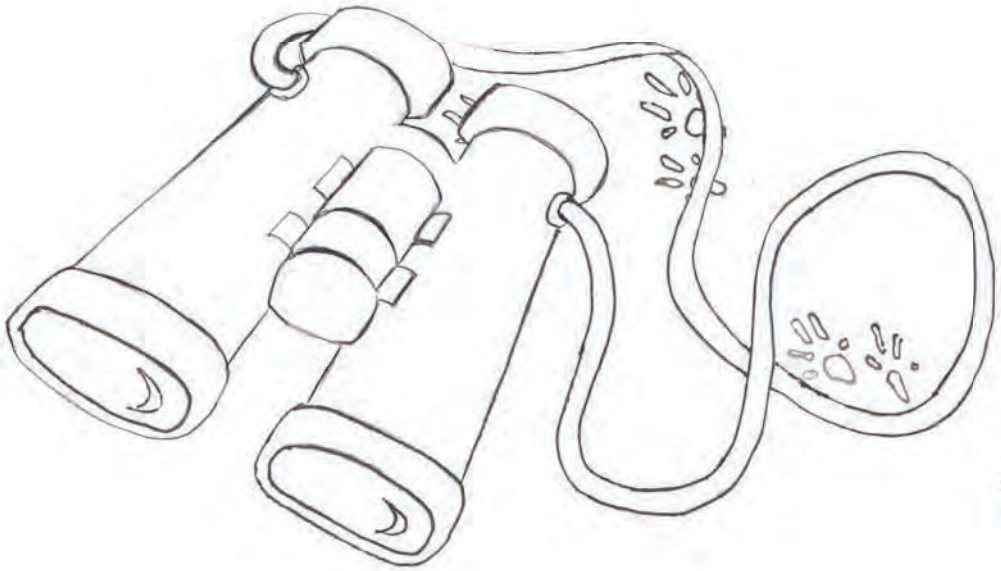
Fun in the Field!

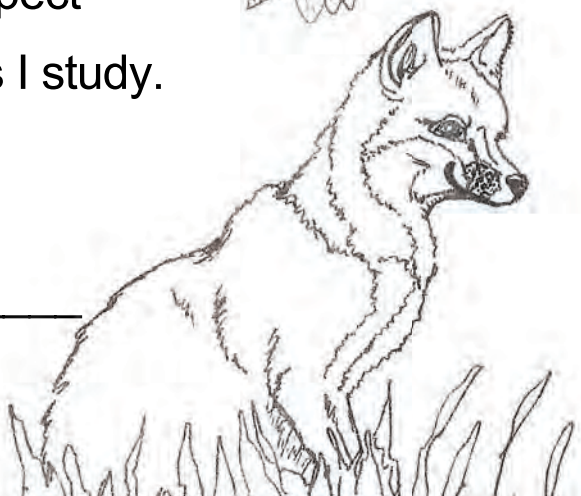


MVZ Activity Book of California Wildlife

FIELD BIOLOGIST'S OATH:

I promise to notice the tiny details
and search for the larger
patterns in nature.

I promise to love
and respect
the animals I study.



Signed:_____

“Hi! My name is Dr. Carol Spencer.”

“I’m not a medical doctor, I’m a Herpetologist at the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology.”

“I’m also a field biologist, which means I go to natural places like parks and forests and study animals in the wild.”

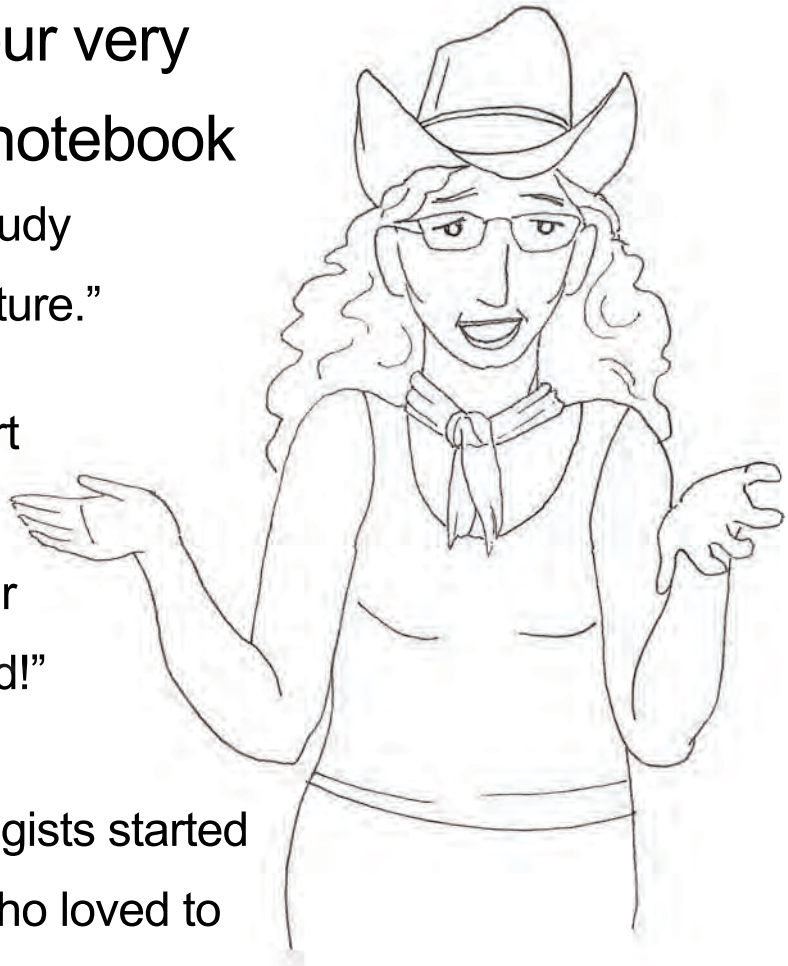
“I go into nature and use my keen observation skills to record details.”

“Then when I’m back at the museum, I study what I have found and see if I can discover patterns in nature!”

A Herpetologist

is a scientist who studies reptiles and amphibians

“This is your very own field notebook to help you study animals in nature.”



“You can start anywhere -- including your own backyard!”

