



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 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:



Red deer

It is a ruminant that belongs to the Cervidae family.

It is characterised by its slender body, long legs and its horns, or antlers, which only the males have, even if some females can, exceptionally, have very small ones. Red deer are widespread in the European continent, but can also be found in north east Africa and America. They move around in groups under the guidance of an expert female. They feed on grass, leaves, fruit, lichen and mushrooms.



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.



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.



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 threatened by predators, the herds assemble to form a circle with the weak members in its center and the strong ones on the outside..



Camel

This is a very delightful animal: it has two very large humps of fat and a considerable stature. It has short reddish fur that is thicker on its back and on its head. Its two eyes have very long lashes, and its curious 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 animals 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 almost always eats at night!



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.



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 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 it is also considered as a distant cousin of men. It is endowed with exceptional strength, has a black coat, and lives in the rainforests of Africa. Gorillas are real nomads: 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 an endangered species.



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 member of the felidae family, 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.



Great white shark

With its typical arrow shaped body, the great white shark is a large voracious predator, who can reach 7 metres in length. As with many species of sharks, it is characterised by razor-sharp triangular teeth and large dorsal fin. It has become legendary due to the number of attacks on man, it is widespread in the temperate waters of most of the world, and in particular where tuna and seals can be found.



White bear

This is the Prince of the Ice Floes. There is a unique and unrepeatably 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. White bears are an endangered species, since polar icecaps are melting due to increases in the temperature and to climatic changes.



Spectacled 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 the pale tones on their faces that resembles to 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.



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 in jumps!



Tortoise

Various species of tortoises exist: there are those that 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.



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. Instead 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 survive 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 hunts.



Tiger

This animal symbolises strength, and it is the protagonist of many fables and narratives. It lives in Asia, and belongs to the felidae family. It resembles a giant cat with a regal appearance. Its coat is unmistakable: yellow ochre in colour with 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!

