

Believe it or not, coyotes are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

Did you know?

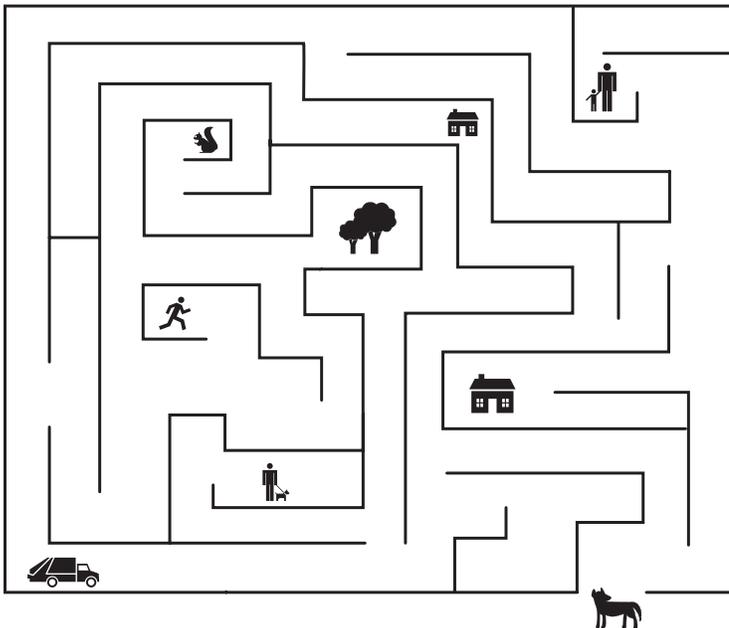
- Eastern coyotes howl and yip to mark their territory or reunite with their family group.
- In the wild, eastern coyotes usually live one to three years.
- They like to eat small mammals like mice, rats, squirrels, and rabbits but are not picky eaters. Coyotes will also eat plants and food accidentally left out by people, like pet food or garbage.
- If you see a coyote, don't panic. They are naturally curious and are just exploring the area. Keep it moving by making loud noises or waving your arms.
- Coyotes have been present in New York State since the 1930s.



TRAVEL MAZE

Coyotes are curious and often explore their surroundings at night. They are stealthy and quiet. Your chances of seeing a coyote are rare.

Help the coyote find the squirrel and then get to the trees in the park. Avoid people to get there safely.



POETRY

Coyotes are smart and learn quickly. If you see one close by, try to scare it. This helps them to learn to stay away from people. Yell loudly and wave your arms, then tell an adult as soon as possible.

Create a chant to yell at a coyote that comes too close. Fill in the lines using each letter at the beginning of each line to start.

