








52 Wild Wonders for Kids



QUIRKY CRITTER

DEVOTIONS



ANNETTE WHIPPLE

Quirky Critter Devotions








Tyndale House Publishers
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ANNETTE WHIPPLE

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*For my friends and family
who help me live in wonder.*



Contents



Mammals

Gray Wolf <i>Awhooooooo!</i>	2
Pangolin <i>Mash-Up</i>	6
Pygmy Marmoset <i>The Smallest Monkey</i>	10
Little Brown Bat <i>Winter Choices</i>	14
Serval <i>Sneaky Serval</i>	18
Short-Tailed Chinchilla <i>The Softest Fur</i>	22
Hoffmann's Two-Toed Sloth <i>Sloth Stealth</i>	26
Bottlenose Dolphin <i>Body Talk</i>	30



Insects

Katydid <i>Creative Differences</i>	36
Praying Mantis <i>Praying or Preying?</i>	40
Honey Bee <i>A Buzzy Team</i>	44
Hercules Beetle <i>Super Strength</i>	48
Firefly <i>Living Lights</i>	52
Blue Death-Feigning Beetle <i>Feeling Blue</i>	56
Monarch Butterfly <i>Heavenly Home</i>	60



Amphibians

Wood Frog <i>Quack Says the Frog</i>	66
Eastern Newt <i>Slow and Steady</i>	70
Couch's Spadefoot <i>Soak Up the Rain</i>	74
Red-Eyed Tree Frog <i>Pop Eyes</i>	78
Giant Palm Salamander <i>Quick Tongue</i>	82
Axolotl <i>Lookin' Young</i>	86
Glass Frog <i>What's Inside?</i>	90
American Bullfrog <i>Loud and Low</i>	94



Birds

Ruby-Throated Hummingbird <i>Hmmmmmm</i>	100
Brown Kiwi <i>Not the Fuzzy Fruit</i>	104
Common Loon <i>Water Runners</i>	108
Hoatzin <i>What's the Stink?</i>	112
Turkey Vulture <i>Feasting on Decay</i>	116
European Starling <i>Sky Dancer</i>	120
Burrowing Owl <i>Daytime Hunter</i>	124



Fish

Stonefish

Masters of Camouflage 130

Whale Shark

The Largest Fish 134

Fathead Minnow

Smelly Distraction 138

Giant Seahorse

Hold Tight 142

Nopoli Rock-Climbing Goby

Rock Climber 146

Flagtail Surgeonfish

Grow with Light 150

Blobfish

Puddle of Pudding 154



Reptiles

Marine Iguana

Alarm Calls 160

Common Garter Snake

Hidden Eggs 164

Texas Horned Lizard

Squirting Blood 168

American Crocodile

After a While, Crocodile 172

Painted Turtle

A Hard Shell 176

King Cobra

Nest Builder 180

Panther Chameleon

Wide-Eyed View 184



Spiders

Peacock Spider <i>Bold Beauty</i>	190
Diving Bell Spider <i>Deep Diver</i>	194
House Spider <i>Houseguest</i>	198
Daddy Longlegs Spider <i>An Impostor?</i>	202
Wolf Spider <i>Piggyback Style</i>	206
Goliath Bird-Eating Spider <i>Giant Goliath</i>	210
Black Widow Spider <i>A Healthy Fear</i>	214
Kipling's Jumping Spider <i>Surprising Diet</i>	218

A Note to the Reader 222

Learn More 223

Acknowledgments 224

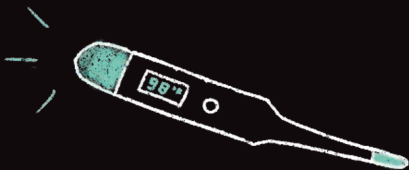
About the Author 225





About **6,500** species of mammals live around the world, both on land and in oceans. Hair or fur covers mammals' bodies. Almost all give birth to live young (rather than laying eggs like birds, reptiles, and some other creatures), and they produce nutrient-rich milk to feed their babies.

As warm-blooded animals, mammals keep a constant body temperature even when the weather changes. Some migrate or hibernate with the change of seasons.



MAMMALS



Gray Wolf

Scientific Name: *Canis lupus*



Awhooooooo!

Gray wolves live in groups called packs in parts of North America, Europe, and Asia. The size of packs varies, but 5 to 9 wolves is common. A male and female pair form a pack with their offspring.

During spring and summer, as wolf pups grow, they stay in their den for the first 8 to 10 weeks of life. At first the mother cares for all the needs of her litter of pups. After a couple of weeks, the pups begin to see and hear, and they start to move around. Soon the pack works like a family, and they all help tend to the pups' needs. The pups begin to leave the den and learn how to hunt by playing. Young wolves hunt with the pack when they're about 6 to 8 months old.

Once fall arrives, the wolf pack becomes nomadic, meaning they move from place to place. A pack of gray wolves usually moves at night, covering long distances—up to 125 miles (200 kilometers) at a time. Typically, they travel about as fast as humans walk at a brisk pace, but they are capable of great speed. Gray wolves run as fast as 40 miles per hour (64 kilometers per hour).