“All field biologists started out as kids who loved to play outside, so get out there and start playing!”

“What kinds of birds do you see near your house? Is there a squirrel in any of the trees?”

This is me as a kid

Look! I’ve just caught my first snake! It is a Garter Snake. Don’t worry, it isn’t venomous. It does put out a stinky smell that gets all over my hands! P.U.!! Better wash up.

In Your Backyard

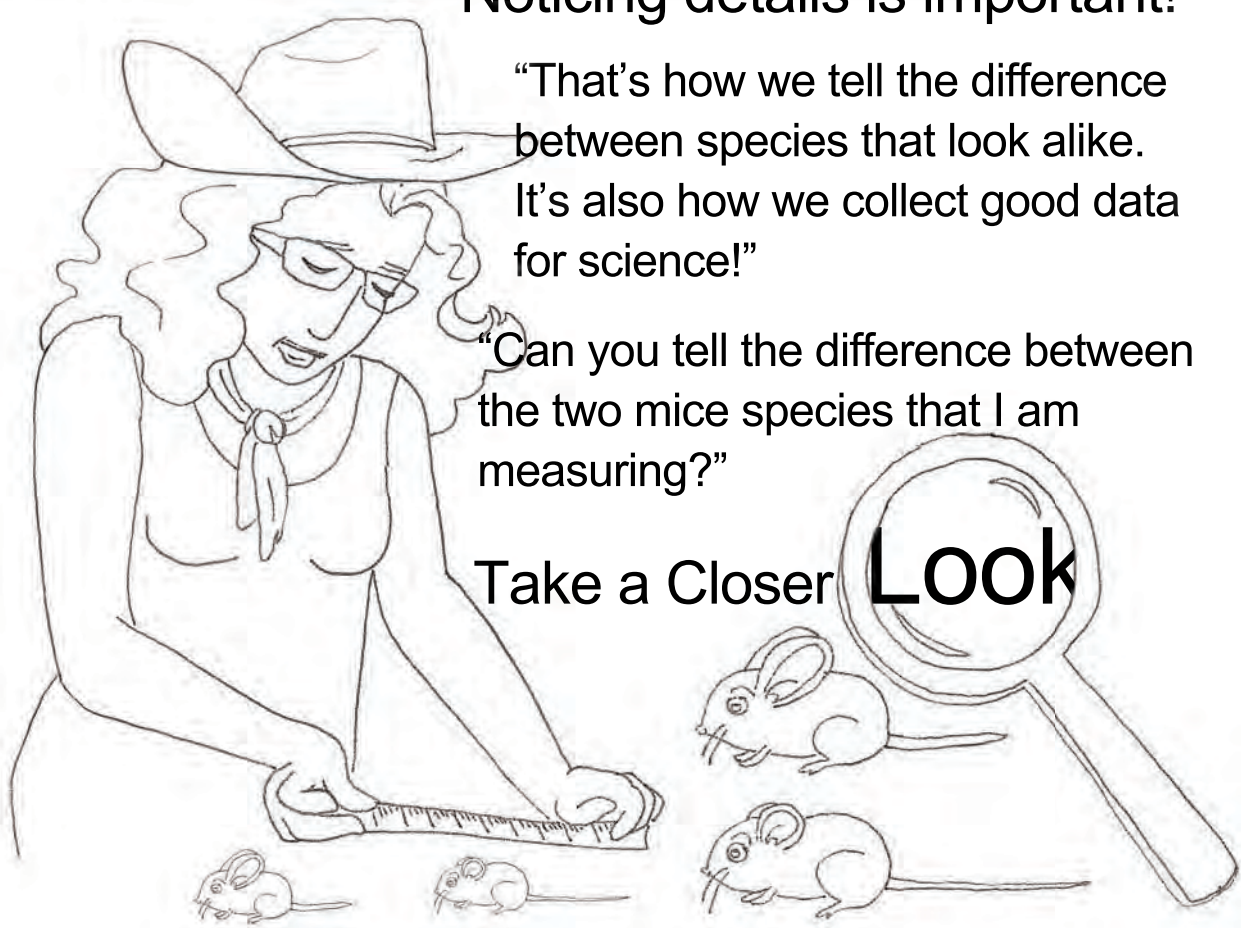
Draw an animal you see near your home:

"Noticing details is important!"

"That's how we tell the difference between species that look alike. It's also how we collect good data for science!"

"Can you tell the difference between the two mice species that I am measuring?"

Take a Closer Look

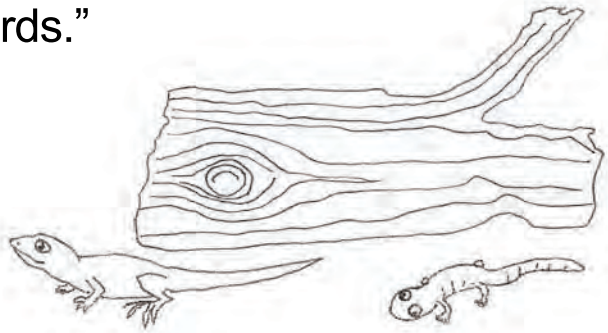


“By noticing patterns, we can better understand nature.”

“The more we understand nature, the better we are at saving animal lives and caring for the environment!”

“Here’s an example of a pattern. If I look under this log, I will find different animals depending on the season.”

“The pattern is the same each year: When it’s wet, there are salamanders. When it’s warm and dry, there are lizards.”



“This book is filled with games that are about animal patterns. It also has animals to color in, to help you notice details.”