C _____

O _____

Y _____

O _____

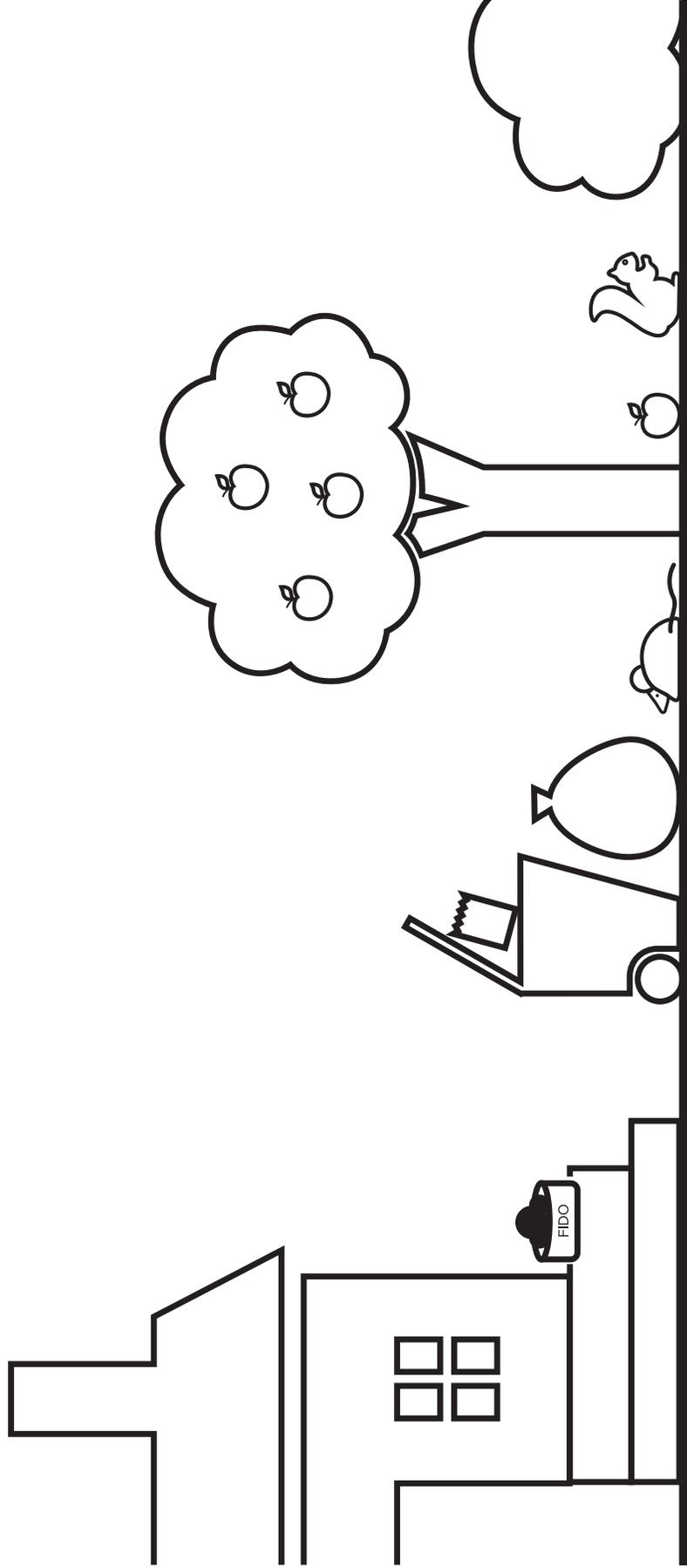
T _____

E _____

COYOTE DIET

Coyotes spend a lot of time each day hunting and looking for food. Sometimes they are attracted to food sources left out by people.

**Locate the natural food items that are a part of a coyote's diet and color them (3 total).
Identify food items below that are not part of a coyote's natural diet and draw ways to keep coyotes from finding them. (3 total).**



wildlife NYC White-tailed Deer

Believe it or not, deer are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

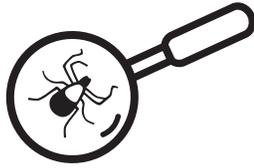
Did you know?

- The deer you'll see in NYC are called white-tailed deer. You can identify a baby white-tailed deer, or fawn, by the white spots on its sides.
- You're most likely to see a deer in the early morning and just before sunset, when they are most active.
- If you see a deer, don't get too close. The animals can be dangerous.
- Deer eat all kinds of plants, but human food could harm them—so keep your snacks to yourself!
- Male deer, or bucks, have large antlers, so it's easy to tell them apart from the females, or does.



FAMILY VACATION

Did you know that deer always travel with their families? That means if you see one, there are likely others nearby. **Draw a family of deer in the space below.**



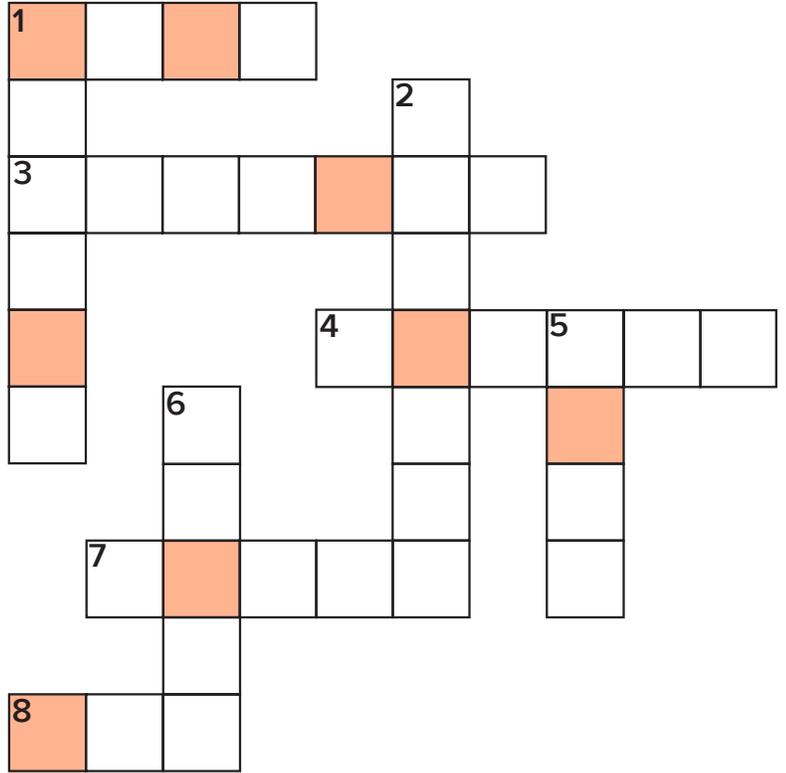
TICK CHECK

Ticks are small pests that can cause sickness in humans. They're also sneaky—ticks sometimes hitch rides on deer and spend time in wild areas. If you see a deer, a tick might not be far away.

Be safe! If you've spent time in the woods on a hike or picnic, make sure to check yourself for ticks when you get home.

DINNER TIME

Which of these are not part of a deer's diet?



WILD CROSSWORD

Fill in the clues, then unscramble the letters in the orange boxes to reveal this puzzle's theme.

ACROSS

- 1. A baby deer
- 3. A time when deer are most active
- 4. What deer eat for dinner
- 7. These pests can cause sickness
- 8. A female deer

DOWN

- 1. Deer always travel with their _____
- 2. Male deer have these on their head
- 5. The opposite of far
- 6. The deer found in NYC are _____ - tailed deer

THEME

Believe it or not, red-tailed hawks are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

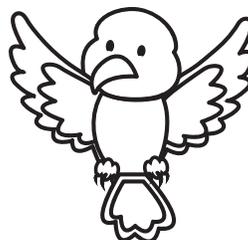
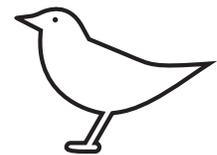
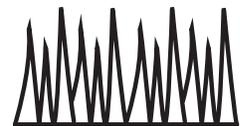
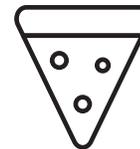
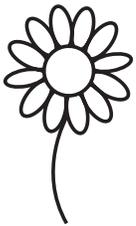
Did you know?

