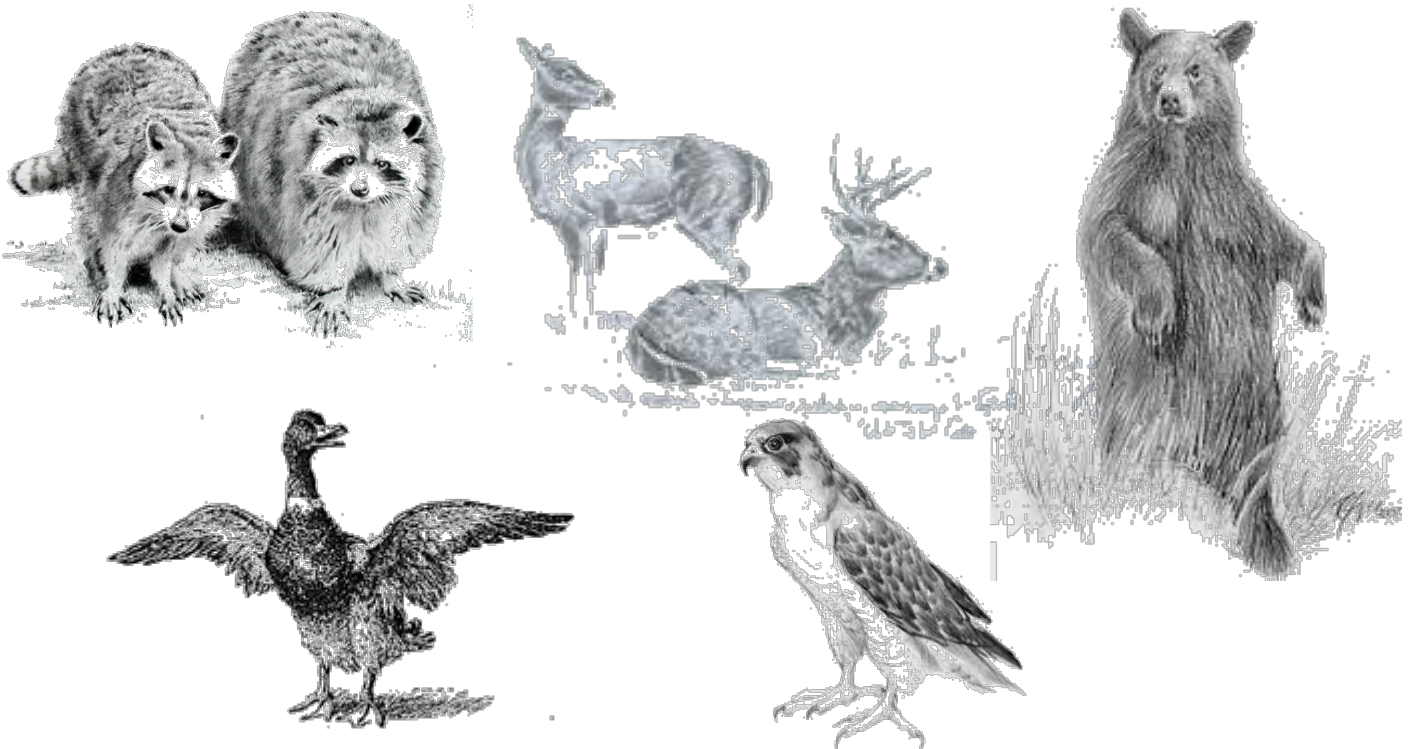


# Getting to the Core

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Unit of Study







### Changing Habitats

#### Student Learning Journal



***Animals Around Us: Animal Adaptations: What Are They?***

**Note Taking Guide**

<b>Animal</b>	<b>Feature or Characteristic to Adapt</b>	<b>How it Helps the Animal Survive</b>
<b>Turtle</b> 		
<b>Flatfish</b> 		
<b>Poison Frog</b> 		
<b>Pronghorn</b> 		
<b>Badger</b> 		
<b>Bison (buffalo)</b> 		

Lesson 1

Because \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Since \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ consequently \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, so \_\_\_\_\_.

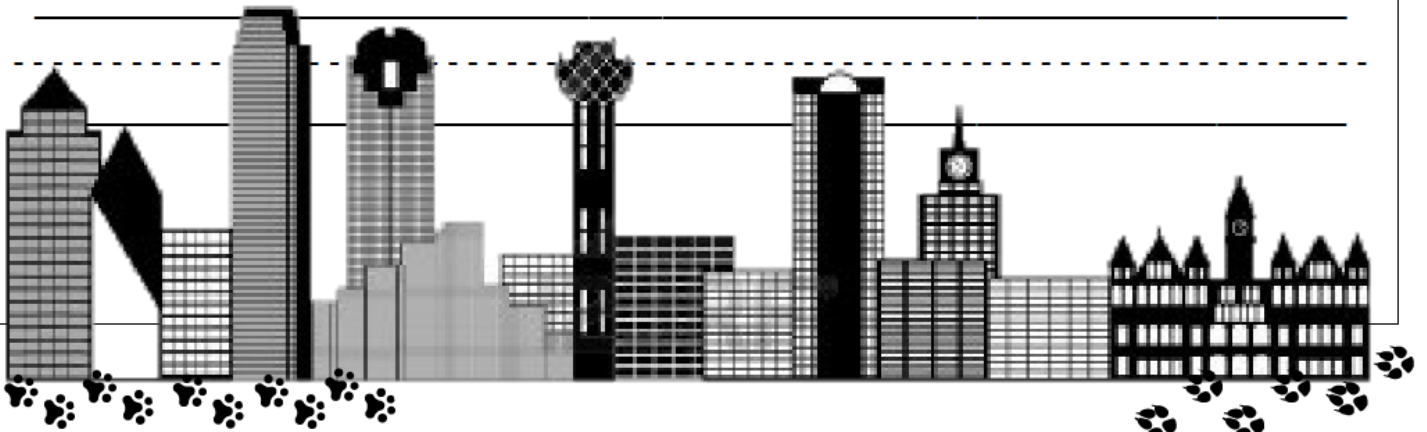
\_\_\_\_\_, therefore \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ in order to \_\_\_\_\_.



