

Child Friendly News



Not a walk on
the wild side
PG 4-5



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Malaysian Airlines plane shot down

It has not been a good year for Malaysian Airlines, the national airline of Malaysia. Months after one of its aircraft mysteriously disappeared from the skies, another one of its flights was shot down over the Ukraine, killing all 298 passengers on board.

What happened?

MH 17 was a routine (normal) flight from Amsterdam (capital of the Netherlands) to Kuala Lumpur (capital of Malaysia). After take-off, the aircraft flew over Germany and Poland before entering the airspace over Ukraine, a country in Eastern Europe. As you may know from past issues of CFN, Ukraine is in the middle of a civil war with the eastern half of the country breaking away to form an independent nation that has the support of Russia. Ukraine in fact blames Russia for the division and civil war.

Armies of the Ukrainian nation and the breakaway group – let's call them the rebels – have been fighting for months now. The rebels have been shooting at aircraft of the Ukrainian air force and even succeeded in bringing down a few planes. MH 17 was flying over the Donetsk region of



Ukraine, close to the Ukraine-Russia border when it was shot down. It is believed that the rebels may have shot at MH 17 believing it to be a craft of the Ukrainian air force.

Who was behind the incident?

To bring down an aircraft that was flying ten kilometres above the ground would require special guns and it is widely believed that

these guns were supplied by Russia to the rebels. If this is proved, other powerful countries such as the United States and Germany may force Russia to back down and end the war in Ukraine. Most of the unlucky passengers on board MH 17 were from the Netherlands and Australia. Officials from these countries have travelled to Ukraine to investigate the accident and find out exactly what happened.

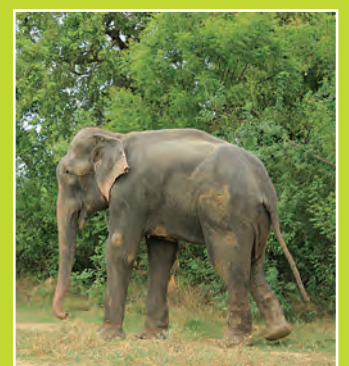
An appeal for Raju

In the Special Report on pages 4 and 5, you will read the story of Raju the elephant that was rescued after 50 years in cruel slavery. Raju is now at the Wildlife SOS Elephant Sanctuary near Agra, where he is slowly recovering.

With the right care, Raju could live another ten years, maybe even 20. But he'll need ongoing veterinary care to heal his leg ulcers and other wounds. He will also need a steady supply of good food for his weak body to keep him healthy all through his remaining years.

Wildlife SOS needs help to provide all this to Raju. You too can help Raju by contributing to Wildlife SOS' efforts. If you'd like to help Raju by donating money, please get in touch with Wildlife SOS at info@wildlifesos.org and they will get back to you very soon.

It doesn't matter how small or large your contribution is – every little bit counts!



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DINOS, NOT BIRDS MAY HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TO FLY

Flight is something that we associate with birds. But discovery of the remains of a dinosaur that could fly long before birds evolved could change our thinking.

Recently, a 125 million year old fossil of a dinosaur with very long tail feathers was uncovered in the Liaoning Province of north-eastern China. Named the Changyuraptor yangi, the dinosaur has tail feathers nearly a foot long. This long tail may have helped the dinosaur decrease its descent speed and make safe landings.



Did you know that birds themselves have descended from dinosaurs?

The Changyuraptor yangi's body was covered in feathers much like birds (which evolved later). It is classified as a four-winged dinosaur as its long tail feathers look like a second pair of wings. The discovered specimen was a full grown adult. It was found to have sharp, knife-like teeth indicating that it was a carnivore that preyed on fish and small mammals. It lived in a temperate region within coniferous forests.

