



HEADU

World TOUR

GIANT PUZZLE

The game is a journey of discovery as regards the continents, countries and animals of the world. Have the children assemble the puzzle and guide them in discovering many curiosities relative to the most important countries, customs and traditions, flora and – above all – the many animal species that populate our planet!

Do this in such a way that, once they have assembled the puzzle – or even during the activity – the children can recognise the elements depicted in the large drawing. Name them aloud every so often, by pointing to them. Clearly articulate the sentence and emphasise in a louder tone the word that you wish them to learn: “This is Africa”, “This is Europe”, “This is the Antarctic”, and so forth and so on.



THE ANIMALS OF THE WORLD

At this point, attract the attention of the children to 25 3-D animals and to the environment in which they live. Guide them in assembling the 3-D tokens of the animals, and have the children position them in the right places. During this activity, you can enrich the experience by reading aloud the following texts, which introduce the animals in a clear and attractive way, with all their curious characteristics:

Elk

This is an animal that is part of the family of cervidae. A close relative of the deer, it is recognisable, however, by its enormous stature and by its clumsier appearance. The males differ from the females in their very tall horns, which are called antlers: it is as though they were long bones in the shape of tree branches. The male elk's antlers begin to grow in springtime, and then fall off during the winter. In northern Europe, Asia and North America their maximum life span is 15 years. It is a herbivorous ruminant, and lives on lichens, grass and shoots.

Eagle

This is a bird of prey that has a majestic, haughty appearance. It is the most important winged predator in existence. Its very wide wing span exceeds 4 metres. It lives in the mountains, where it builds its nest in very desolate places, amid crags and precipices. It is oviparous: the female lays her eggs and sits on them until the baby birds are born. She teaches them to fly and to feed themselves with their powerful beaks, which are also used to hunt prey such as rabbits, marmots, reptiles and fish.

Macaw

This is a colourful parrot covered with yellow and blue feathers and has a red chest. It lives in small flights [groups] in the Are, i.e. portions of land rich in forests in South America. It feeds on nuts, fruit and, at times, the nectar of flowers. It is also known as the talking parrot, because it is easily tamed. However, it is a protected animal, and so its trade is forbidden.

Whale

This is the largest animal in existence in the world: it can arrive at a weight of 30 elephants and at a length of three train coaches! It is a cetacean mammal; its nostrils are located above its head, and it is capable of breathing under water. The whale has no teeth; instead, it has a sort of bone that enables it to chew. It feeds on fish and marine plankton, and is very fond of giant squid. Its colour varies from blue to pale grey, and it inhabits all the seas in the world.

European bison

This is the largest wild land animal remaining in Europe: it generally measures from 2.8 to 3 metres in length and from 1.8 to 2.2 metres in height. It weighs 300-920 kg. The European bison is a social animal, and can live both in mixed groups as well as in herds of only males. The various groups frequently interact with each other, settling and separating themselves from each other after having exchanged several members.

Musk ox

This is an animal that half resembles an ox and half, a goat. It has a thick brown coat. On its head it has two long curved horns that smell of musk: hence the name. It is an Arctic animal, and can live for about 20 years in the cold regions of Canada, Greenland and Alaska. When it feels threatened by the attacks of predators, it defends itself, together with its herd, by positioning itself and them in a circle.

Camel

This is a very delightful animal: it appears with its two very large humps of fat and a considerable stature. It has a short reddish fur that is thicker on its back and on its head. Its two eyes have very long lashes, and its amusing nostrils seem to be smiling. Also, these close when there are sandstorms in the desert. On the knees of its long legs and under its tummy it has types of cushions that serve when it wants to rest. The camel is a mammal that lives in the deserts of Asia and Mongolia. It is herbivorous, and feeds on dry shoots. It is a very resistant animal, and can remain for several days without drinking water: something that is extremely scarce in the desert! Only a few hours after their birth, very young camels are already capable of walking and running!

Kangaroo

The kangaroo is a timid animal with a very curious appearance. It has a rusty-red colour, and its body resembles the shape of a pear. Its head is small, its chest is slender, with short front paws, at the end of which it has sharp pointed claws. Instead, its back paws are very muscular and help it to move around by jumping like a spring even at a very high speed. Its tail is beautiful. The kangaroo is a marsupial mammal: on its tummy there is a sort of pocket in which it protects its offspring [known as a joey] and keeps it warm, given that at its birth it has the dimensions of a walnut. The kangaroo, which lives in Australia, is herbivorous. It feeds on leaves, shoots and tree bark. It eats almost always at night!

Viper

This is a poisonous snake that is characterised by a triangular-shaped pointed head, a squat body, and a short tail. Its eyes have vertical pupils that are similar to those of a cat.

Elephant

This is the largest terrestrial mammal in the world. It has lived on Earth for 5 million years, and is distinguished by a colossal body, huge ears, long ivory tusks (a species of precious bone). Its highly mobile trunk, which enables it to breathe, carries water to its mouth, and picks up things – including food – from the ground. Elephants are herbivorous, and feed on roots, leaves, fruit and tree bark. They live in herds in both Africa and Asia. Elephants greet each other through contact – by crossing them - with their trunks.

Giraffe

This animal has a dappled coat, the longest neck in the animal kingdom, and is the tallest mammal in the world. It is believed that giraffes can reach a height of 7 metres, the equivalent of a house with two floors. Its tail is long, and serves as a whip to drive the flies away. It also has a very long and blue-coloured tongue.

Gorilla

This animal is a part of the hominid family, and is also indicated as man's cousin. It is endowed with exceptional strength, has a black coat, and lives in the rainforests of Africa. Gorillas are real vagabonds: they frequently move around in the forest, and are omnivorous. They feed, in fact, on shoots, fruit, and – at times – on larvae and insects. They can live, furthermore, as long as fifty years.