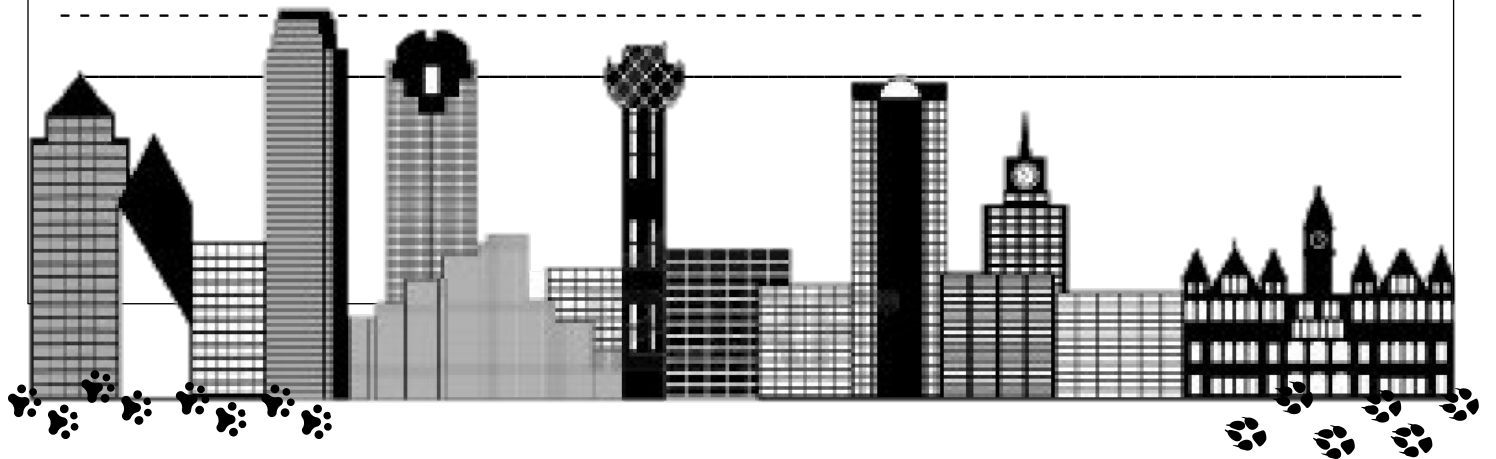
# Animal Adaptation Sentences

Handwriting practice area consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.





Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.



## **Practicing Summarizing by Finding the Main Idea and Supporting Details**

### Practice Paragraph #1

Miguel is an excellent soccer player! He is the goalie for his team and they won the championship last year! Miguel also likes to play basketball. At school during lunch he plays with his friends. Miguel can always make the most baskets. When Miguel's family goes to the park on weekends, they always play volleyball. Miguel loves playing and he will dive for the ball to keep the other team from scoring a point! Miguel is so enthusiastic about sports, he always finds opportunities to play.

### Practice Paragraph #2

Raccoons are very mischievous creatures. They often dig through people's trash cans looking for food and leave a huge mess behind! Raccoons will also steal from peoples' gardens. They will take fresh fruit right off the trees before humans have a chance to pick it. Sometimes raccoons also damage the roofs of houses when they try to find a way in! Most residents aren't happy to see a raccoon in the neighborhood.

Lesson 2

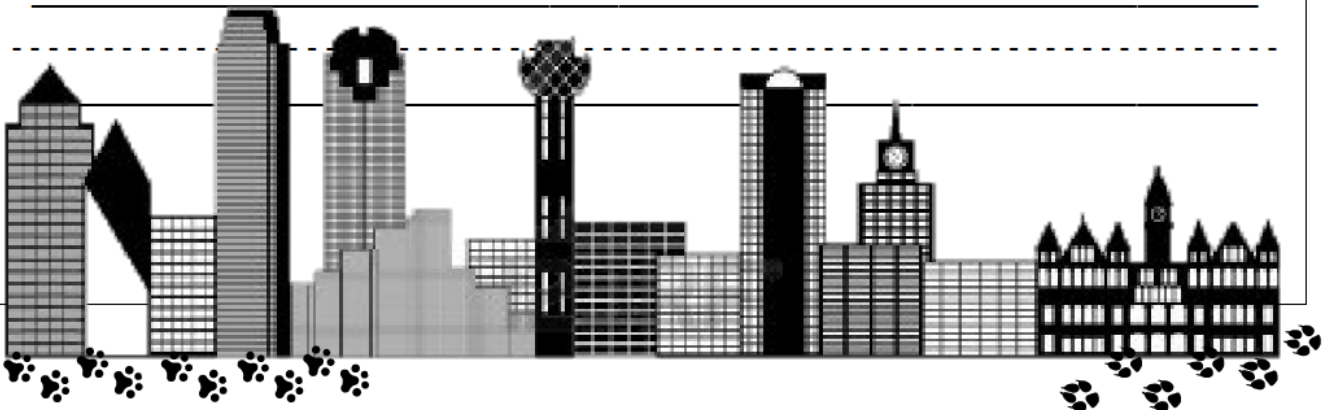
The main idea is \_\_\_\_\_.