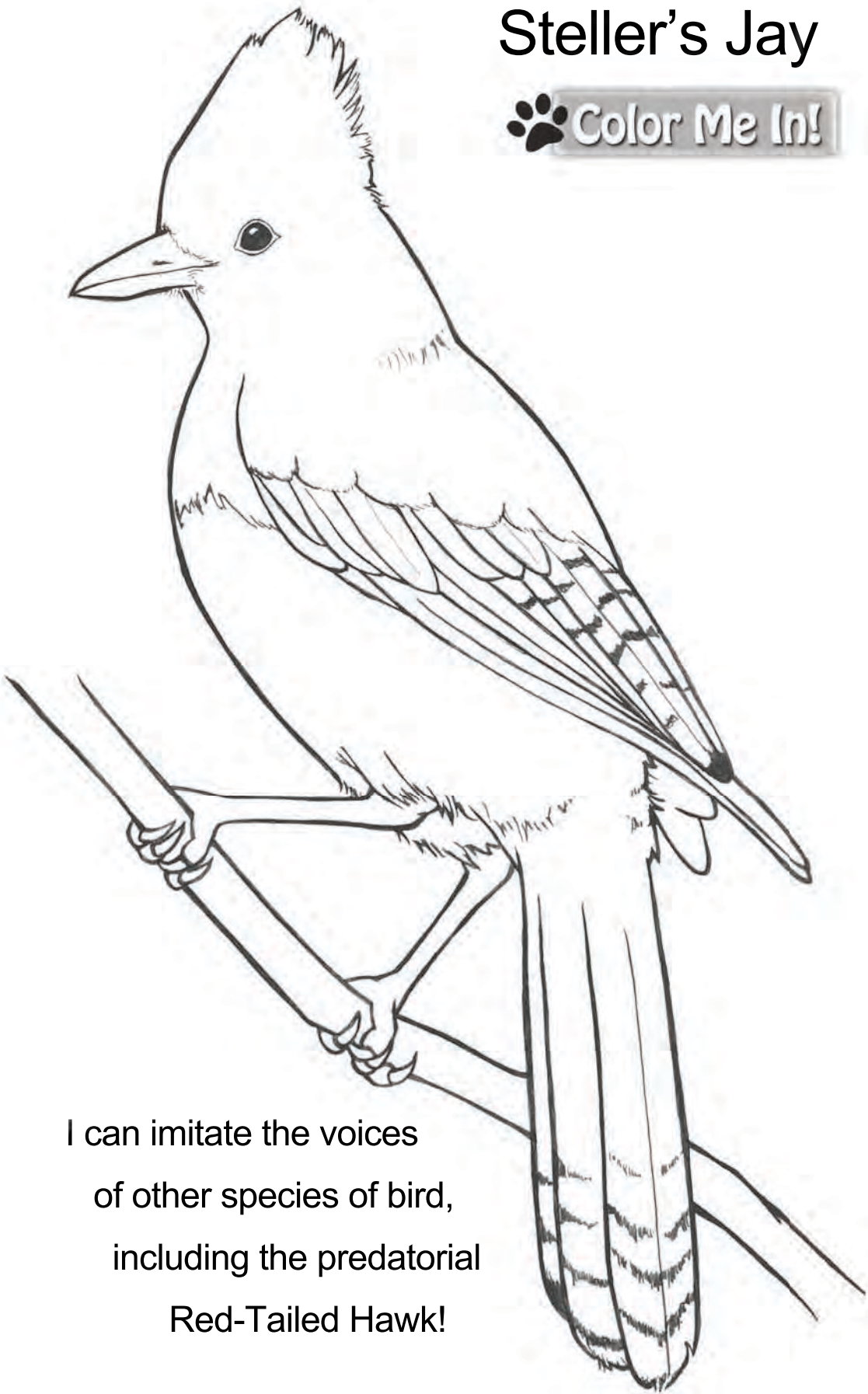
“Do your part! Learn about animals in school and at home, with books and the internet. Go outside and explore nature. Above all, HAVE FUN!!”

Carol J. Spencer

Staff Curator of Herpetology
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

Steller's Jay

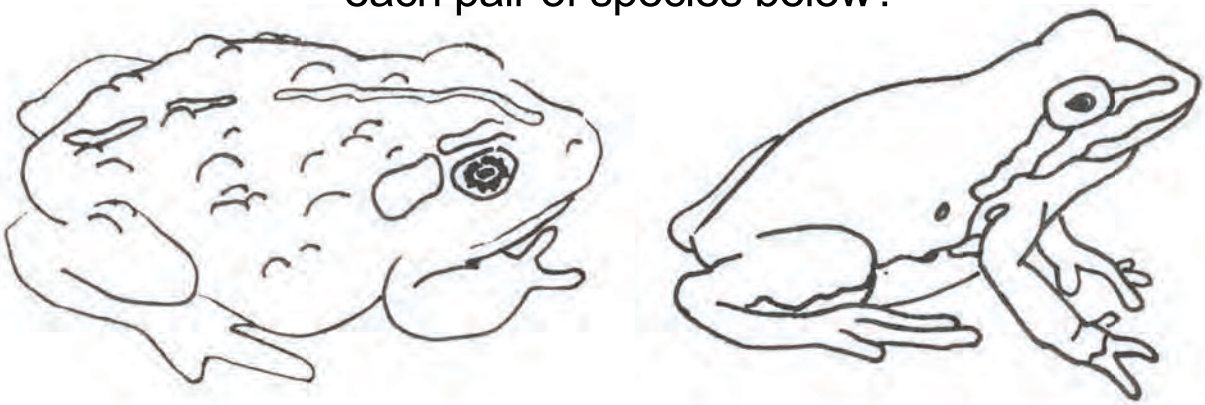
Color Me In!



I can imitate the voices
of other species of bird,
including the predatorial
Red-Tailed Hawk!

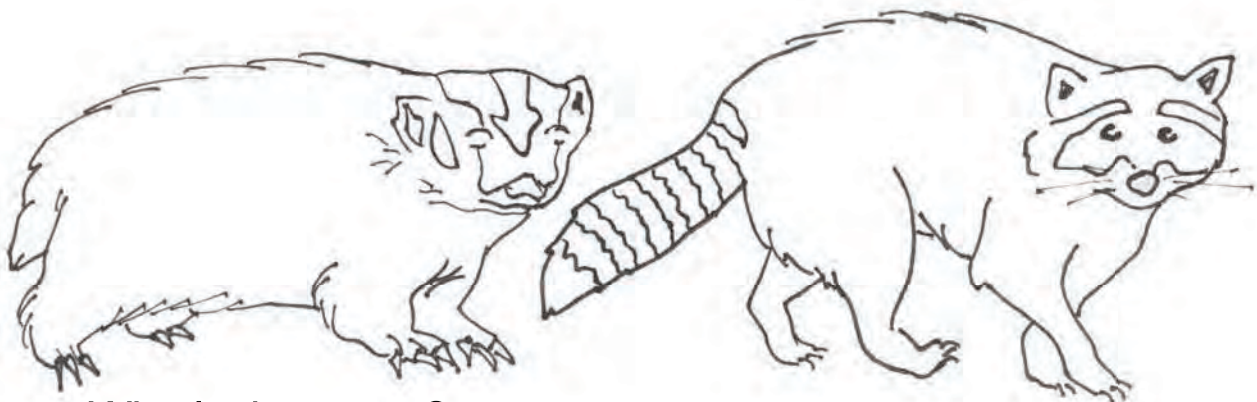
What's the Difference?!

