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The **platypus** lives in streams, ponds, and rivers in Australia. It closes its eyes under water and uses its bill to dig in the mud to find its food.



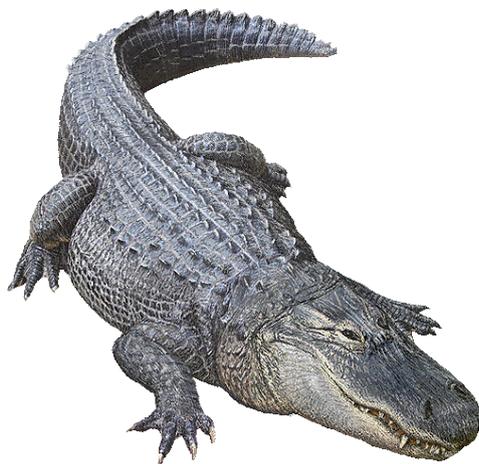
The **hyena**, found in Africa and parts of Asia, weighs up to 150 pounds. Its keen nose helps it find its prey at great distances.



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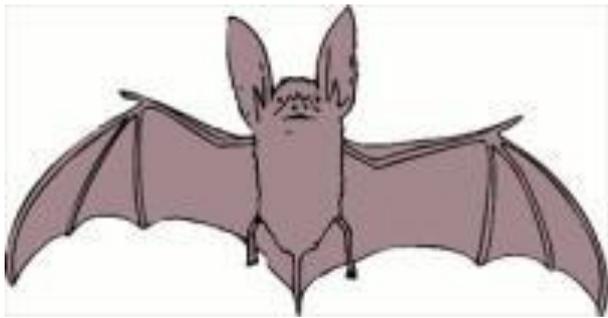
The world's largest animal, the **African elephant**, can stand 13 feet tall and weigh more than 14,000 pounds. Its long trunk helps it to breathe, pick things up, suck up and spray water, bathe and talk with other elephants.



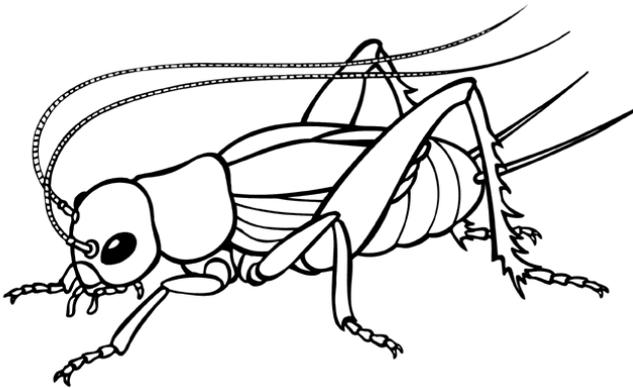
The **American alligator** is found in swamps and rivers in the southeastern United States. They eat fish, turtles, birds, and other small animals. They use their noses and tails to dig holes. They also breathe through their noses.



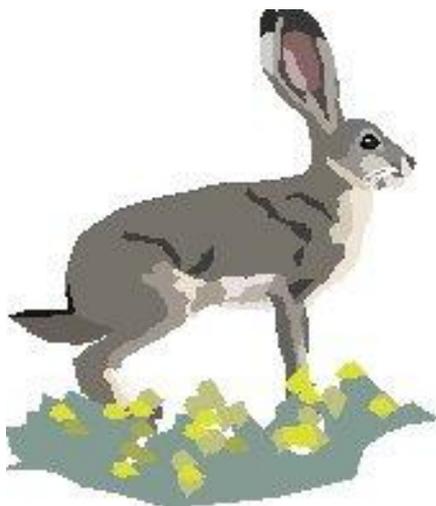
The **star-nosed mole** has twenty-two fleshy fingers on the end of its nose. Its nose helps it find its way through tunnels and find its food with sensitive smell and touch.



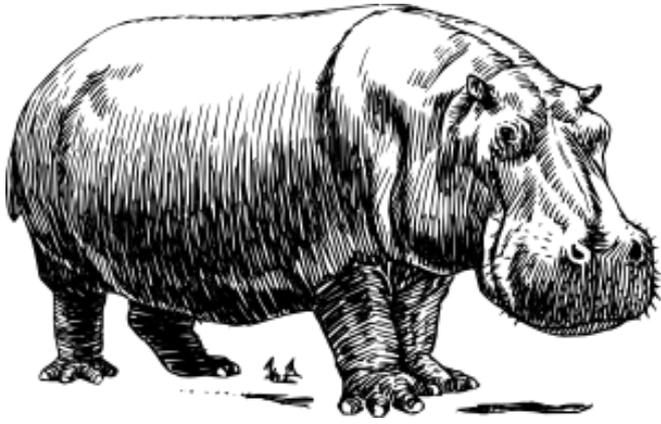
The **yellow-winged bat** uses its large ears to detect sounds which help it find its way in the dark and also helps it locate its food.