- Red-tailed hawks love to hunt for small birds, small mammals, and rodents.
- Eating rodents that have been poisoned can make a red-tailed hawk sick. Use snap traps rather than poison to control rodents.
- A red-tailed hawk gets its name from the reddish-brown color of an adult's tail feathers.
- Red-tailed hawks are the most common hawk found in North America.
- If you see a red-tailed hawk, don't get too close. They have sharp talons and beaks which they use for hunting.



FOOD CHAIN CONNECTION MATCHING

A food chain is a connection between animals, showing who eats who. **Connect each animal to its food to create a food chain. Remember that some animals will eat more than one item. Red-tailed hawks are top predators and have no natural enemies, so they will be the last animal in each chain.**



WORD SEARCH

Find the hidden words.

WORD BANK

Prey

Talons

Predator

Feather

Nest

Soaring

Carnivore

Beak

Raptor

Perch

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

FREE DRAW

Red-tailed hawks build nests out of twigs and sticks. In New York City, hawk nests have been found in large trees and on buildings.

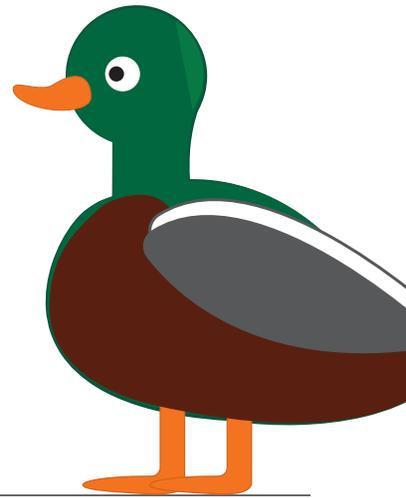
Imagine you are a hawk. Decide if you want to nest in a tree or on a building. Draw your nest and write why you chose that location.



Believe it or not, mallard ducks are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

Did you know?

- Mallard ducks are well-suited to living on water. Their feathers keep them dry and warm.
- Mallard ducks are also strong flyers. They can travel through the air up to 55 miles per hour.
- The classic “quack” sound is made by female mallards. Males have a lower, raspier sound.
- Ducks stay healthy by eating aquatic plants and small insects. Avoid feeding them human food like bread and corn, which does not give them the vitamins they need.
- Don't get too close. You may scare it away. Grab a pair of binoculars to get the best view.

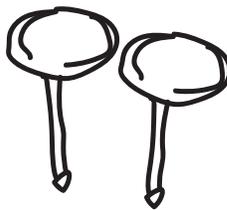


DUCK DIET

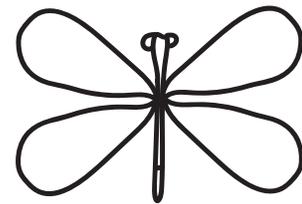
Keep ducks healthy by not feeding them human food. Eating bread can be especially harmful to young ducks that are still growing. **Color only the items below that are part of a duck's natural diet.**



POPCORN



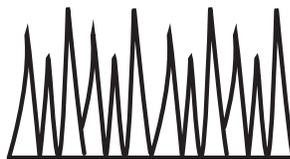
DUCKWEED



DRAGONFLY



BREAD

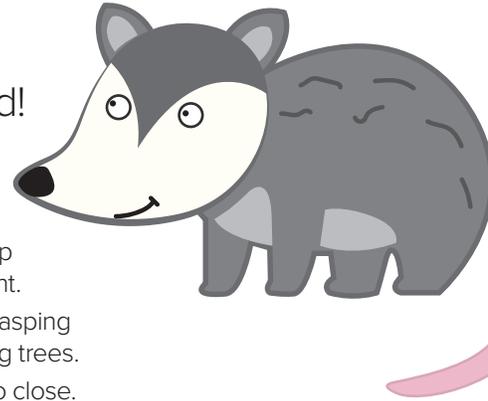


GRASS



WORM

Believe it or not, opossums are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!



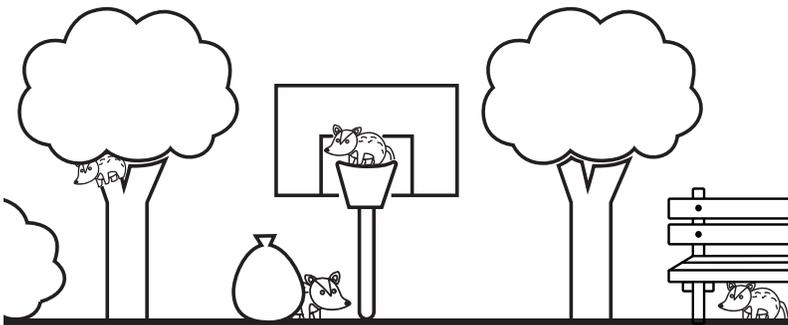
Did you know?