Guanaco

This is a sort of wild llama. It belongs to the camelid family, looks like a giant lamb, and is very valuable for its warm curly fur, which has a reddish yellow colour on its back and white below its belly. It is recognisable by its pointed ears and little grey face. It is a very skilled runner that often flees from its predator, the condor. It is a protected species, due to the fact that it is becoming extinct.

Lion

This animal is known as the King of the Forest, but it lives in groups (called "prides") in the savannah and on the prairies of Africa. It is the largest of the family of felidae, of which tigers and leopards are also members. Lions are carnivorous, and are very expert hunters. It is believed that when they are hungry, they can remain hidden for even 20 hours in the same place in order to catch their prey.

Orca

This is an animal that belongs to the cetacean family: the same one as whales and dolphins. Its skin is shiny black in colour, and it has a white belly. At the top of its back it has a very large fin. It lives in all the seas of the world in groups known as pods, and may attain an age as impressive as sixty years! The orca is a very altruistic animal, because it shares its meals – which it catches by itself – with its companions.

White bear

This is the Prince of the Ice Floes. There is a unique and unrepeatable species: these animals succeed in living under extreme conditions, both in and out of the water of the cold seas of the North Pole. The fur of their coat is white; they are carnivorous, and feed on fish and meat, but also enjoy berries in summer. The white bear is a species on the way to extinction, since the polar icecap continues to recede, due to increases in the temperature and to climatic changes.

Bespectacled bear

This is an endemic animal, which means that it lives in only one place on earth, namely on the tablelands of the Andes, in South America. There are very few of this very unusual species of bears in existence. They take their name from a pale-toned species which seems to have a pair of spectacles painted around their big black eyes. This species has a very great passion for berries and for cane sugar.

Panda

This is a small bear with a very lovable appearance, and has a rich coat of black and white fur. Differently from other bears, it can arrive at a maximum height of one metre and a half. It lives in the forests of China, and can live for a maximum of 30 years. Pandas are carnivorous, but feed mainly on sprouts and bamboo shoots. They are very expert in climbing up trees and rock walls, and are also excellent swimmers.

Hammer-headed shark

This shark has a very curious appearance: it has a very large head that recalls the shape of a hammer, with eyes and nostrils located on the sides. It is grey in colour and can attain a length of even forty metres. It can also weigh as much as 200 kg. It lives in warm seas, is a viviparous placental fish (that is, the eggs are hatched inside its body), and can give birth to as many as forty baby sharks.

Penguin

This is a very curious bird, because it is not capable of flying. However, it is the best swimmer in the world of the animal kingdom. It lives in Antarctica, a continent that is covered by water and ice. It is oviparous: this means that the female penguin lays a single egg which, after 2 months of brooding, breaks open and the baby penguin is born.

Puma

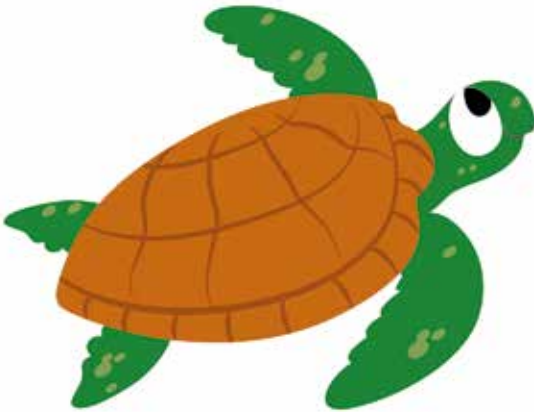
Also known as a mountain lion, the puma is a nimble carnivorous feline with a small head. Its short fur is reddish and silver grey in colour. Above and below its eyes it has two characteristic white marks. It lives on the American continent, from Canada to Patagonia. This predatory mammal adapts itself well to the climate and to the environment, i.e. from the forests to the plains. It is a nocturnal animal with highly developed senses. Its speciality consists of jumps!

Tortoise

Various species of tortoises exist: there are those live in the sea and others that live on the land. Tortoises are herbivorous, lovers of algae, salad and fruit. They go into hibernation for long periods, meaning that they sleep for months at a time.

Tiger

This animal symbolises strength, and it the protagonist of many fables and narratives. It lives in Asia, and belongs to the family of felidae. It resembles a giant cat with a regal appearance. Its coat is unmistakable: yellow ochre in colour, it has very beautiful black stripes. The tiger is a mammal, an expert predator and is obviously carnivorous: it especially likes to eat pigs, buffalo and reptiles. It is a protected species. As it is one of the principal actors in the food chain, we must remember that it is fundamental for the Earth's ecosystem!



Walrus

This is a moustached animal with long tusks. Its grey moustache is like a radar system; it has a brown- and pink-coloured wrinkled coat. In the place of feet it has flat fins that, together with tusks, help it to walk on the ice that forms in the icy waters of the Arctic Polar Circle, where the walrus lives together with many companions. It is a marine mammal, and feeds mainly on crustaceans. Under its skin it has a layer of fat that helps it to stand up to the cold.

White fox

This is an animal that resembles a dog. It is very astute, and has a beautiful coat of white fur that keeps it warm in winter and helps it to disguise itself. Its legs are hairy, while its ears are very small. Its bushy tail serves to orient it and, during the cold season, acts as a blanket. The white fox is an animal that has great resistance to the cold, and lives in the Arctic Polar Circle. It is carnivorous, and feeds on rodents, birds and fish, which it procures by hunting.

