birds and can fly as far as Europe to make their nests and raise their chicks.

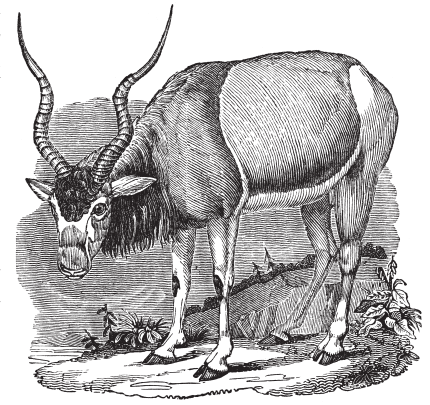


Animal Guide: African Animals

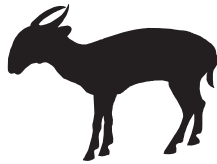
Kudus



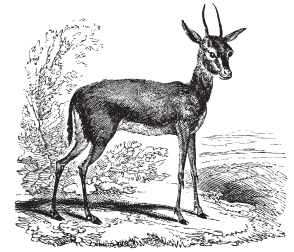
Kudus, a type of an African antelope, can jump eight feet up in the air, and their giant, spiraling horns can span up to six feet. These horns are sometimes used to make musical instruments. Kudus are herbivores. They browse the forests to avoid their predators: lions, cheetahs, and leopards. They eat leaves, flowers, fruits, tubers, shoots from trees and bushes, and grasses. Their front teeth are specialized for pulling vegetation, and their molars are good at grinding it.



Dik-diks



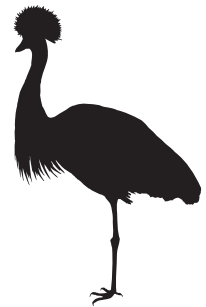
Dik-diks are one of the smallest African antelopes and weighs about eight pounds. They have elongated noses and walk on hooves and pseudo claws.



East African Crowned Cranes



East African Crowned Cranes are large birds with a beautiful golden crown of feathers. These cranes are omnivorous—they eat both plants and other animals. They scare up small animals (insects, frogs, snakes) by stomping their feet on the ground as they walk and then catch and eat them. The Crowned Cranes leap and bow, flatter their wings, and bob their heads. Some African people believe that their dances bring on rain. What do you think?



Ostriches



Ostriches are large, omnivorous birds, that live on the open plains of Northern Africa. They feed on seeds, berries, wild figs, and small animals such as tortoises and lizards. They can run 35 miles per hour—as fast as cars are allowed to go on city streets! Do you think they can fly?

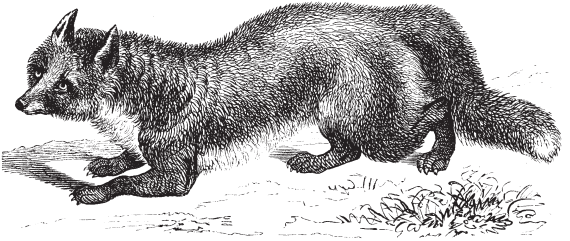


**Animal Guide:
African
Animals**

Foxes



Foxes belong to the same family of animals as dogs, wolves, and coyotes. They are very smart and will double back on their tracks to confuse their prey or predators. Foxes are carnivorous—they eat rabbits, rats, fish, lizards—but will also eat carrion (dead animals). They hunt at night, which makes them nocturnal. Foxes are found through the world. A male fox is called a reynard. A female fox is a vixen. And a baby is a kit. A group of wolves is called a pack, but a group of foxes is a skulk or a leash.



Bats



Bats live on all continents except Antarctica. There are over 1,000 species of bats! Bats account for 25% of all mammals in the world and are the only mammals that can fly. The largest bats have a wingspan of 6 feet! Some bats are insectivores (they eat insects), some are frugivorous (they eat fruits), some are nectarvores (they eat flower nectar), some feed on small mammals and fish, and some drink blood to get nourishment (vampire bats). Most bats, though, eat insects. A single bat can eat as much as a thousand bugs in an hour! All bats are nocturnal—sleep during the day, active at night. They sleep upside down in caves or hollow trees. All bats have a special adaptation that allows them to fly in the dark—echolocation. Bats emit a series of clicking sounds and then listen for the echoes of these sounds as they bounce off trees, walls, and other obstacles. By carefully listening to these echoes, bats can form a mental image of their surroundings from sound!