- Opossums are omnivores and eat both plants and animals. Their diet can include grasses, leaves, seeds, and small animals such as beetles, grasshoppers, snails, or slugs.
- Yes, they play dead. If frightened, opossums will freeze and not move until the danger passes.
- Opossums are nocturnal. They sleep during the day and are active at night.
- The tail of an opossum is great at grasping items. They use it a lot while climbing trees.
- If you see an opossum, don't get too close. They will try to protect themselves and may scratch or bite.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Opossums are shy creatures. They prefer to be out during the night when there are fewer people around. They may be out during the day, but will stay well hidden.

Find all of the opossums living in this neighborhood.



TOTAL: _____

ANIMAL TRACKS

Wildlife watchers love to look for animal tracks outside. You can learn a lot by following their footsteps.

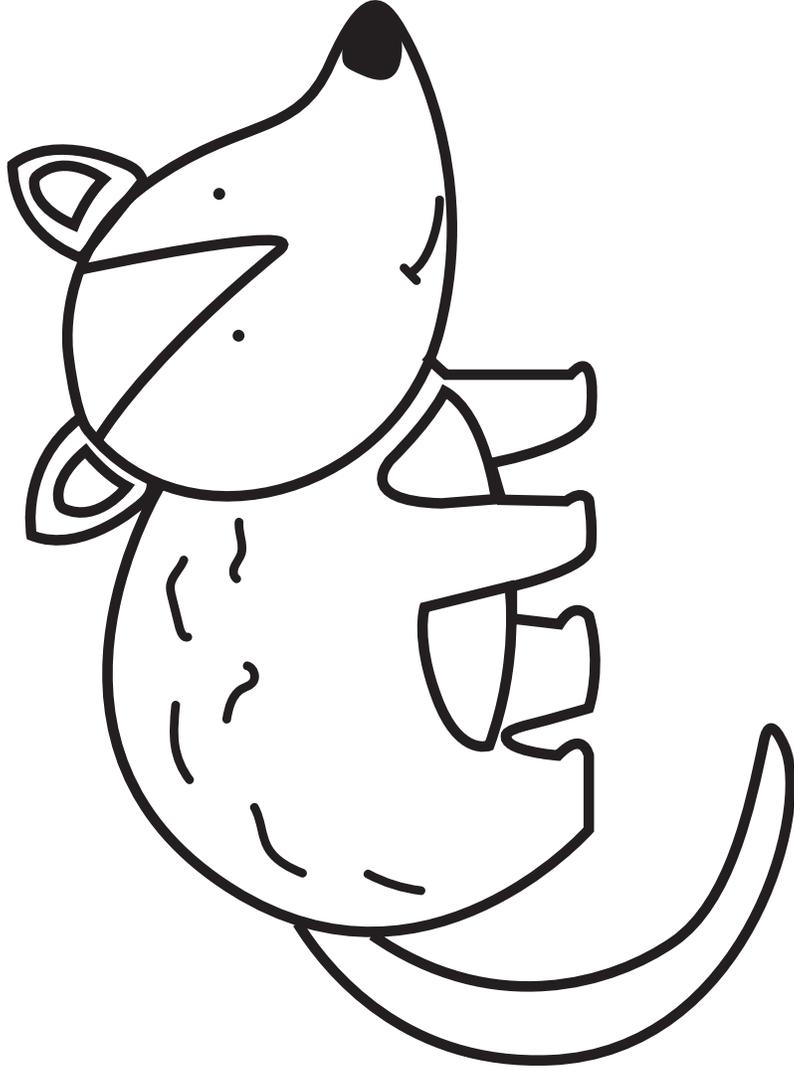
Match the animal to its tracks. Remember to look for their prints the next time you are outside.



FREE COLORING

Opossums are a type of marsupial. After being born, babies crawl into their mother's pouch. In the pouch they eat and stay safe. When they grow big enough to leave the pouch they stay close to mom – often riding on her back.

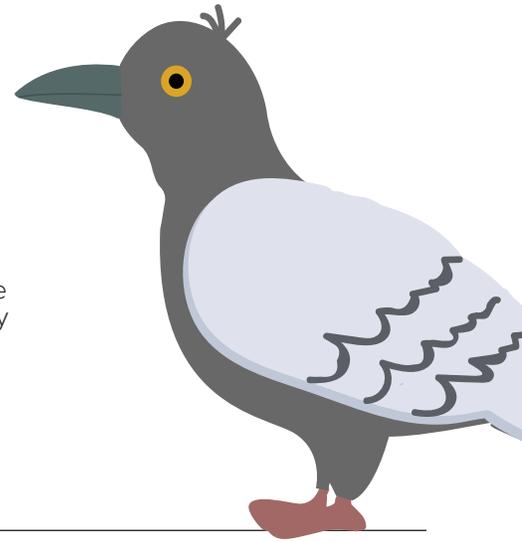
**Draw a few baby opossums for this mom to take care of.
Include some food for them to eat.**



Believe it or not, rock pigeons are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

Did you know?