Since the details are \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_, I know the  
main idea is \_\_\_\_\_.



## Lesson Reflection

Handwriting practice area consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.





1. **Listen** carefully & **look** at the speaker.



2. **Share** and **explain** your ideas.



3. **Build on** each other's **ideas**.



4. **Ask questions** to understand others.



5. **Agree** or **disagree** respectfully.



6. **Speak loudly** and **clearly**.



2-3 norms

### What to say when you want clarification...

- Will you explain that again?
- I have a question about what you said about \_\_\_\_\_.
- Do you mean that \_\_\_\_\_?
- Could you expand a little bit on what you said about \_\_\_\_\_?
- Could you give an example of what you mean by \_\_\_\_\_?
- Could you explain that again, please?

### What to say when you want to build on another's idea...

- You made a good point when you said \_\_\_\_\_.
- My idea is related to \_\_\_\_\_'s idea. I think \_\_\_\_\_.
- I see what you're saying. I agree because \_\_\_\_\_.
- My idea builds on \_\_\_\_\_'s idea. I think \_\_\_\_\_.
- I'd like to piggyback on that idea. I think \_\_\_\_\_.

### What to say when you disagree...

- I see what you're saying, but I think that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Another way to look at it is \_\_\_\_\_.
- I do agree with what you said about \_\_\_\_\_, but I think \_\_\_\_\_.
- I see it another way. Based on \_\_\_\_\_, I think \_\_\_\_\_.
- Another possibility might be \_\_\_\_\_.
- I have a different answer. I wrote down that \_\_\_\_\_.

### What to say when you want to cite evidence from the text...

- On page \_\_\_\_\_, the author says " \_\_\_\_\_ ".
- When I read \_\_\_\_\_ on page \_\_\_\_\_, I thought that \_\_\_\_\_.
- I think the text supports my thinking on page \_\_\_\_\_, by stating that \_\_\_\_\_.
- Another example of \_\_\_\_\_ is on page \_\_\_\_\_, where the author states \_\_\_\_\_.

### Facilitator's Responsibilities

1. Decide who begins and whose turn is next. Make sure that everyone has a chance to talk.
2. Point out to the group when the rules aren't being followed by using the one or more of the following frames:

*"I would like to redirect our discussion and get back to \_\_\_'s turn."*

*"I would like to remind everyone of our rules for discussion, especially number \_\_\_ which says*

\_\_\_\_\_."



### Facilitator's Responsibilities

1. Decide who begins and whose turn is next. Make sure that everyone has a chance to talk.
2. Point out to the group when the rules aren't being followed by using the one or more of the following frames:

*"I would like to redirect our discussion and get back to \_\_\_'s turn."*

*"I would like to remind everyone of our rules for discussion, especially number \_\_\_ which says*

\_\_\_\_\_."



### Facilitator's Responsibilities

1. Decide who begins and whose turn is next. Make sure that everyone has a chance to talk.
2. Point out to the group when the rules aren't being followed by using the one or more of the following frames:

*"I would like to redirect our discussion and get back to \_\_\_'s turn."*

*"I would like to remind everyone of our rules for discussion, especially number \_\_\_ which says*

\_\_\_\_\_."



### Facilitator's Responsibilities

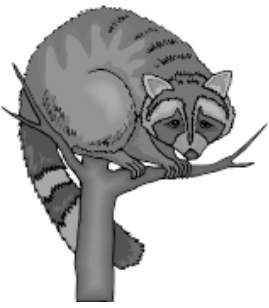
1. Decide who begins and whose turn is next. Make sure that everyone has a chance to talk.
2. Point out to the group when the rules aren't being followed by using the one or more of the following frames:

*"I would like to redirect our discussion and get back to \_\_\_'s turn."*

*"I would like to remind everyone of our rules for discussion, especially number \_\_\_ which says*

\_\_\_\_\_."





## Collaborative Discussion Questions

### Raccoons

1. Which pictures do you think show the raccoon in its natural habitat? Which pictures do you think show the raccoon in an urban (city) habitat? Support your answer with evidence from the pictures.

2. How has the raccoon adapted to urban (city) life? Support your answer with evidence from the pictures.

3. What problems do you think raccoons might cause in the city? Support your answer with evidence from the pictures.

### Lesson 3

From the picture I can tell that \_\_\_\_\_.

I think \_\_\_\_\_ shows the raccoon in its  
\_\_\_\_\_ habitat because \_\_\_\_\_.

I can see from the picture that the raccoon  
has adapted to urban life by  
\_\_\_\_\_.

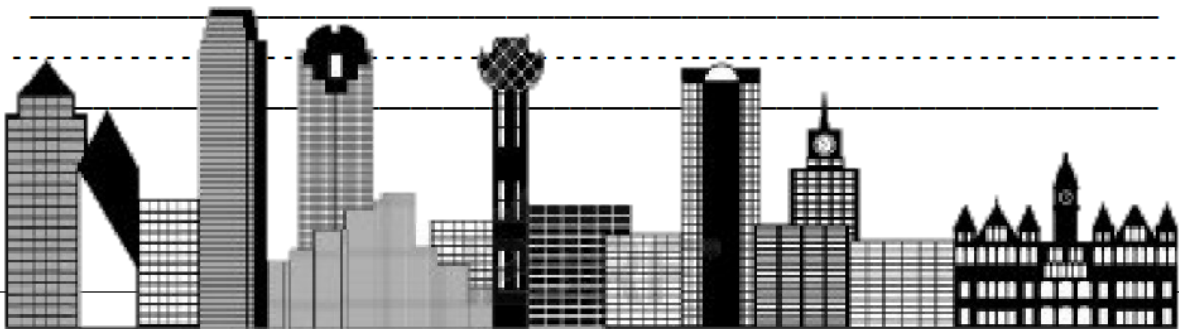
To live in the city, the raccoon has learned  
to \_\_\_\_\_.