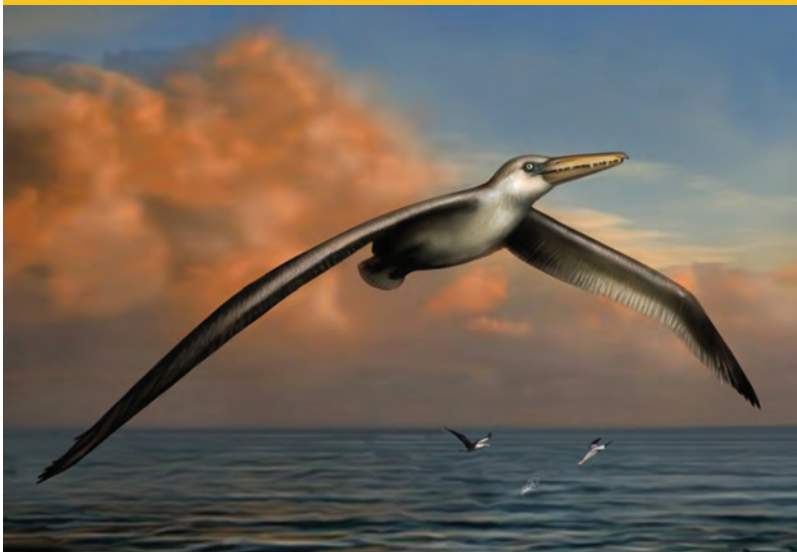
The discovery of the Changyuraptor yangi is important as it helps scientists confirm that dinosaurs learnt to fly long before birds came along.

The largest bird ever

It seems to be a month of avian discoveries. A week before the discovery of the feathered dino was announced, we heard that scientists had stumbled upon the remains of what would have been the largest flying bird ever. The discovery was made in the state of South Carolina in the United States.

Called the Pelagornis sandersi, the now extinct giant seabird had a wingspan of nearly 24 feet – compare that to a modern bird like the crow which has a wingspan of less than one foot. The Pelagornis sandersi was twice the size of the Royal Albatross, the largest living bird in the world now. It belongs to an extinct family of birds called Pelagornithids that had bony tooth-like beak projections, large size, and very different wing bones. These birds lived on Earth around 25 million years ago.

With its long slender wings, the Pelagornis sandersi could stay soaring in the air over the sea for long periods of time. It would probably hunt by swooping down from the sky to feed on prey like squid and eels.



Meteorite on Mars

Curiosity, the rover (unmanned ground vehicle) sent to Mars by United States (US) space agency NASA has found remains of a meteorite that probably crash landed on the red planet long ago.

This is the first meteorite found by Curiosity which has already spent almost two years on the red planet. The rocky remains have been named Lebanon while a smaller rock close by has been named Lebanon B. Scientists were able to use Curiosity's ChemCam to identify the rocks as iron meteorites. ChemCam, which is one of the many instruments attached to Curiosity, can understand a rock's composition from up to 25 feet away by releasing a series of laser beams at the rock. Isn't that cool?

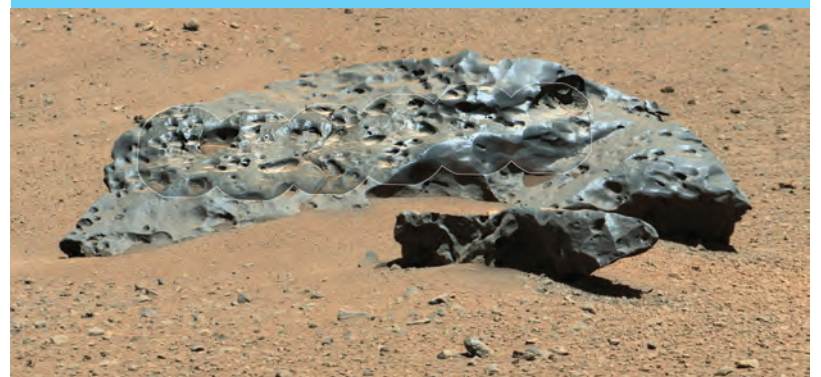
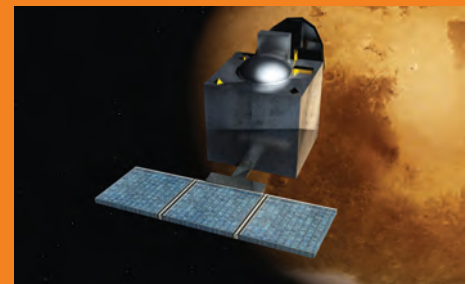


Photo Courtesy: NASA

Only 60 days away

Meanwhile, Mangalaayan, India's own probe that is on a 680 million kilometer voyage to Mars, is 60 days from reaching the red planet's orbit. It has already travelled 525 million kilometres since it was launched on November 5 last year.