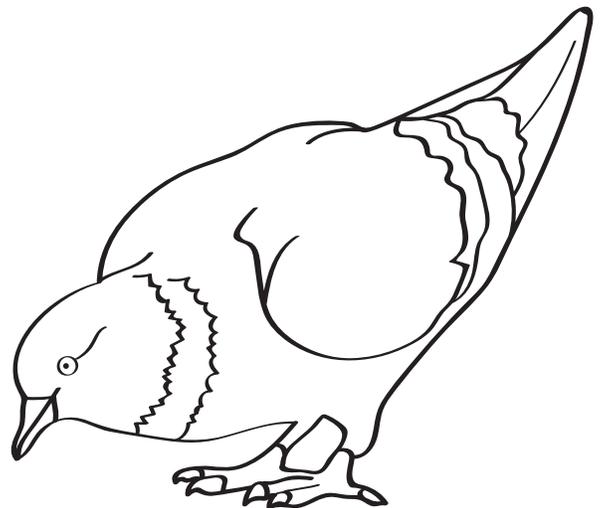
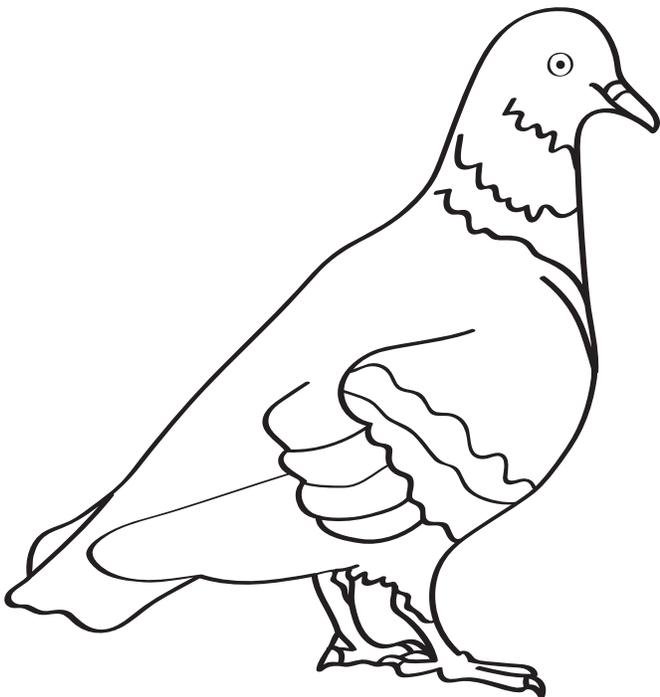
- Pigeons are fantastic flyers. They can turn corners sharply and take off quickly, just like a fighter jet.
- Rock pigeons stay healthy by eating seeds and small insects. Do not feed them. Human food like bread and corn does not provide them with the vitamins they need.
- In more wild areas, rock pigeons use rocky cliffs to build their nests. In cities, they have learned to use buildings instead.
- Baby pigeons are called squabs. They grow to adult size before leaving the nest.
- Pigeons do not get lost. They have an internal compass and can easily find home from any location.



COLOR A PIGEON

Pigeons are unique in many ways. One is their feather colors. This is called plumage. Each pigeon's plumage is different.

Look at pigeons around your neighborhood and notice all of the different colors and patterns. Color these pigeons using colors and patterns you noticed outside.



FREE DRAW

Rock pigeons are great with directions. Are you? Pigeons can use the sun, stars, landmarks, and Earth's magnetic fields just like a map and compass.

**Draw a map showing how you travel between home and school.
What do you use to know where you are while traveling?**

WILD CROSSWORD

Fill in the clues.

ACROSS

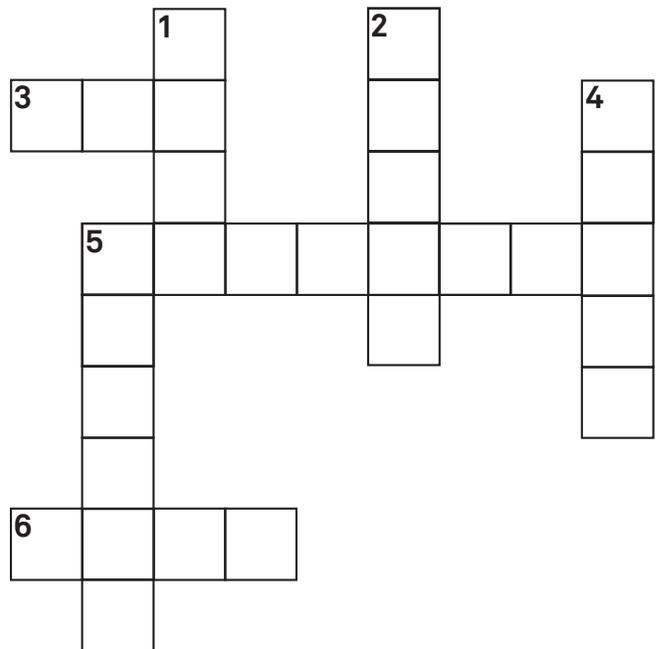
3. This is the sound a pigeon makes.
5. In the past and even today, pigeons have been used to carry these.
6. Pigeons use this to make a milk-like substance to feed their young.

DOWN

1. Pigeons belong to the _____ family.
2. A baby pigeon is called a _____.
4. They build _____ on rock cliffs or building ledges.
5. Pigeons have a good _____ and can recognize different human faces and places.