One problem that raccoons might cause is  
\_\_\_\_\_. I know this because I see  
\_\_\_\_\_ in the picture.



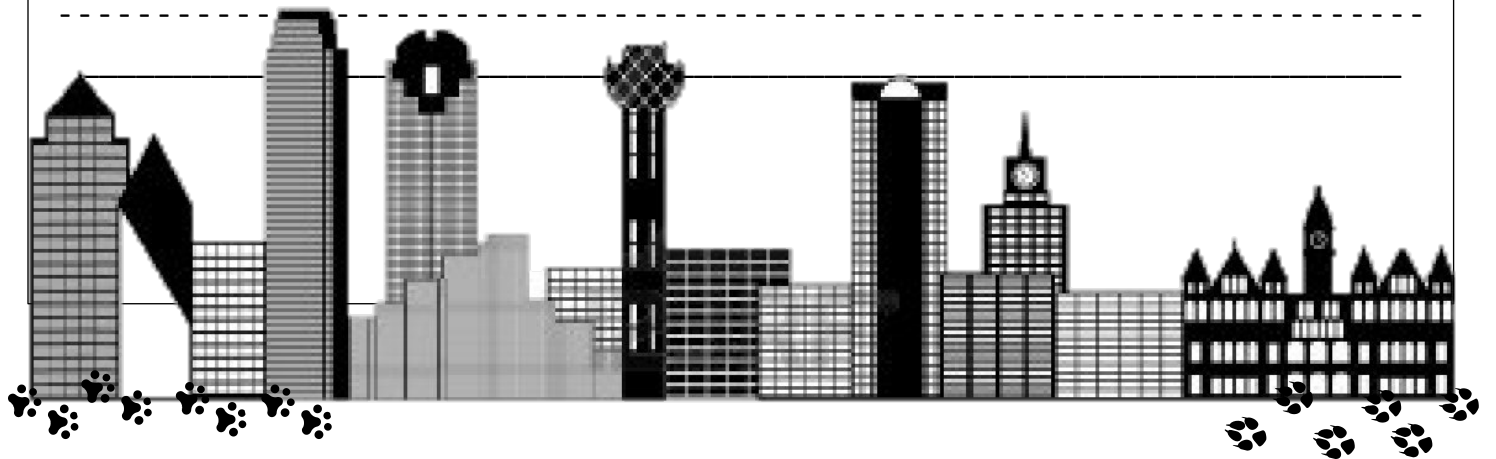
# Lesson Reflection

Handwriting practice area consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.





Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten sets of three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



## Basic Facts About Peregrine Falcons (Lexile 1050)



The Peregrine Falcon is a raptor, or bird of prey. Adults have blue-gray wings, dark brown backs, a buff colored underside with brown spots and white faces with a black tear stripe on their cheeks. They have a hooked beak and strong talons. Their name comes from the Latin word *peregrinus*, which means 'to wander.' They are commonly referred to as the Duck Hawk. Peregrine Falcons are the fastest-flying birds in the world. They are able to dive at 200 miles per hour.

### Diet

Peregrine Falcons eat other birds such as songbirds and ducks, as well as bats. They catch their prey mid-air.

### Population

There are an estimated 1,650 breeding pairs in the United States and Canada.

### Range

This bird is one of the most widely distributed species in the world. It is found on every continent except Antarctica. It can survive in a wide variety of habitats including urban cities, the tropics, deserts, and the tundra. Some migrate long distances from their wintering areas to their summer nesting areas.

### Behavior

Peregrine falcons have adapted to living in many cities and make use of tall buildings that provide suitable ledges for nesting and depend on the large populations of pigeons and starlings in cities for food. They dive and catch their prey in mid-air. Peregrines have few natural predators.

Peregrine falcons mate for life in the same territory each year. The male courts the female for about one month, using aerial displays. They make a nest, or scrape, on ledges and in small caves located high on a cliff. Some Peregrine falcons will use man-made structures such as bridges and skyscrapers to nest.



## *Can We Save The Peregrine Falcon?*

### Text Dependent Questions



1. What is DDT and what is it used for?
2. Why do you think the insects were considered 'harmful'?
3. How did the peregrine falcon ingest the DDT?
4. How might a very thin eggshell affect the development of a baby falcon?
5. How did the peregrine falcon become endangered?
6. How did the peregrine falcon adapt to live with people?
7. Why do you think they began to live in cities?



Lesson 4

Because \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

Since \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ consequently \_\_\_\_\_.