Owlie Talks Technology

Keeping an eye on you

It all began with a man who wanted to catch the neighbourhood dog that was repeatedly messing up his garden. He had a neat plan – wire up a web camera (webcam) and shoot a video of the offender in the act. Two big problems arose – wiring up the webcam wasn't easy, and plus, once it started recording, the hours of video files were too big for his computer to handle.

Enter the man's smart son and a friend who realized that an easy to set up webcam that would only record when it sensed movement and would upload what it recorded to the Internet automatically would be a killer idea. It was. Five years later, the company that the son and his friend started to make such a webcam has been sold to Google for a whopping US \$ 555 million.

The Idea

The inventors in question are two Americans - Greg Duffy and Amir Virani – and the product they came up with was Dropcam. Dropcam is a revolutionary gadget as it has turned the security camera from an institutional system into a consumer appliance that can be set up by anyone.

The way it works is very simple – the camera captures the video, then transmits it to the Internet over Wifi. You can either view the video in real time (so you'd know



These are the kind of images that the Dropcam can broadcast to your PC/phone/tablet so you'll be able to keep an eye on things from far away.

what's going on at home at any time) or view the stored files later.

Dropcam is meant for people who want to keep an eye on their homes/workplaces when they are not there. It could be a young boy keeping an eye on his pet, a working mother who wants to stay in touch with her kids after they come home from school or children wanting to monitor elderly parents. It could even be used to observe wildlife and city birds around your home!

A view from the clouds

Dropcam owes its success to the fact that it works using three things from the world of technology that are becoming more and

more important. One is the cloud (or the Internet) – Dropcam stores the files online so you can browse and review them at leisure. Two, it uses Wifi as a carrier – the camera hooks on to the home WiFi network. Third, the product leverages smart-phones – the live feed from the camera or the stored file can be viewed through a smartphone app.

The Internet of Things

Devices like Dropcam are important as they represent the future of the Internet – one where devices will be connected to the network all the time, allowing us to stay in touch and keep an eye on people, places and even naughty pets!

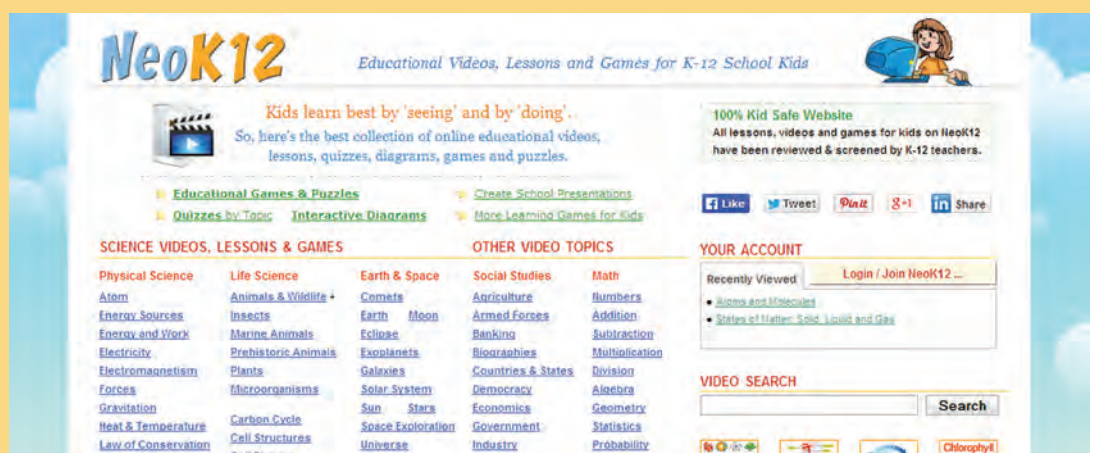
Website Wanderings

An online study stop

Physics, chemistry, biology, math.....so much to learn and so little time! Maybe it is time you took a break from your textbook and went online to learn.