How many similarities and differences can you spot in each pair of species below?



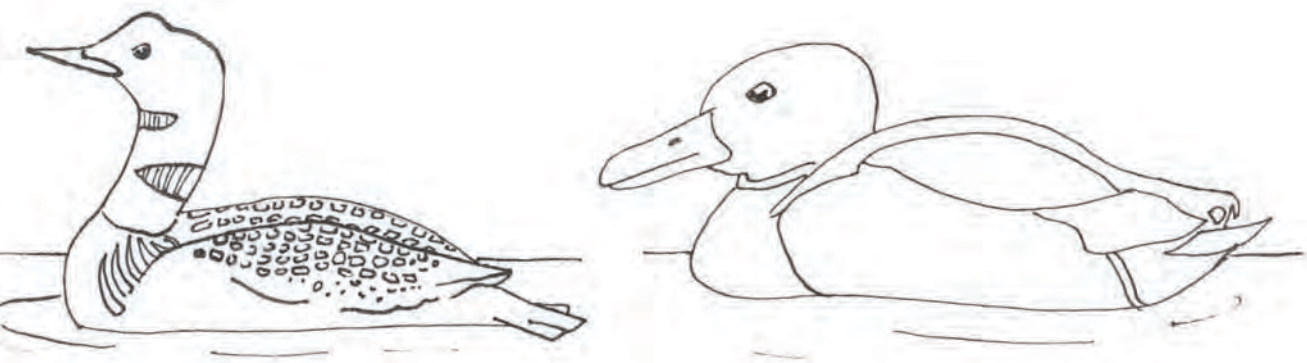
What's the same?_____

What's different?_____



What's the same?_____

What's different?_____

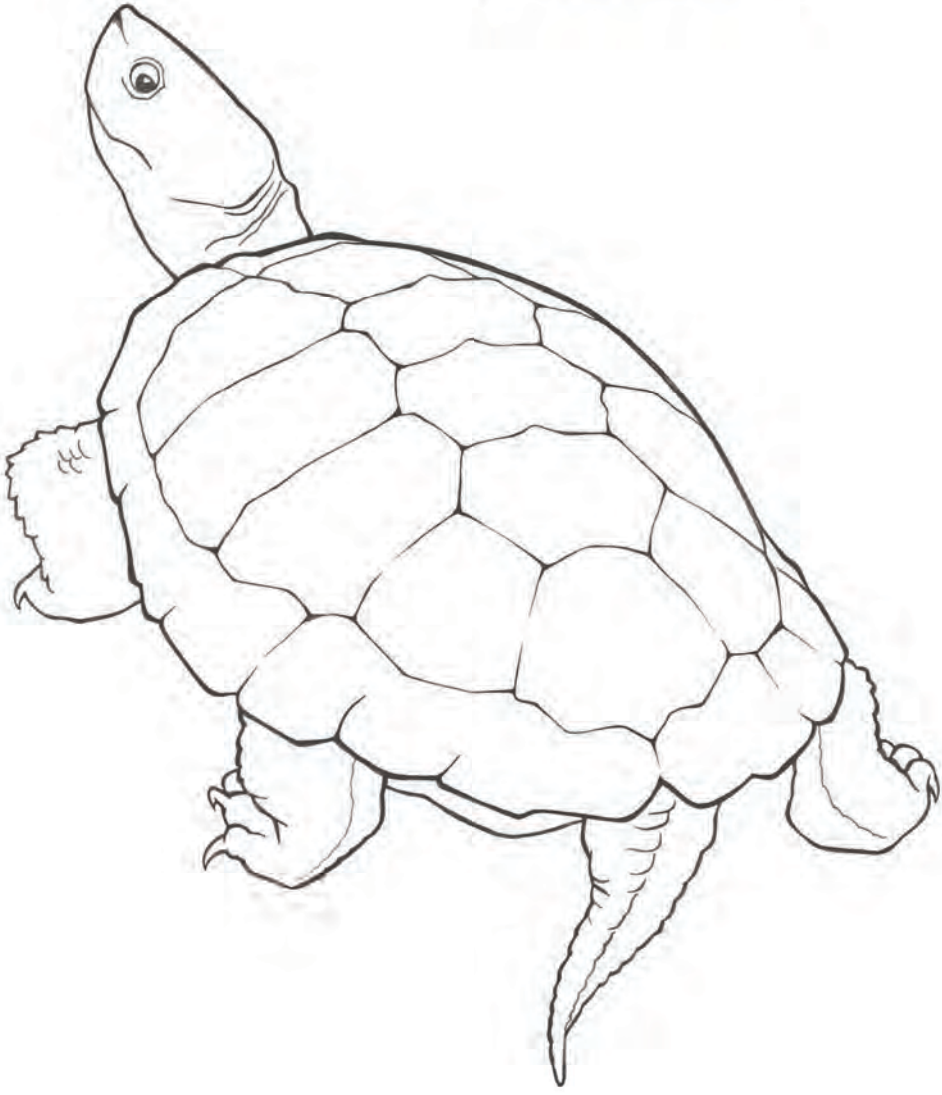


What's the same?_____

What's different?_____