WORD BANK

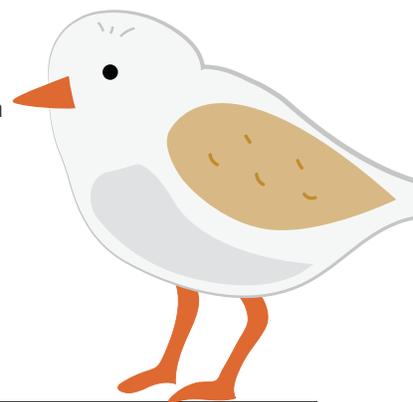
Crop	Memory
Squab	Messages
Coo	Nests
Dove	



Believe it or not, piping plovers are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

Did you know?

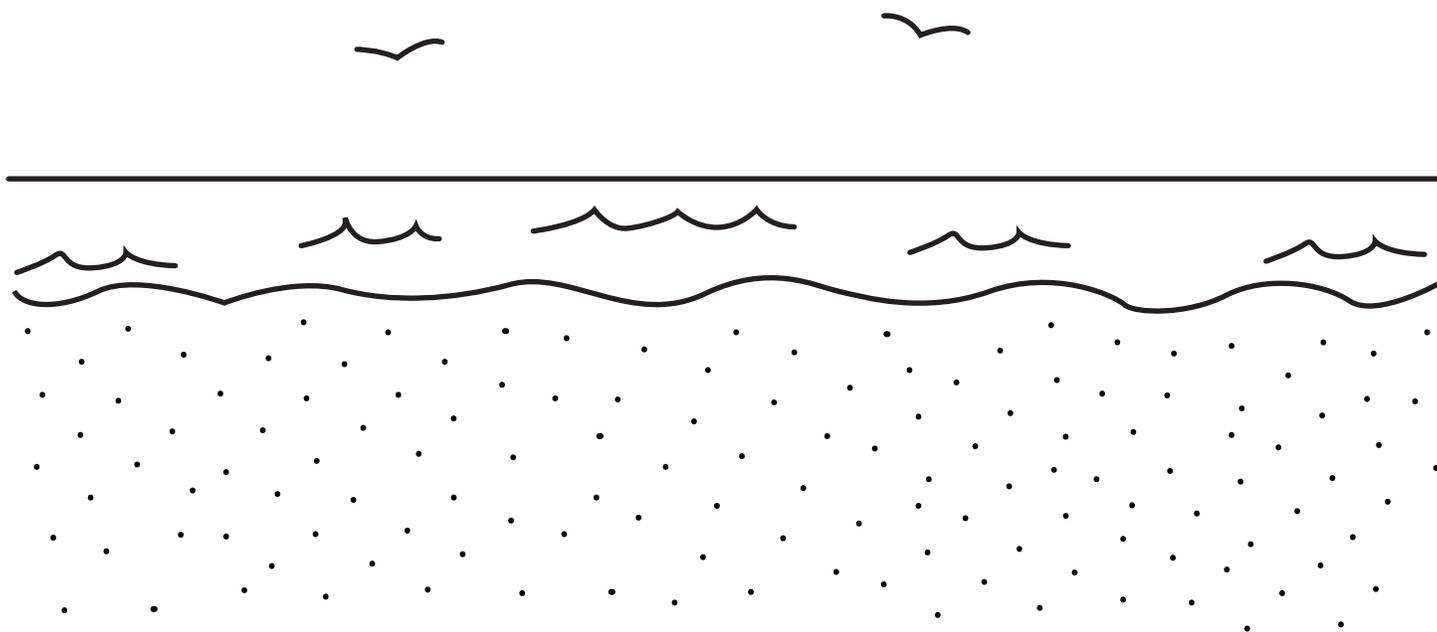
- Piping plovers are small birds. Adults weigh less than a small apple.
- Piping plovers nest along NYC beaches during the spring and summer. During the fall, they fly down to the Gulf of Mexico to enjoy warmer weather.
- The piping plover is listed as an endangered species in New York State, and listed as threatened across the United States.
- Piping plovers use their short beaks to eat food they find on the surface of the sand or in seaweed that has washed ashore. They eat small critters like worms, insects, and small shellfish.
- If you see a piping plover, don't get too close. You may scare it away, leaving its nest or young unprotected.

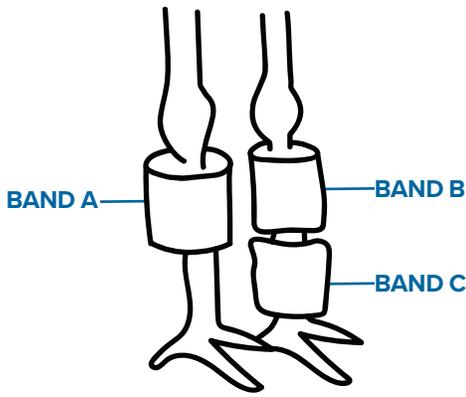


FREE DRAW

Do you like going to the beach in New York City? Piping plovers do. Each spring they arrive to lay eggs and raise young. Plovers and their homes are hard to see—they lay their eggs in the sand, which means they can blend in easily with the beach. Do your part to share the beach with the piping plover and other shorebirds. Stay out of closed areas and take your trash home with you.

Think about how you might share the beach with piping plovers the next time you visit. Draw yourself playing in a way that can help keep plovers safe.





BIRD BANDING

Scientists place bands on bird legs to study where they move. The colors and numbers are different for each bird. If you find a banded bird, take notes on colors or numbers you see. You can find websites online to send the information to. When you report a band, you learn where the bird was banded and where it has been seen.

Color the bands on this piping plover following the code given below.