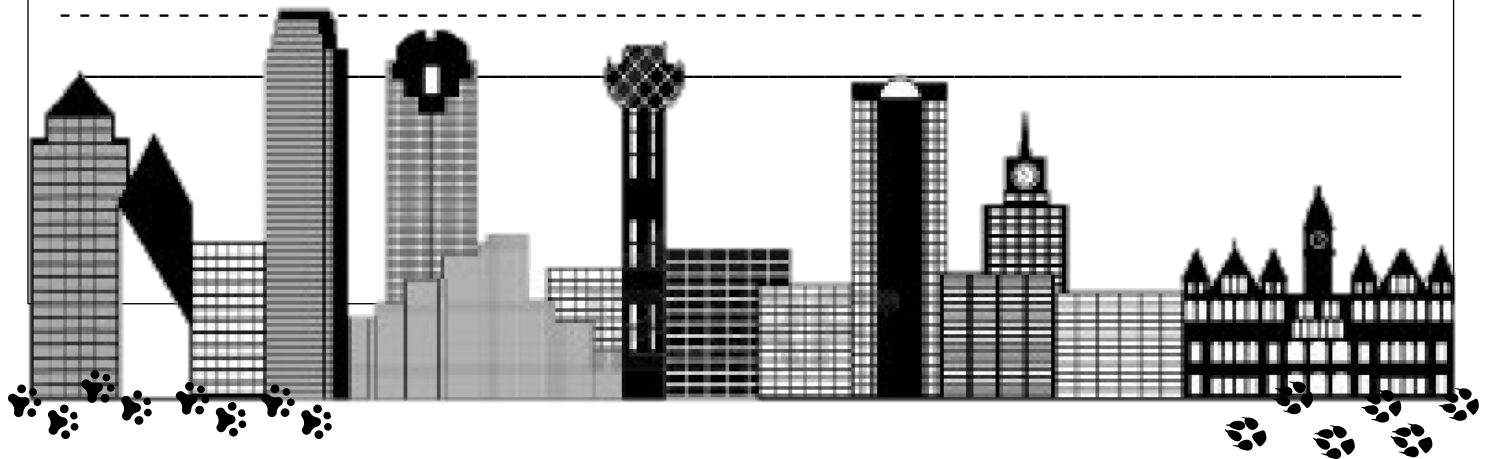
\_\_\_\_\_, so \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_, therefore \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ in order to \_\_\_\_\_.

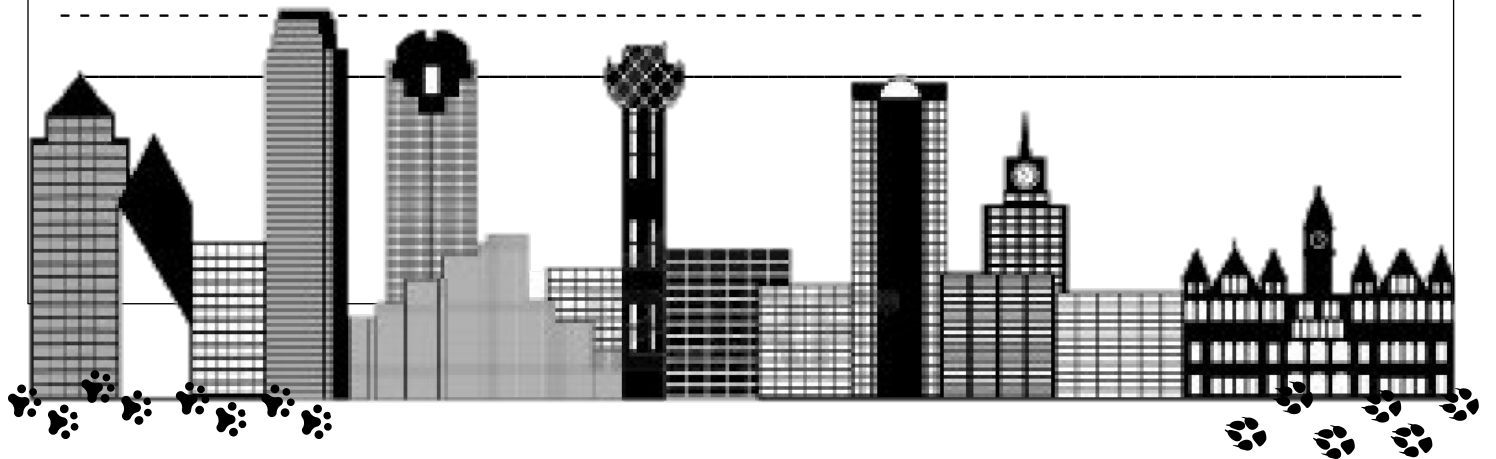


Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten sets of three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.





Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten sets of three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.







*Changing Habitats*  
Extended Anticipatory Guide

<b>Statements</b>	<b>Opinion</b>		<b>Evidence and source:</b>
	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	
1. All animals adapt or get used to changes in their environment.			
2. Everyone cares about animals.			
3. Our actions, the things we do, can hurt animals.			
4. Animals can survive in an urban or city habitat.			

<b>Language for Agreeing</b>	<b>Language for Disagreeing</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I agree with the statement that _____ because _____.</li> <li>• I agree with you that _____ because _____.</li> <li>• I have a similar opinion. I believe _____.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I disagree with the statement _____ because _____.</li> <li>• I respectfully disagree with you. I believe that _____ because _____.</li> <li>• I have a different opinion. I believe _____.</li> </ul>

*City Wildlife Description Chart*

<b>Animal</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Natural Habitat</b>	<b>Urban Habitat</b>	<b>Interesting Facts</b>
Peregrine Falcon 				
Canadian Geese 				
Raccoon 				
Squirrel 				

**Main Idea/Summary**

Based on our analysis of the texts, we believe that \_\_\_\_\_ is the big idea.

\_\_\_\_\_ is the big idea of these texts. I came to this conclusion because \_\_\_\_\_.

# Squirrels

Squirrels are familiar to almost everyone. More than 200 squirrel species live all over the world, with the notable exception of Australia.

The tiniest squirrel is the aptly named African pygmy squirrel—only five inches (thirteen centimeters) long from nose to tail. Others reach sizes shocking to those who are only familiar with common tree squirrels. The Indian giant squirrel is three feet (almost a meter) long.