<http://www.neok12.com/> is an educational website that contains videos, games, quizzes and lessons on topics you'd encounter in school between Grade (Form) 1 and 8. The topics are helpfully divided into categories like Physical Science, Human Body, Geography, History and English.

Seeing is believing and learning too...which is why we believe that you'd find it easier to learn a new concept through videos and games. Be it on the States of Matter,



Algebra and Geometry or the Carbon Cycle, this website has a wide range of videos and learning material. Check it out!

Cost: Some of the content is free while others require a paid subscription that costs Rs.1495 for the year for individuals and Rs.1895 for teachers using the website for upto 30 students.



At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst

— Aristotle



Not just tigers

Tigers grab the headlines when the talk turns to illegal (something that is not allowed by the law) trade (buying and selling) in wild animals. The poaching of tigers for their skin and body parts is pretty awful, but there is more you need to know about illegal wildlife trade in India. It extends to animals and activities that may be going on under your very nose.

Raju's story

Raju is a 50 year old tusk-less bull (male elephant). It is likely he was stolen from a forest as a calf and then sold to a series of people, one after the other, all his life. All through this, he was subjected to daily abuse and beatings to 'discipline' him for a life of begging so his owners could make money by renting him out.

Wildlife SOS got to know about Raju's plight a year ago. Under India's laws, trade in elephants (buying and selling the animals) is illegal. It took some months to get permission to rescue him but on the 4th of July, Raju finally won his freedom. He now lives in Wildlife SOS' Elephant Conservation and Care Center in Mathura (ECCC), located just around an hour from the Taj Mahal in Agra.

According to Kartick Satyanarayan, one of the people behind Wildlife SOS, at his new home, Raju will no longer be abused with spikes or beatings and will have his own enclosure to walk in freely without chains. He will be able to freely use a fresh water pool and have the company of seven other elephants.



Raju on the road to freedom as he travels to Wildlife SOS' rescue centre

NOT A W THE WIL

A few weeks ago, a male elephant named Raju was rescued by wildlife charity organization Wildlife SOS after spending 50 years of his life as a slave to a series of cruel masters. In this Special Report, you will read Raju's story and find out more about illegal wildlife trade in India.



The sad story of India's elephants

Raju's story will likely have a happy ending, but not all elephants are so lucky. Although it is illegal to use an elephant for activities that will earn its owner money, nothing is done about the mis-use of these gentle animals. As a result:



- Elephants are forced to walk down blistering hot roads in Delhi on their way to take part in birthdays, marriages and social functions
- They are forced to beg for money in return for blessings which is very unnatural behavior for an elephant
- Young elephants and calves are cruelly captured and separated from their herds by people who make a lot of money by selling them to others who use them to earn money in turn

What can you do?

In cities like Delhi, elephants can be found living in urban areas. They are used for begging and for joyrides at birthday parties and other events. To get them to obey, such elephants are often created cruelly. Don't encourage this cruel practice – DON'T ASK FOR ELEPHANTS AT YOUR BIRTHDAY PARTY/SOCIAL EVENTS.

If you see a wild animal being treated cruelly, you can file a police complaint or ask for help from Wildlife SOS.

Wildlife SOS, Address: D-210, Defence Colony, New Delhi-110024

Wildlife Rescue Helpline : +91-9871963535, Email: info@wildlifesos.org





The greatness of a nation can be judged
by the way its animals are treated

— Mahatma Gandhi



Special Report

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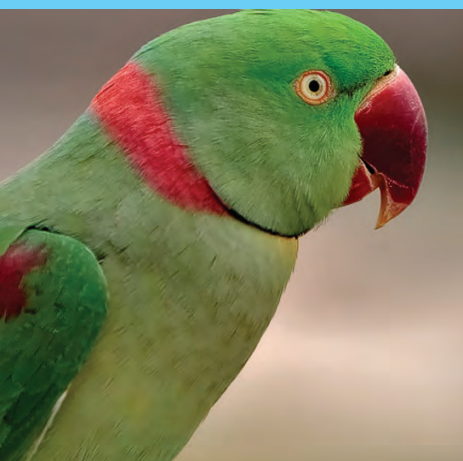
WALK ON D SIDE



Birds as pets

Birds are popular as pets. Parakeets, pigeons or exotic (foreign) birds like lorikeets and African grey parrots are some of the birds kept as pets. But you must know:

- Under the Wildlife Protection Act, it is illegal (wrong) to keep Indian birds like parakeets, pigeons and doves as pets
- India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species and this means that certain species of endangered foreign birds such as African Grey Parrots and Amazon Parrots cannot be kept as pets. Plus special permissions are required for other birds.
- Chicks born to captive birds can be kept as pets but you need documents to prove this
- If you already have a pet bird, then don't release it in the wild - it does not have the skills to survive. If possible donate it to a zoo that has a large free flying aviary



Alexandrine Parakeet



Rainbow Lorikeets

No magic, this

Be in folk tales or the Harry Potter books, owls are cast as magical creatures with extraordinary powers and intelligence. This reputation (the way they are seen) may be working against them, looking at the cruelty they are subject to in parts of India.



Owls with ear tufts (extended feathers that look like long ears) are specially targeted for capture

Just like elephants and tigers, owls too are protected by the Wildlife Protection Act of India - it is illegal to capture and trade in them. But sadly, they are captured and sold to people who use them for black magic and sorcery. Owls are also used in sacrifices (the killing of a living creature) particularly before festivals such as Diwali. At other times, their body parts such as skulls, feathers, ear tufts, claws, heart, liver, kidney, blood, eyes, fat, beak, tears, eggshells, meat and bones are used at pujas and rituals.

You may know that such black magic pujas are just false beliefs but that isn't stopping 500-1000 owls from being captured, treated cruelly and killed each year. People harming the owls may not realize that owls have a very important role in nature as they kill rodents and other crop pests, thus helping farmers.



Captured owls are treated cruelly

What can you do?

- Don't keep Indian birds like parakeets as pets. These birds have probably been captured from their nests as babies, thus cruelly separating them from their parents. After they are captured, they are stuffed into cages and more than half of the captured birds die of broken wings and legs, thirst and fright. When you buy these birds, you are encouraging the cruel people who capture these birds
- If you come across a wild bird that has been captured by someone, you can reach out to organizations like PETA (see box below)
- If you see an owl being captured and mistreated, you can also approach the police or your local forest department as it is a crime
- Do not buy products made from owl feathers or talismans (objects that claim to protect you from ill luck) that have animal parts

PETA India, PO Box 28260, Juhu, Mumbai 400 049, India
+91 (022) 4072-7382





THE GAZA WAR

It was supposed to be an ordinary game of soccer for a bunch of young boys on a warm beach in Gaza in West Asia. Except that it ended with four of the players lying dead on the beach as they were struck by gun shots from an Israeli boat nearby.

This is among the saddest reports to emerge from the latest war in Gaza being fought between Israel and the Hamas, a group of soldiers that controls Gaza. The Hamas army has been firing rockets into Israel, while the Israelis have been bombing and firing upon neighbourhoods in Gaza. Homes have been destroyed, hundreds of Gaza residents are homeless and living in shelters set up in schools and hospitals.

Why are they fighting?

The war going on right now is a continuation of many years of conflict (fight) between Israel and Palestine. Palestine was a country in West Asia. After the second World War, it was decided by the most powerful countries in the world then (such as UK and the US) that the Jews (one of the important religious groups in the world) who had been hurt by German dictator Adolf Hitler would be given a new home by dividing Palestine into Palestine and Israel, with Israel to be the home of the Jews. The Jews had always considered Palestine to be their old home but the Arabs who were living in Palestine were not happy.

Over the years, Israel has become more powerful and has eaten into the territory of Palestine. Several wars were fought in 1948 and 1967. By this time, the Arabs were crowded into two territories – West Bank and the Gaza strip – which together formed the Palestine nation with the rest of the territory occupied by Israel. A powerful Israel that surrounds the Palestine territories has kept control of the Gaza area,



blocking free movement of the Palestinians who live there. Its navy guards the Palestine coast and it was from one of these naval ships that the shots that killed the four boys were fired.

Since 2005, Gaza has been controlled by the Hamas which refuses to recognise Israel as a country and wants Palestinians to be able to return to their old home - and will use violence to achieve its aims. As a result, Israel and the Hamas have been enemies since. A short war was fought in 2012 and a new one broke out in July 2014.

