

RAMSEY READER



THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES:

Move around, play a game

Observe animal behavior

Do a word search

Animal Antics

Animals engage in all sorts of fun and amazing behavior! From hunting to playing, to protecting their territory, there are many exciting animal antics that you can observe. In this edition of the Ramsey Reader, we will be investigating some of these behaviors further.

Move it, move it

From slithering along the ground, to flying high in the air, animals move in many different ways. Here's a fun and easy way to make and play a game to get moving. You can even bring this with you when you visit a park!



MAKE A GAME

Materials – Empty tissue box (the cube shaped size), tape, blank scrap paper, markers.

1. Cut six pieces of paper to match the sides of the tissue box.
2. Use the tape to cover all six side of the tissue box with the paper.
3. Choose six of the animal movements that are listed below.
4. Using the markers, write one movement per side of the box.
5. Roll the die and complete that movement for 10-20 seconds.

Suggested animal movements (you can make up your own as well):

- Gallop like a horse
- Fly like a butterfly
- Flap like an eagle
- Scurry like a mouse
- Leap like a frog
- Jump like a squirrel
- Hop fast like a bunny
- Slither like a snake
- Stand still like a heron
- Bound like a deer

Make it even sillier:

Make two tissue boxes and put just the animal movement on one box and just the animals on the other. Then roll both boxes to mix and match! You may get "gallop like a bird" or "Flap like a snake!"

Animal observations



Any Ramsey County park can be a great place to find a wide variety of animals. Look carefully and observe the different behaviors of the animals that live in our parks. Here are some helpful tips that can increase your chance to see some interesting wildlife. Friendly reminder: please do not touch or take any animals you come across for your safety and theirs.

- Move as little and as quietly as possible. Try to find a comfortable spot and stay still.
- Blend in, wear earth tone colors and scent-free products.
- Leave your pets at home, the smell of your dog will scare wildlife and they will stay away.
- Do your homework. Research the types of birds and animals that you will see in that specific habitat, time of day and season.



VISIT THE PARK

Vadnais Snail Lake Regional Park Park in the lot located south of County Road F. There are a variety of trails and habitats including walks along Vadnais Lake and a chance to watch aquatic wildlife including birds and crawfish.

Battle Creek Regional Park Hike the trails along Battle Creek and find some places to stop and enjoy the sounds of moving water. Look along the water's edge for animal tracks. Entering the middle part of the trail through Upper Afton Road is a convenient place to start exploring and looking for animals.

Antics & activities



LOCATE THE WORDS

Can you find all the words hidden in the word search? Search up, down, diagonally and backwards. Answers can be found on the last page of this activity guide.