Like other rodents, squirrels have four front teeth that never stop growing so they don't wear down from the constant gnawing. Tree squirrels are the types most commonly recognized, often seen gracefully scampering and leaping from branch to branch. Other species are ground squirrels that live in burrow or tunnel systems, where some hibernate during the winter season.

Ground squirrels eat nuts, leaves, roots, seeds, and other plants. They also catch and eat small animals, such as insects and caterpillars. These small mammals must always be wary of predators because they are tasty morsels with few natural defenses, save flight. Sometimes groups of ground squirrels work together to warn each other of approaching danger with a whistling call.

Tree squirrels are commonly seen everywhere from woodlands to city parks. Though they are terrific climbers, these squirrels do come to the ground in search of fare such as nuts, acorns, berries, and flowers. They also eat bark, eggs, or baby birds. Tree sap is a delicacy to some species.

Flying squirrels are a third, adaptable type of squirrel. They live something like birds do, in nests or tree holes, and although they do not fly, they can really move across the sky. Flying squirrels glide, extending their arms and legs and coasting through the air from one tree to another. Flaps of skin connecting limbs to body provide a winglike surface. These gliding leaps can exceed 150 feet (46 meters). Flying squirrels eat nuts and fruit, but also catch insects and even baby birds.

Whether they dwell high in a tree or in an underground burrow, female squirrels typically give birth to two to eight offspring. Babies are blind and totally dependent on their mothers for two or three months. Mothers may have several litters in a year, so most squirrel populations are robust.

<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/squirrel/>





# Independent Student Squirrel Informational Summary Paragraph

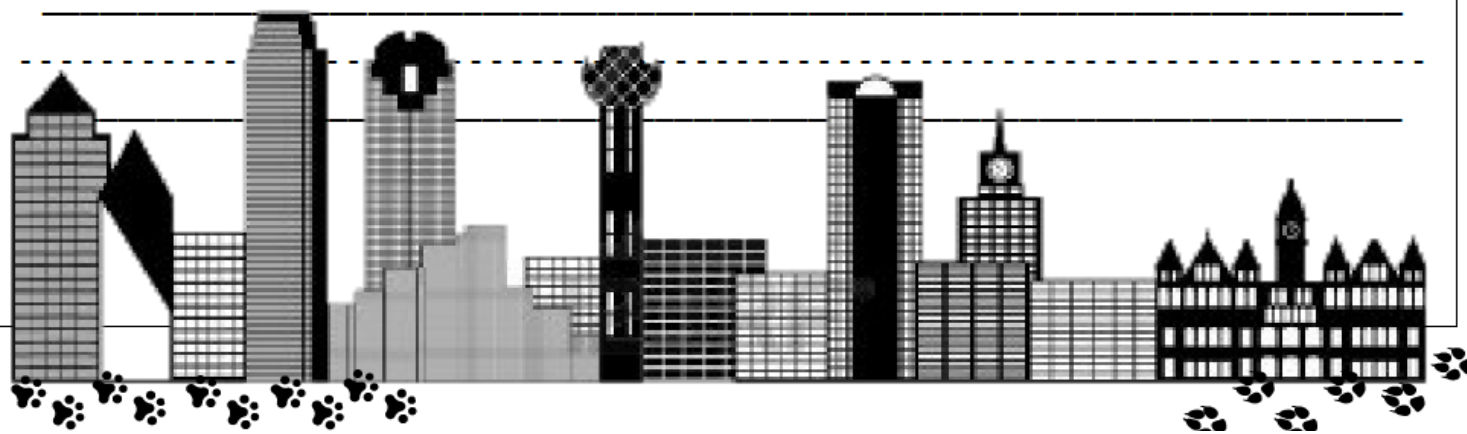
Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line. There are 10 sets of these lines for writing a paragraph.



# Lesson Reflection



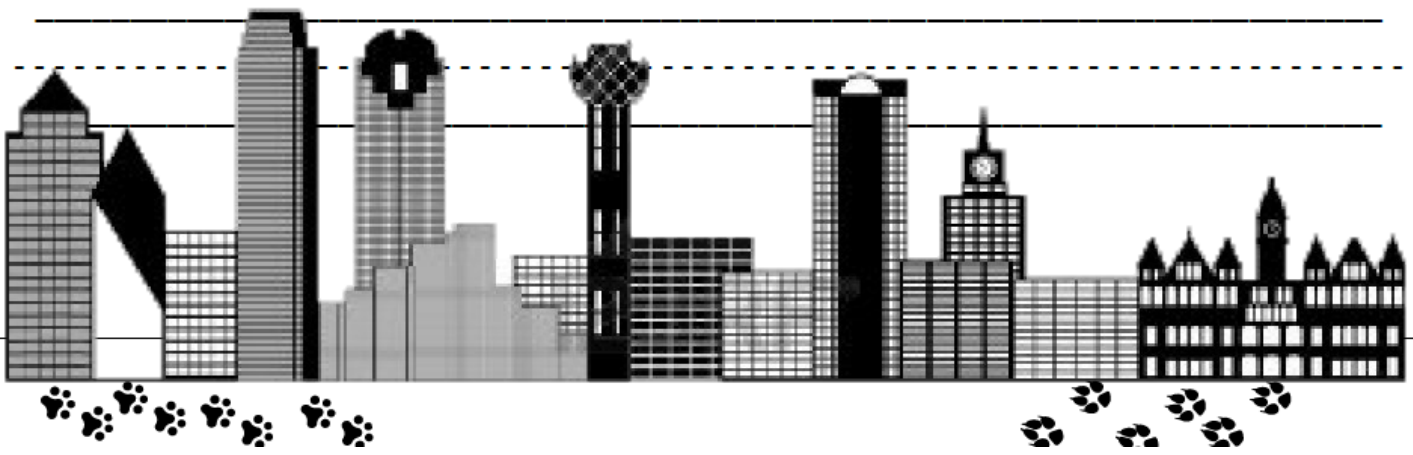
Handwriting practice area consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.