The **field cricket's** ears are on its two front legs. By pointing its body (and ears) in different directions, it can tell where a sound is coming from. They live in North America.



The **jackrabbit** has very long ears, up to a third of its body length. It lives in the desert of Southwest America. Its ears help it stay cool in warm temperatures.



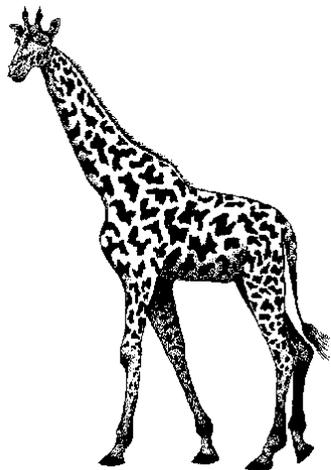
The **hippopotamus** is easily sunburned and spends a lot of time in the water. It closes off its ears and nose and can spend up to 30 minutes under water.



The ears of the **humpback whale** are visible as small openings on the whales' head. Their hearing is very sensitive. They can hear each other when they are hundreds of miles apart.



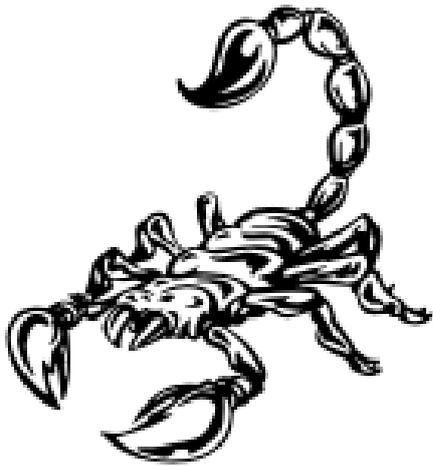
The **striped skunk** first warns an enemy to back off by raising its tail. If that doesn't work, it stands on its front legs, arches its back and shoots its spray over its head so it never turns its back on an attacker.



The world's tallest animal is the **giraffe**. It protects itself against its primary enemy, the lion, with kicks from its powerful back legs and uses its long tail to brush flies and other insects from its back.



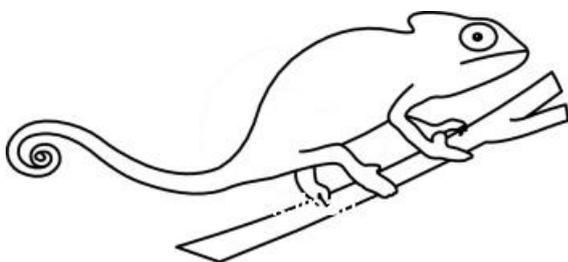
The **five-lined skink** has a long tail that can break off if it is attacked. The wriggling tail distracts predators, allowing the lizard to get away. Losing its tail doesn't really hurt the lizard—it soon grows a new one.



Hunting at night, a **scorpion** can locate its prey by touch and use the poison stinger at the end of its tail to paralyze an animal before it can get away. Scorpions live in warm climates throughout the world.



The **spider monkey** can use its tail like a fifth "hand". The end of its tail has a patch of bare skin with a special groove that helps it grasp things. The spider monkey's tail is longer than its body.



The **chameleon** hunts insects by sight. It catches insects by quickly flicking its sticky tongue, which is longer than its body. To watch for danger, the chameleon can turn each eye independently in any direction.



The **bald eagle** hunts by sight. Its eyesight is 4 to 8 times stronger than a human's. It hunts rabbits, small birds and fish. When diving to catch its prey, it can travel up to 150 miles per hour.



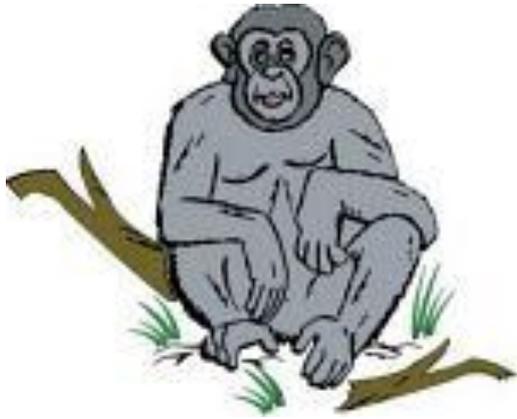
The **horned lizard** or "horny toad" is small, only 3 to 5 inches in length and is covered with small spikes. When threatened, it holds still. It can also puff up to look bigger and shoot a stream of blood from the corners of its eyes to distract its attacker.



The **four-eyed fish** can look above and below water at the same time. It really only has two eyes but each eye is divided with two separate sections, each containing all the parts of an eye.



The **bush baby** has very large, round eyes that allow it to see in dim nighttime light. Its eyes don't move in their sockets, so the bush baby is constantly turning its head from side to side.