Western Pond Turtle

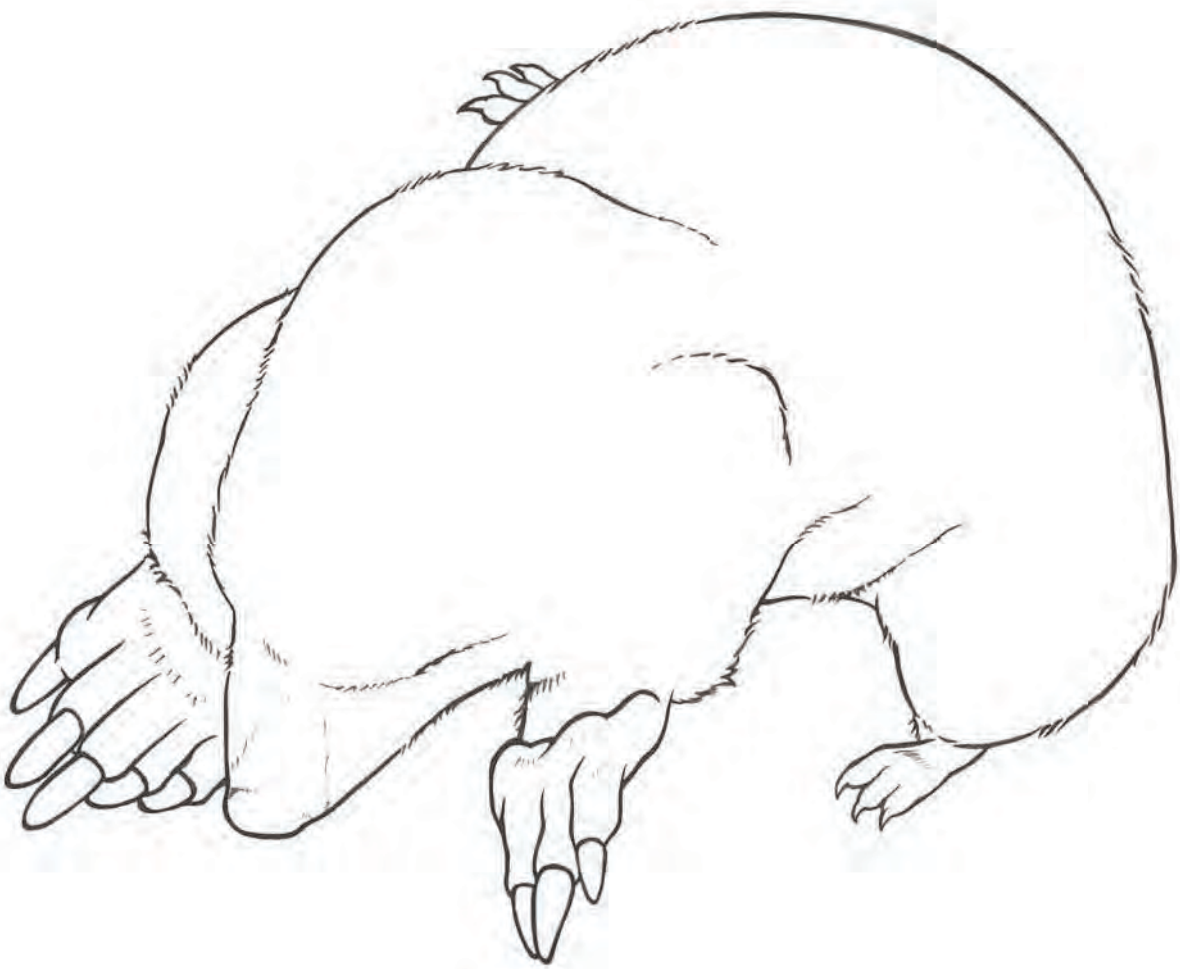
Color Me In!



Some people try to take me out of my shell, but
my shell isn't like a snail or hermit crab shell!
It's made of my back bone and ribs, so I never leave it.

Broad-footed Mole

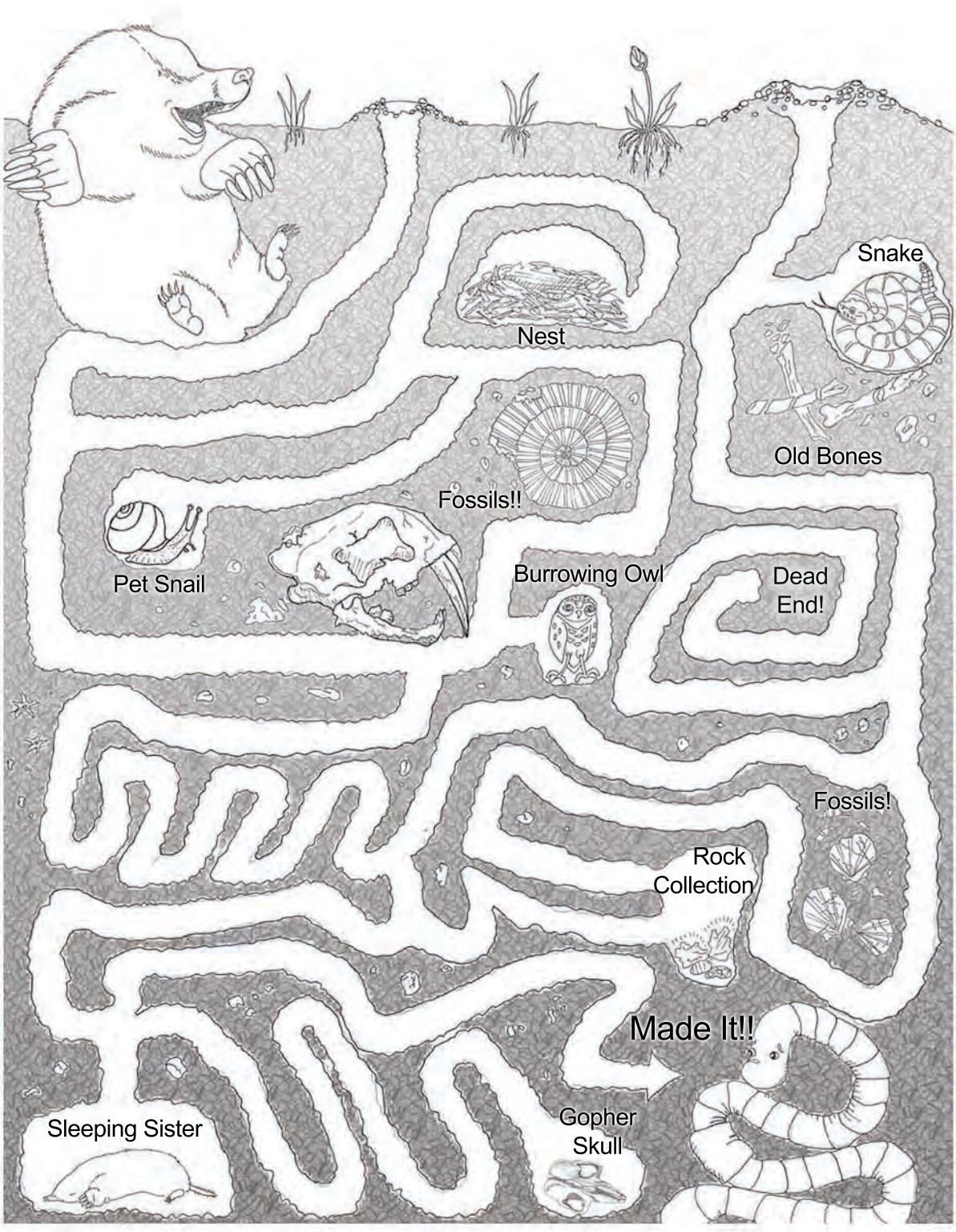
Color Me In!