# Lesson Reflection

Handwriting practice area consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



Lesson 6

First, \_\_\_\_\_.

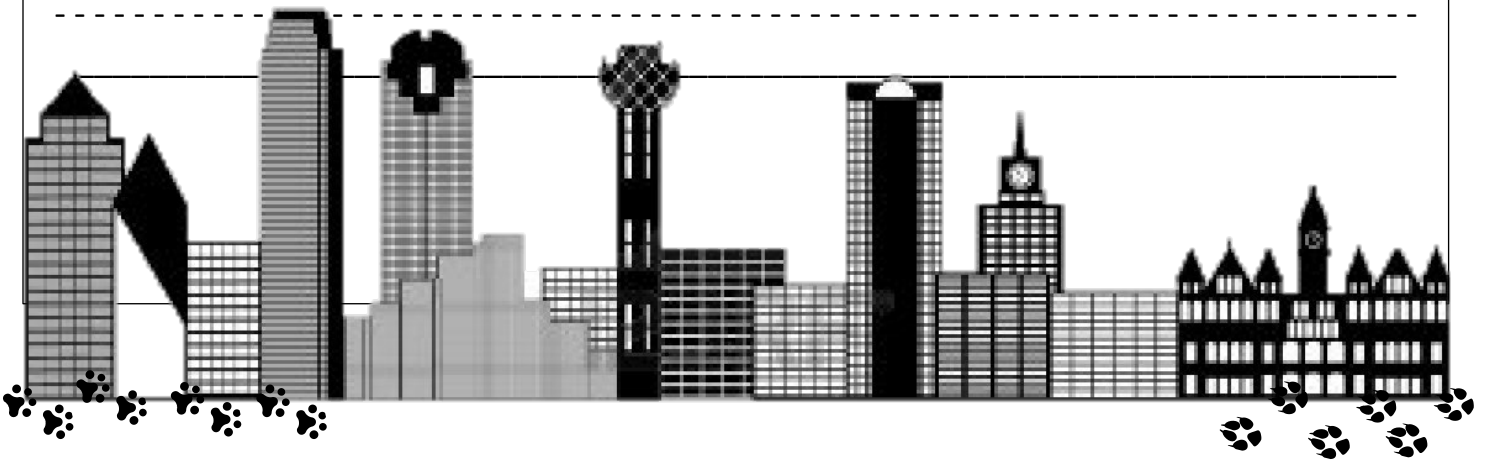
Later, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ SO \_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, \_\_\_\_\_.



Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten sets of three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.



## Character Traits

### Kind



thoughtful  
unselfish  
loving  
loyal  
helpful  
caring  
compassionate  
friendly  
considerate

### Happy



joyful  
cheerful  
comical  
fun-loving  
lucky  
funny  
out-going  
care-free  
enthusiastic

### Smart



intelligent  
witty  
studious  
resourceful  
inventive  
creative  
curious

### Brave



courageous  
adventurous  
daring  
bold

### Confident



successful  
proud  
self-confident  
conceited  
arrogant  
self-assured  
decisive  
feisty  
spunky

### Calm



quiet  
peaceful  
mannerly

### Busy



active  
energetic  
wired  
hyperactive

### Sad



gloomy  
miserable  
Unhappy  
down-hearted  
depressed

### Worried



concerned

### Hard-Working



responsible  
ambitious  
determined  
diligent

### Careful



cautious  
watchful  
gentle

### Angry



mad  
stubborn  
upset

### Shy



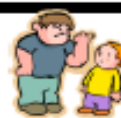
timid  
quiet  
bashful

### Silly



foolish  
odd  
strange

### Mean



rude  
vicious  
cruel  
selfish

### Lazy



bored  
dawdler  
irresponsible



Lesson 7

At first, \_\_\_\_\_.

After \_\_\_\_\_.

Because \_\_\_\_\_ felt

\_\_\_\_\_ he/she/the \_\_\_\_\_.

Since \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_ therefore \_\_\_\_\_.

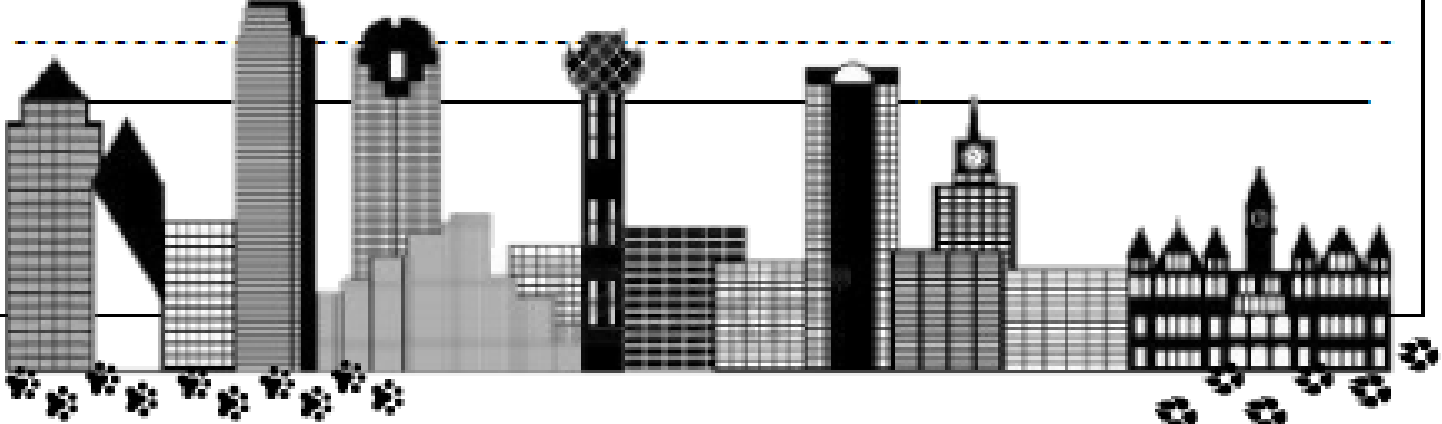
\_\_\_\_\_ so \_\_\_\_\_.