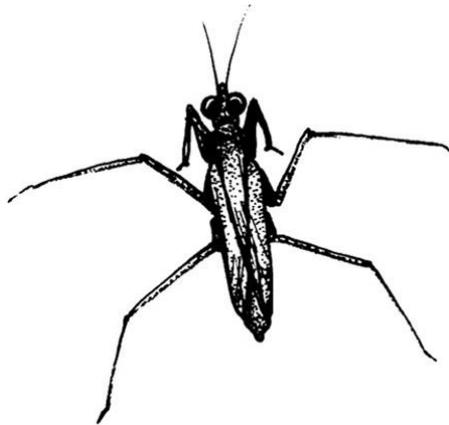


**Chimpanzees**, like humans, have opposable thumbs. Unlike us, they also have an opposable big toe. This allows them to use their feet in a variety of ways.



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The **blue-footed booby** uses its bright blue feet to attract a mate. When a male wants to impress a female, it dances, showing off its feet. It also spreads its wings, looks up and whistles.



On the ends of its long legs, the **water strider** has tiny hairs that allow it to walk on top of the water. It skates along on top of the water and eats dead insects that it finds floating there.



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**Geckos** have millions of tiny hairs on the bottom of their feet which, along with pads, use an electrical charge to cling to just about any surface—even a sheet of glass.



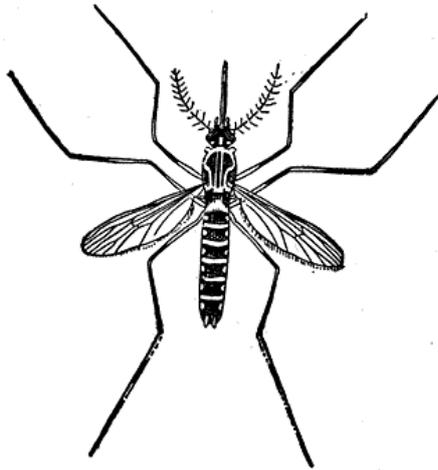
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The **mountain goat** makes its home on very steep, rocky mountain sides. It has special hooves that allow it to travel where other animals can't. The hooves are made of a hard outer covering, used to grip small rock ledges, and a soft, nonskid pad.

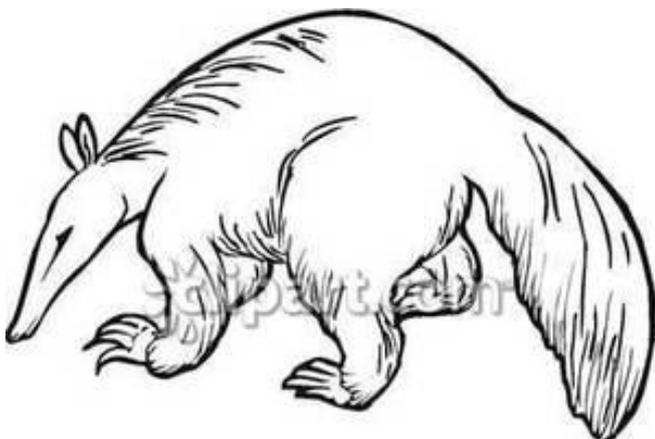


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The **brown pelican** has a large pouch of skin on the bottom part of its bill. Its pouch expands into a kind of net and can hold as much as 3 gallons of water and fish. It drains off the water and eats the fish.



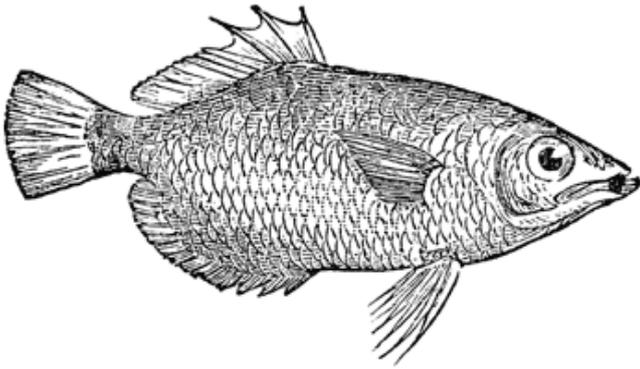
The **mosquito** has a special needlelike nose that it uses to pierce the skin of a person or animal. As it sucks blood through a hollow tube, it injects chemicals into the skin that keep the blood from clotting. These chemicals cause itching when bit by a mosquito.



The **giant anteater** has a long, tubular mouth with no teeth and a tongue that is 2 feet long. It uses this sticky tongue to capture up to 30,000 insects per day.



The **egg-eating snake** has jaws that can unhinge and very elastic skin, which allow it to eat eggs that are wider than its own body. It has no teeth but breaks the eggs with a special bone in its throat.



The **archerfish** looks for insects on branches hanging low over the water. When it spots one, it shoots water from its mouth, knocking the insect into the water, where it can be eaten.