I am fossorial - which means I am adapted for digging and I live underground. I rarely come to the surface, but in the Spring, you may see tracks on the ground made from my burrowing.

A mole's diet mainly consists of earthworms.

Help Mole Find His Worm!



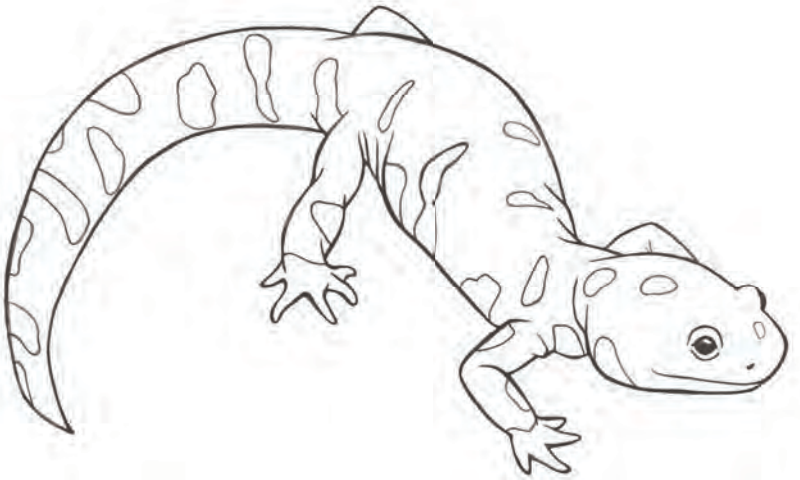
California Newt

Color Me In!

I have few natural predators because I produce a potent toxin that is strong enough to kill up to 100 men! But don't worry, it's only deadly if you eat me. Wash your hands after handling me!

California Tiger Salamander

I spend most of my time underground in burrows made by small mammals such as ground squirrels or gophers. Feel lucky if you see me!



Great Horned Owl

Color Me In!

I have fantastic vision but I can't move my eyes; instead, I turn my whole head. In fact, my neck can rotate 270 degrees-- that's 3/4 of all the way around!

Gray Fox

Color Me In!

I am nocturnal, which means I sleep during the day and am awake at night.

I am very shy, so it is rare to see me, but if you're lucky you can see me in the woodlands of Tilden Regional Park.

Munch Match!

Who eats what (or whom) in the wild? Use what you've learned as a field biologist to match each animal on the left with the food it finds yummy!