Known for their hunting skills, gray wolves use scent to find their prey. In packs, they often take down large animals like moose, elk, musk oxen, and reindeer—targeting the weak, old, or immature. Lone wolves hunt small prey like beavers and rabbits.

Gray wolves use vocalizations like howling to find each other. You may not talk with howls, but every message you type and every word you say communicates with others. Do you send kind and loving messages to friends, family, and strangers? Use your words to glorify God by being a friend and encourager to all.

Other Common Names:

timber wolf, tundra wolf

Adult Diet:



moose



elk



musk oxen



rabbits



beavers

Length:

1 cm

3–6 feet (1–1.8 meters)

1 in



Make a list of several friends or family members you want to encourage this week.

Encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

Father, help me to be an encouragement in my words and messages to people I know. In Jesus' name, amen.

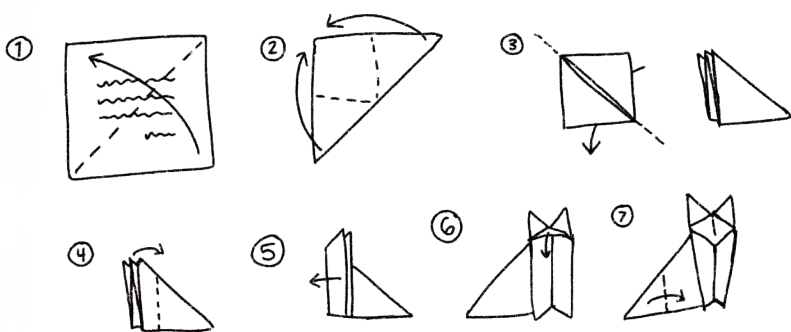
Wild Wonder

Gray wolves can eat 20 pounds (9 kilograms) of meat at once.



🌀 Creature Connection

Follow the steps below to make an origami wolf. You'll need a few sheets of thin, square paper to get started. Write encouraging notes to 2 or 3 friends on the pieces of paper and fold each one into the shape of a wolf. Leave them in places where your friends will find them.



Pangolin

Scientific Names: *Manis crassicaudata*, *Manis culionensis*,
Manis javanica, and more



Mash-Up

With huge claws, the pangolin digs into termite mounds and ant nests as it sniffs for its next meal. It easily snatches small insects with its 2-foot-long (61-centimeter) sticky tongue. But it doesn't eat much—only about 45 grams of food a day. That's the same weight as 4 tablespoons of rice.

Today, pangolins live only on the continents of Asia and Africa in tropical forests, woodlands, and savannas. Some dig their own burrows. Other pangolins shelter in caves, hollow trees, abandoned homes, or between rocks.

When they feel threatened, pangolins spray a nasty-smelling liquid. They also roll tightly into a ball to protect their hairy stomach while their outer scales stop predators like leopards and lions. These mammals are born with scales covering their bodies. The sharp scales overlap like body armor.

Pangolins' scales protect them against most natural predators but not against humans. They are sold illegally and considered the most highly trafficked animal in the world. They are killed for their scales and meat. All 8 species of pangolins are endangered or threatened with extinction today.

Pangolins seem like a mash-up of reptiles (scales), wombats (digging claws), amphibians (sticky tongue), and skunks (stinky spray). Yet they are their own unique design. You are unique too—

God's design. He made you to look a little bit like your mom and a little bit like your dad—and he also made you exactly who he wanted you to be. Look in the mirror today and thank God for how he created you.

Other Common Name:

scaly anteater

Adult Diet:



ants



termites



insect larvae

Length:

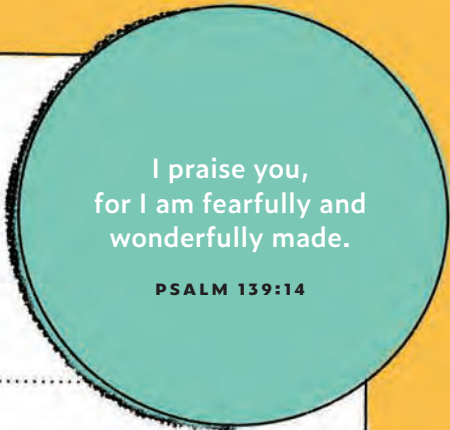
1 cm

2–6 feet (0.6–1.8 meters)

1 in



Write down the physical characteristics you like best about yourself. Think about your friends and family. Which characteristics do you share with loved ones?



I praise you,
for I am fearfully and
wonderfully made.

PSALM 139:14

Handwriting practice lines consisting of a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, repeated ten times.

Dear God, thank you for carefully making me just the way you planned. In Jesus' name, amen.

Wild Wonder

The pangolin doesn't have teeth, so its stomach "chews" the bugs it eats.





Creature Connection

Draw a picture of yourself and label all of your unique physical characteristics. Notice the little things like your freckles, multiple colors in your eyes, and the unique shade of your skin in addition to features like your height and hair color.