CAMOUFLAGE

COLORFUL

FLAP

HIDE

HUNTING

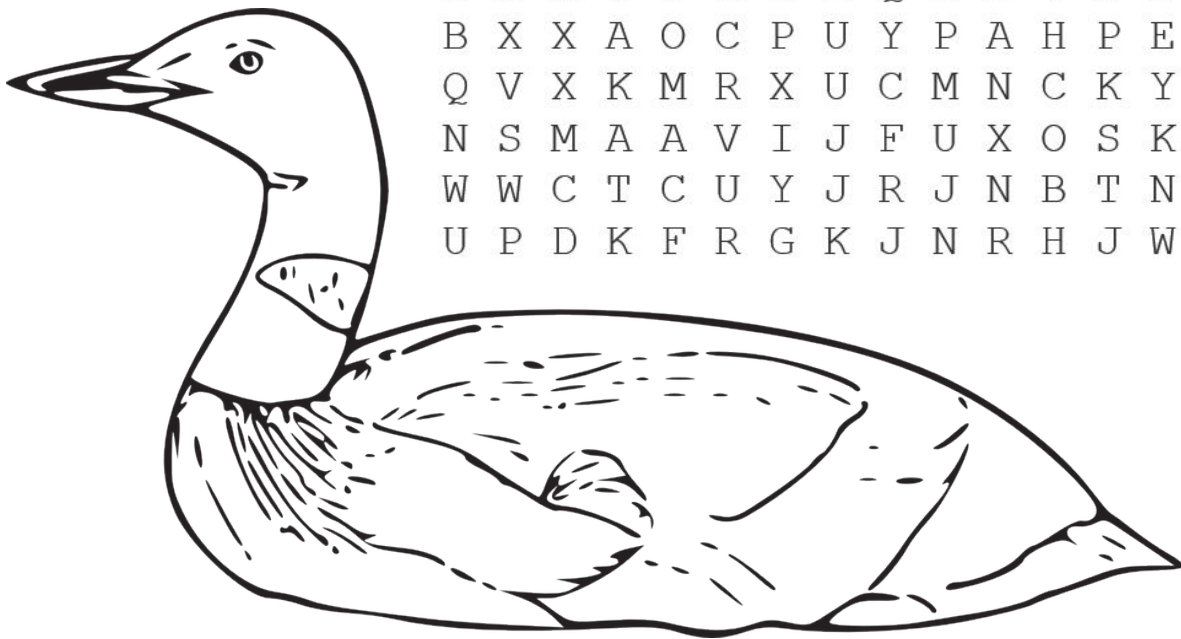
JUMP

NESTING

PLAYING

RUN

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



The common loon

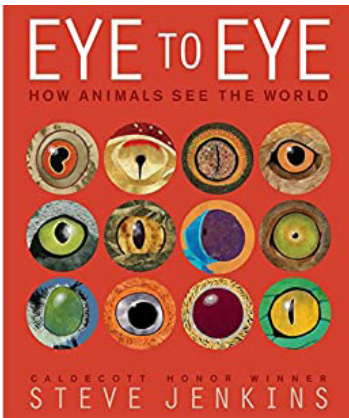
The common loon is Minnesota's state bird. Loons eat fish, and can dive as deep as 250 feet to search for food. They can stay underwater for up to five minutes and the red in their eyes helps them see while they are diving.

Ramsey readers

Here are some interesting books to get your little learners interested in animal antics. All of these books are available through Ramsey County Library.



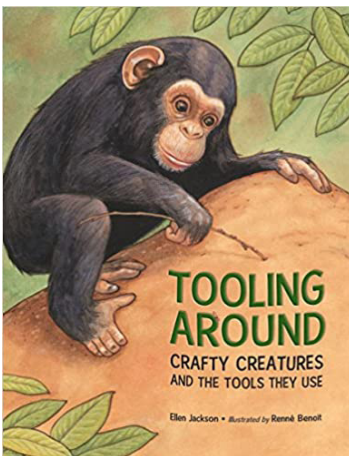
DIVE INTO A GOOD BOOK



Eye to Eye: How Animals See the World

by Steve Jenkins

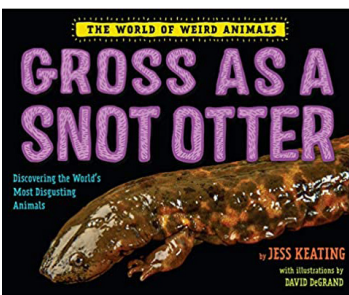
The simplest eyes—clusters of light-sensitive cells—appeared more than one billion years ago, and provided a big survival advantage to the first creatures that had them. Since then, animals have evolved an amazing variety of eyes, along with often surprising ways to use them.



Tooling Around: Crafty Creatures and the Tools They Use

by Ellen Jackson

Humans aren't the only ones that use tools! Simple, rhyming text introduces eleven animals around the world and the surprising tools they use, including an octopus that hides in a coconut, a dolphin that protects its nose with a sponge, and a deer that bedecks its antlers with heaping piles of mud and grass.



Gross as a Snot Otter

by Jess Keating

Meet 17 revolting animals: there are slippery, slimy snot otters, gulls that projectile-vomit on command, fish that communicate via flatulence, and chipmunks that cultivate healthy forests by pooping a trail of seeds wherever they go. But there's more to these skin-crawling creatures than meets the eye. Sometimes it's the very things that make us gag that allow these animals to survive in the wild.

Learn more

There's so much more to learn about animal behavior. Check out this resource to continue exploring and discovering.

Psychology Today

Ever wonder if animals can think, laugh or cry? Get an intro to animal psychology and behavior through this resource.

bit.ly/animalpsychology

Word search answers

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



Did you know?

Crows, and other members of the corvid family of birds, such as magpies and ravens, are highly intelligent. Some corvid species make tools to hunt for bugs and enjoy play time as well. They have even been seen sliding down inclines in the winter!