BAND A:

Write down the year you were born:

Is it an even number?

If YES, color Band A red.

If NO, color Band A green.

BAND B:

Look at only the last number of your birth year above.

Is it a number between 0 and 4?

If YES, color Band B yellow.

If NO, color Band B blue.

BAND C:

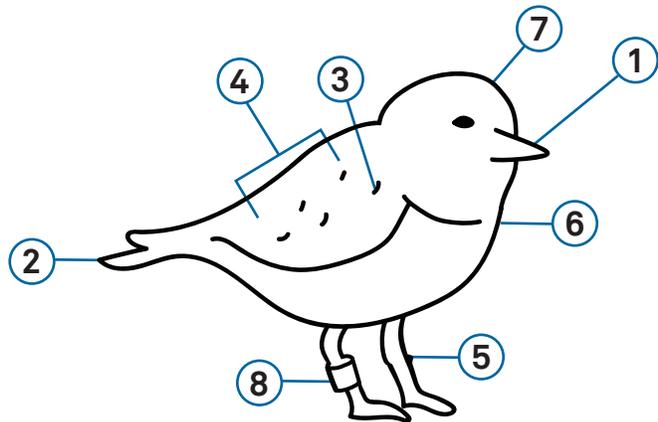
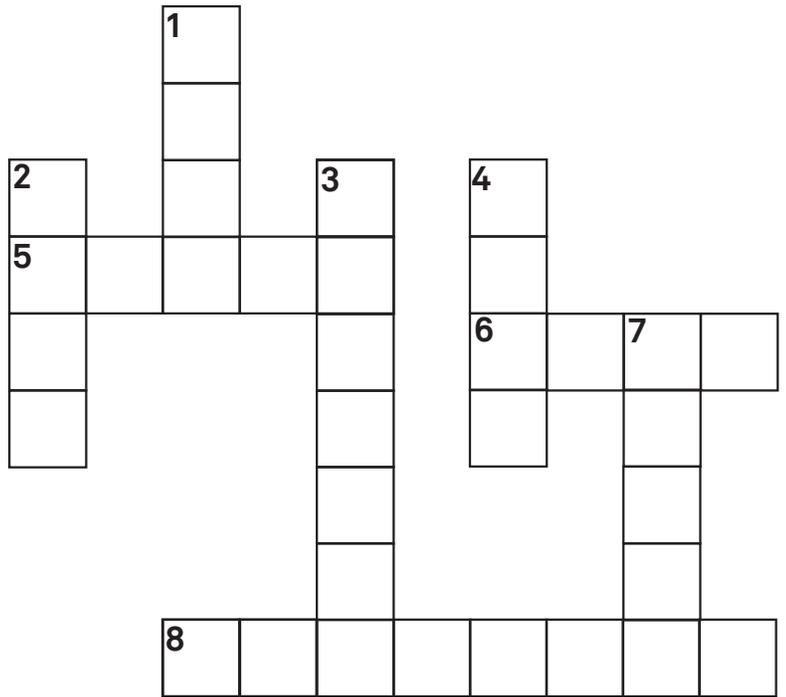
Was the bird born at Rockaway Beach?

If YES, color Band C purple.

If NO, color Band C orange

WILD CROSSWORD

Fill out the puzzle by labeling each body part.



WORD BANK

Tail

Beak

Feather

Wing

Crown

Ankle

Neck

Birdband



Believe it or not, raccoons are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

Did you know?

- Baby raccoons are also called kits.
- Raccoons are nocturnal—they love the night-time, but you may also see healthy raccoons during the day.
- They can rotate their hind feet almost 180 degrees. This helps them to climb up and down trees more easily.
- Raccoons can be found all across North America. They were some of the first New Yorkers, arriving here even before George Washington!
- If you see a raccoon, don't get too close. They will try to protect themselves and may scratch or bite.

WORD JUMBLE

Use words from the word bank to fill in the following sentences.

- Raccoons are very smart and learn quickly. Some say they are 1 _____ 2 3 _____.
- Don't litter. Keep all of your _____ 4 _____ 5 in containers with lids.
- Raccoons prefer to be active at night. They are called 6 7 _____ 8 _____ animals.
- Their front paws are like small hands. They also have an amazing sense of 9 10 _____ which they use to find food.
- Baby raccoons are called _____ 11 _____ 12 .

Fill in the sentence using the numbered letters from above.

A raccoon will 2 4 9 _____ almost anything. Scientists label them as _____ 7 1 6 11 3 10 8 5 12 .

Help to keep raccoons wild. Do 6 10 9 _____ feed them and store all food and garbage in animal-proof contains.

WORD BANK

- | | | |
|---------|-----------|-------------|
| Garbage | Nocturnal | Mischievous |
| Kits | Touch | |

ANIMAL TRACKS

Wildlife watchers love to look for animal tracks outside. You can learn a lot by following their footsteps.