What next?

There is no clear end to the fight in sight, although the death of the children triggered a short cease-fire (when both sides agreed not to fight). The short peace is now long over, the battle continues.

NADINE GORDIMER DEAD

South African author Nadine Gordimer, who won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1991, passed away ten days ago. She was one of the most famous writers in the world.

Gordimer was a big supporter of Nelson Mandela and his anti-apartheid movement. Apartheid was a form of racial discrimination practiced by the ruling white people of

Photo courtesy: Wikipedia



South Africa to put down native Africans. Some of her books such as 'Burger's Daughter' and 'July's People' were banned by the South African government since the books spoke out against apartheid. Once apartheid came to an end in South Africa, Gordimer turned her attention to fighting against the spread of diseases like HIV/AIDS in her country.



Cricket is a great leveler. One needs to be patient and I always believed in myself. The plan was to get a wicket and keep attacking after that.

-Ishant Sharma



SPORTS

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'LORD'ING IT OVER ENGLAND

The Indian cricket team made history on Monday, defeating England by 95 runs in a test match played at the Lord's stadium in London, England. Lord's is considered the home of cricket and it is only the second time that India has won a test at Lord's.

The last time an Indian team won a test at Lord's, the year was 1986 and the Indian captain was Kapil Dev. This time around, another fast bowler was the star of the Indian win. Ishant Sharma bowled aggressively in the second innings and scalped (got) seven wickets while giving away just 74 runs. These are the fourth best figures ever for an Indian bowler in an overseas match. Not surprisingly, he was declared the Man of the Match.

It was also an excellent team effort. Ajinkya Rahana propped up (improved) India's score in the first innings with 103 runs while Murali Vijay struck 95 runs in the second. Bhuvneshwar Kumar produced six wickets in the first innings, ensuring that the English did not score very high.

The win is all the sweeter given that India was thrashed (defeated) by England 0-4 in their 2011 tour of England. This win is India's first overseas win in 16 tests and comes after a three year drought when there were no test wins outside India. India and England will play three more tests in this series. The first match was drawn (had no result) and the second was won by India, making the series score 1-0 in India's favour.



Ishant Sharma (centre) was India's star

Soccer Champs



Germany took home the FIFA Soccer World Cup. Here are some interesting facts about the winning team:

- This is the third time a German team has won the World Cup. Previous wins were in 1954 and 1974
- This is the first time that a united German team (after East and West Germany became one) has won the Cup
- Germany had the best Goal Differential (GD) ever achieved in a World Cup. GD is the total number of goals scored minus the number of goals conceded to the opposing team. With 18 goals scored and just 4 allowed, Germany had a GD of +14. That's the best ever GD in the history of the World Cup tying with Brazil's GD of +14 in the 2002 World Cup that Brazil won.

CWG games start

The Commonwealth Games (CWG) began at Glasgow, Scotland, on July 23 2014. Four years after India won a record 101 (38 gold, 27 silver and 36 bronze) medals, the Indian team in Scotland has lots of hope for a good medal haul.

In badminton all eyes are on P.V. Sindhu, Parupalli Kashyap and the pair of Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa (doubles) to bring home the medals. Saina Nehwal, the gold medalist at the Delhi CWG is not playing this time due to injury. Another sport discipline that could bring home medals is wrestling with two Indian Olympic medalists Sushil Kumar and Yogeshwar Dutt taking part. Other sports of interest to India would be Shooting, Boxing and Athletics.

Indian archers will however miss the CWG as archery has been left out of the event this time. That's bad news for India's ace archer Deepika Kumari who won two golds at the Delhi edition.