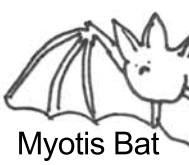
Turkey Vulture

Fox Squirrel

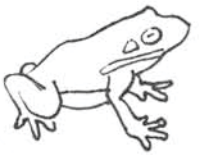
Anna's Hummingbird

Black Bear

Myotis Bat



Pacific Tree Frog

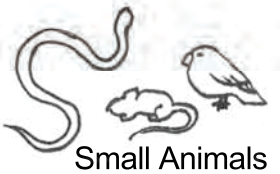


Barn Owl

Flowers & Nectar

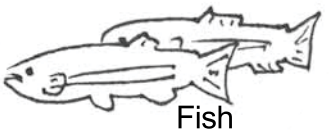
Insects

Fruits

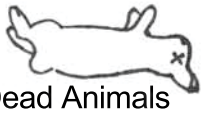


Small Animals

Nuts & Seeds



Fish

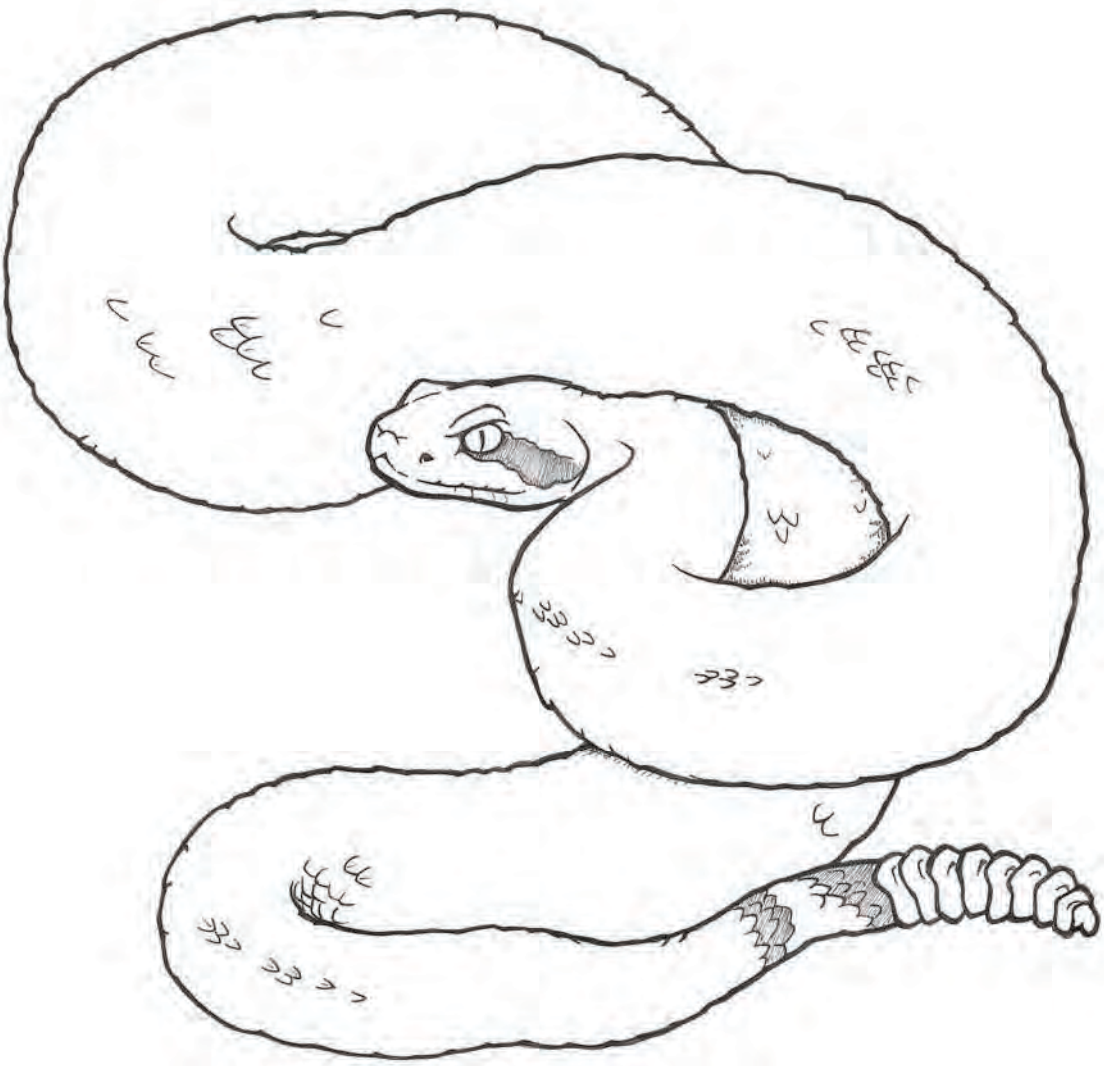


Dead Animals

You can use foods more than once, and some animals like more than one food.

Rattlesnake

Color Me In!



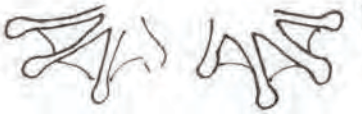
I rattle my tail when I feel threatened.
That's to warn you that I am venomous and can hurt you if I bite you.
When you see or hear me on a hiking trail, keep your distance -- you can look, but don't touch!

Create Your Own Species

What is your animal adapted for?
Can your animal do anything special like fly, swim, or hop?
What else can it do? Here's some ideas to help you...

special tails

special feet



special skin

special arms

special head

special mouths

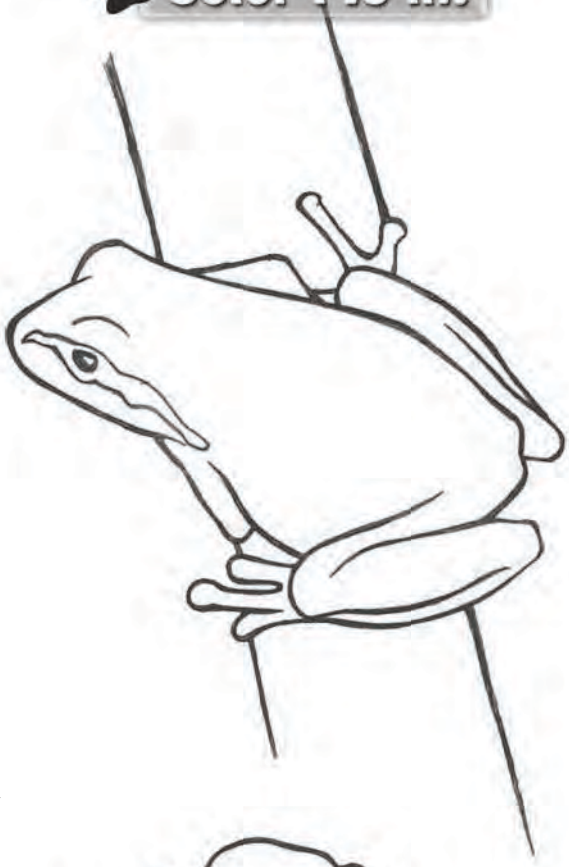
These are all "Adaptations"

Draw your new animal here:

Pacific Tree Frog

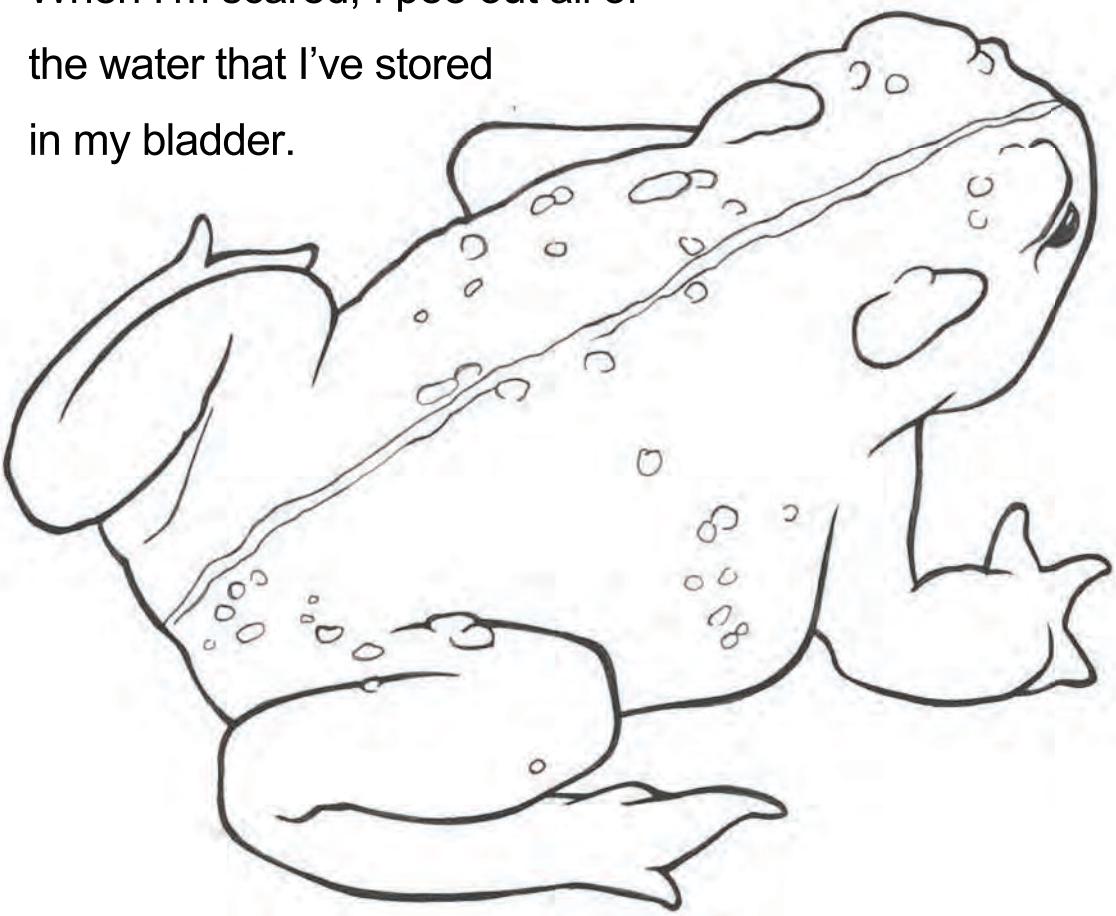
Color Me In!

When I hunt, my toe pads allow me to climb into vegetation to find small insects such as spiders, beetles, flies, and ants to eat!



Western Toad

If you pick me up, watch out! When I'm scared, I pee out all of the water that I've stored in my bladder.

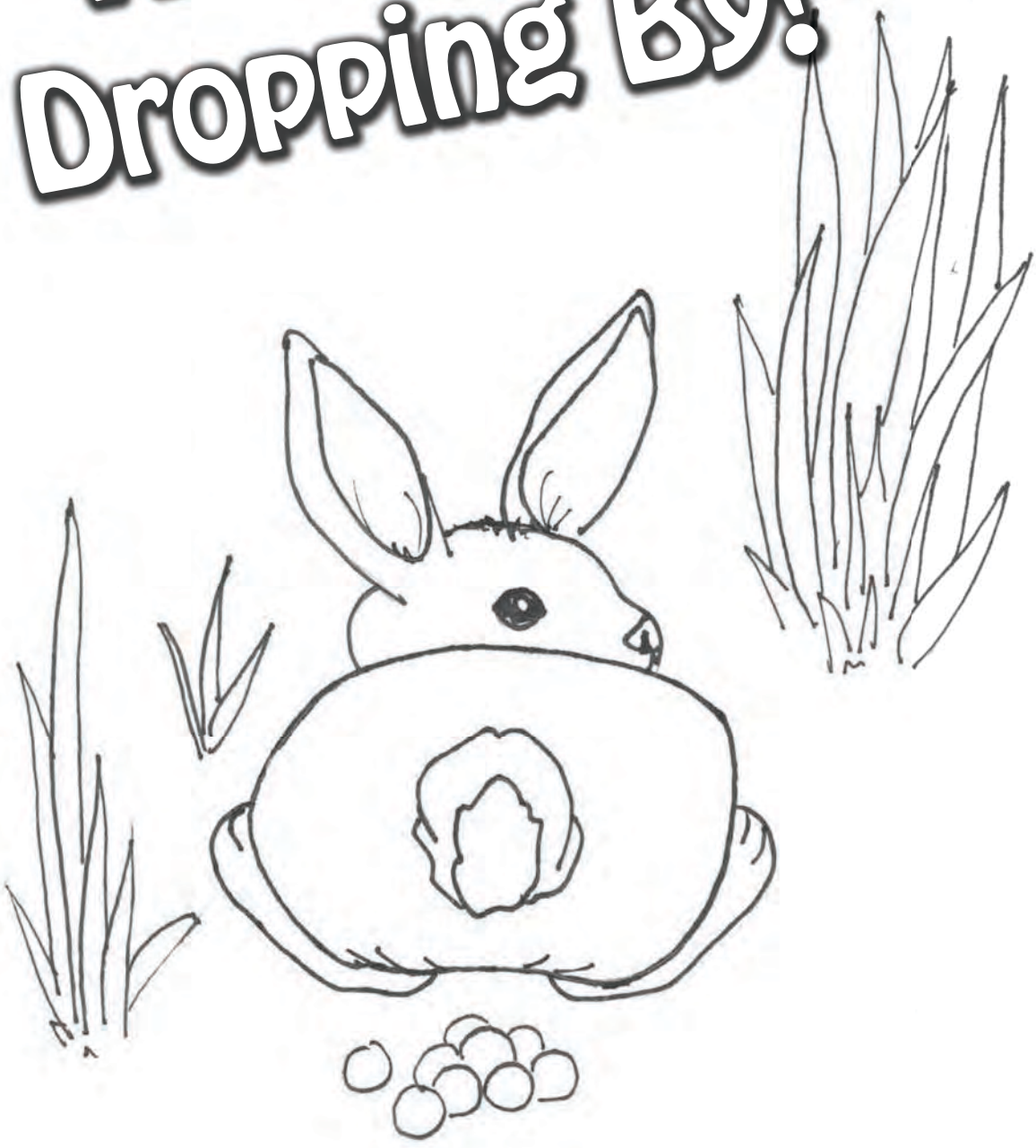


Draw Yourself as a Field Biologist:

What do you study?

Where do you do field work?

Thanks for Dropping By!



UC Berkeley
Museum of Vertebrate Zoology

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