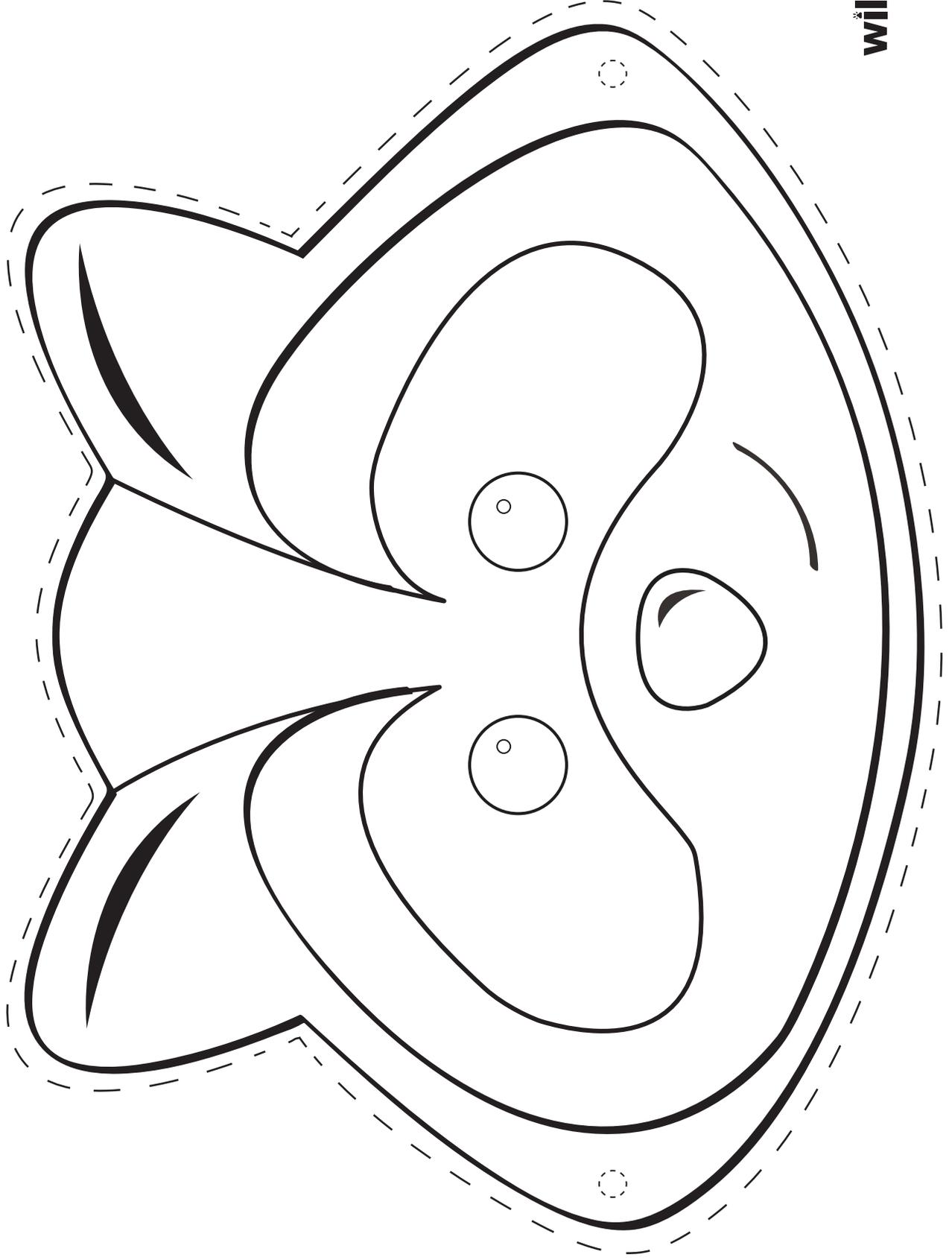
Match the animal to its tracks. Remember to look for their prints the next time you are outside.



MAKE YOUR OWN RACCOON MASK!

You can pick out a raccoon by the black stripes on its tail and black colored fur across its eyes. It looks like it is wearing a mask.

Color and cut out the mask below, add a shoelace to both sides, and tie it around your head to wear.



wildlife NYC Striped Skunks

Believe it or not, skunks are a part of the natural world in New York City. You might see one in your own neighborhood!

Did you know?

- Skunks are omnivores and eat both plants and animals. Their diet can include berries, grasses, insects, worms, and small mice.
- Skunks protect themselves with a smelly oil. They spray it from a gland underneath their tail.
- Skunks show they feel scared by stamping their feet and shuffling backwards.
- They do not hibernate, but will stay inside their den for long periods during very cold weather.
- If you see a skunk, don't get too close. The animals will try to protect themselves and may spray, scratch, or bite.



WORD SCRAMBLE

Did you know skunks use their smelly oil spray to protect themselves? You can keep yourself skunk-spray-free if you keep your distance and do not sneak up on one.

Circle the behaviors below that will help keep you from scaring a skunk. Then unscramble the green letters under the behaviors you circled to fill in the blank.

Skunks dig in the ground to find and eat _____ s.



Hike on marked trails

O



Get close and feed wildlife

T



Walk outside with pets leashed

R



Bring garbage home to throw away

M



Hike out on your own trail

C



Use binoculars to view wildlife

W



Walk outside with pets unleashed

I



Throw garbage in a can that's too full

T

CONNECT THE DOTS

Skunks have poor eyesight.

Connect the dots to help the skunk see what predator is hunting them in the forest at night.



WORD SEARCH

Find the hidden words.

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

WORD BANK

Mammal
 Stripe
 Omnivore
 Burrow
 Smelly
 Fur
 Black
 White
 Tail
 Nocturnal
 Timid