Spot the animal

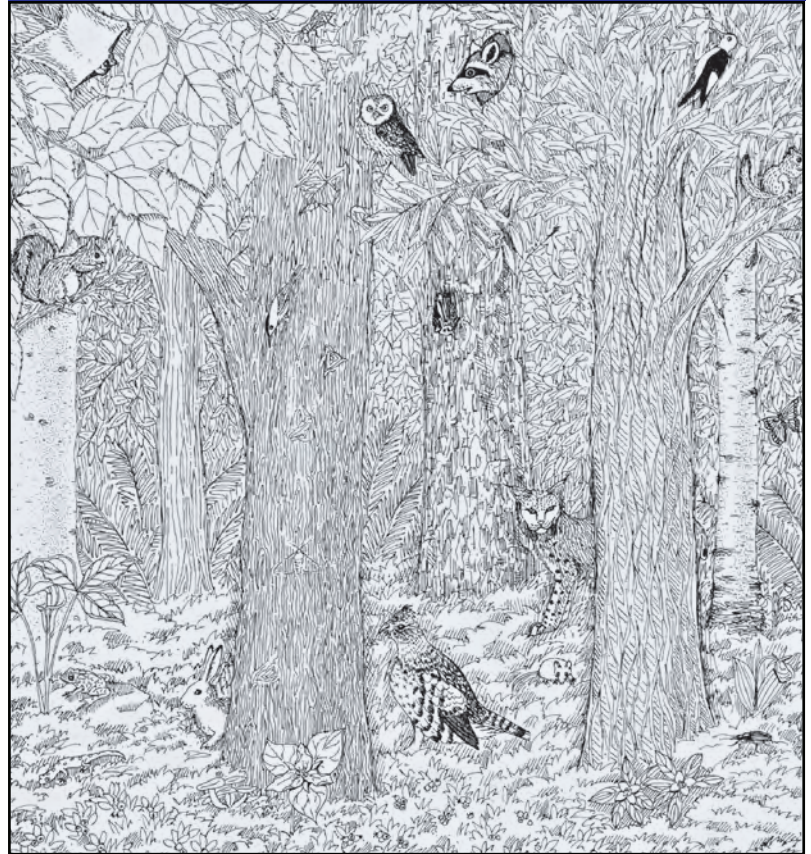
Here are close-up shots of body parts of animals. Can you identify the animal by looking at the photo? These animals are in danger from poachers who kill them for the very part that is in the frame.



Answers
1. Elephant
2. Tiger
3. Rhino
4. Chiru (Tibetan antelope)

Find the hidden objects

Can you find all these animals in this picture from a Canadian Forest? Saw Whet Owl, Raccoon, Flying Squirrel, two other Squirrels, Woodpecker, Lynx, Grouse, Katydid, Nuthatch, Bat, Moth, Snowshoe Hare, Mouse, Butterfly, beetle, Tree Frog, Salamander and a toad



UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS

Re-arrange the alphabets to find the word

Hint: All clues are linked to wildlife

1. SEIEPCS
2. DEHR
3. TTIBAAH
4. LMNAIA

Answers
1. Species
2. Herd
3. Habitat
4. Animal

SUDOKU TIME

			4		1
3	1		5		
			5		
		6			
	5		2	6	
3		2			

Try your hand at this Sudoku. Remember that numbers 1 to 6 can appear only once in each of the six rectangles. They can also appear only once in each row and column of the overall square.

3	6	2	1	4	5
1	5	4	2	6	3
5	1	6	3	2	4
2	4	3	5	1	6
4	3	1	6	5	2
6	2	5	4	3	1

Answer

Top Reads for Kids and Young Adults

1. Dork diaries: TV Star by Rachel Renee Russell
2. Bodyguard: Ransom by Chris Bradford
3. Zero Goes to Goa by Premola Ghose
4. The Chocolate Box Girls: Sweet Honey by Cathy Cassidy
5. Dragon Keeper: Dragon Moon (Book 3) by Carole Wilkinson
6. WARP — The Hangman's Revolution by Eoin Colfer
7. City of Heavenly Fire: Mortal Instruments Book 6 by Cassandra Clare
8. Grandfather Gandhi by Arun Gandhi and Bethany Hegedus
9. Demon Dentist by David Walliams
10. The Journey through Time by Geronimo Stilton



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Child Friendly News or CFN is an age appropriate newspaper for children in the age group 7-13. The newspaper comes out every fortnight. Every issue is written using language that young readers can understand on their own interspersed with picture and imagery. Quick explanations of difficult words and terms and boxed elements that explain concepts accompany every article — this is to help build vocabulary as well as context understanding. Special reports take up one topic in depth while

regular columns on everyday technology concepts keep children up-to-date with the world around them. A subscription costs Rs.650 for the year.

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