# Lesson Reflection



Handwriting practice area consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.





## Group Public Service Announcement



### Performance Task

1. Use the texts you read to write a script for your Public Service Announcement (PSA). Everyone in your group should help to create the script. Take turns recording each part. The following must be included:
  - a. Describe your animal. Include interesting details.
  - b. Describe the natural habitat of your animal.
  - c. Tell about where the animal lives in the city. How has it adapted to city life?
  - d. Explain any problems or dangers that this animal causes.
  - e. Provide advice to people about what they should do if they encounter the animals.
2. Next, decide who will say each part when you present your PSA to the class. Everyone in your group must have a speaking part. Write each person's name next to the part they will say aloud.
3. Now, practice presenting your PSA as a group. You will find that you need to revise and edit as you find parts you can improve. Revise your script and create your final draft.
4. Take your script to your teacher for final approval.
5. Once your teacher has approved the final draft, each person should copy it so they have their own copy to refer to.
6. Create a poster with a visual that will enhance your presentation. Everyone in the group should contribute to the poster.
7. Continue to practice your presentation. Check to make sure everyone:
  - a. Uses clear and specific vocabulary
  - b. Annunciates, speaks out loud, clearly
  - c. Uses complete sentences
  - d. Maintains appropriate, correct, pace
  - e. Maintains eye contact with audience

# Presentation Rubric

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Presentation Title: \_\_\_\_\_

## Content:

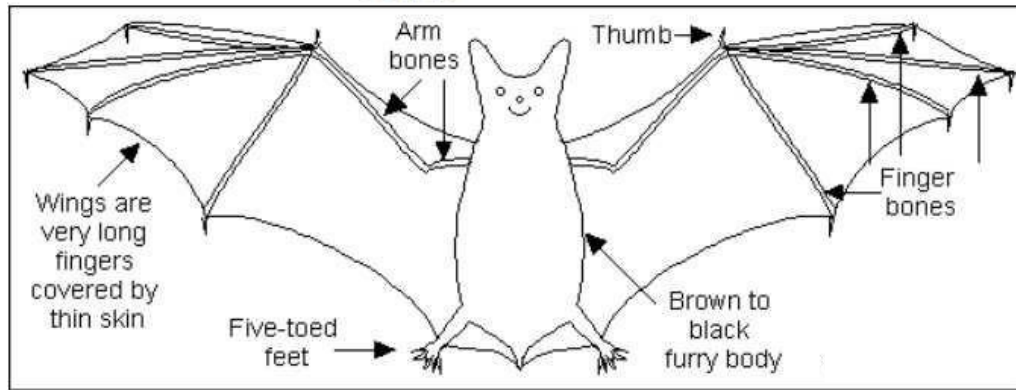
1	Organizes ideas around major points that follow a logical sequence	5	4	3	2	1
2	Includes appropriate facts	5	4	3	2	1
3	Includes relevant details	5	4	3	2	1
4	Includes descriptive details	5	4	3	2	1
5	Provides a strong conclusion	5	4	3	2	1

## Delivery

1	Uses clear and specific vocabulary	5	4	3	2	1
2	Annunciates, speaks clearly	5	4	3	2	1
3	Uses complete sentences	5	4	3	2	1
4	Maintains appropriate pace	5	4	3	2	1
5	Adds drawing or other visual displays as appropriate	5	4	3	2	1
6	Maintains eye contact with audience	5	4	3	2	1

Comments:

## Bats



Bats are the only flying mammals. They give birth to live young and nourish them with milk. Bats are nocturnal; they are most active at night and sleep during the day hanging upside-down. Bats are found in all types of habitats all around the world except at the poles. Outside of urban areas, bats live in trees and caves. There are over 900 different species of bats.

During the cold winter, some bats migrate to a warmer area. Some bats (like the brown bat) hibernate during the cold of winter, sleeping very deeply until warm weather arrives.

**Anatomy:** Bat's wings are long fingers covered by thin skin. They have furry bodies. Some bats have short tails, other have no tail. Bats have weak legs and don't walk very well. The smallest bat is the bumblebee bat (with a wingspan of 6 inches=15 cm, weighing less than a penny); the biggest bat is the flying fox bat (with a wingspan of 6 feet=1.8 m, weighing 2 pounds=1 kg).

**Senses/Diet:** Bats can see, but do not use this as their primary sense.

There are two types of bats that differ in their diet and in the way they sense and obtain food. Bats are divided into:

- **Microchiropterans:** These bats use echolocation to find insects and small animals to eat. While flying, these bats send out high-pitched sounds that bounce off other objects. The bat listens for the bounced sound, and can determine where objects are located. People cannot hear these high-pitched sounds. Some Microchiropterans include the vampire bat, the frog-eating bat, etc. The vampire bat is the only bat (and the only mammal) that eats blood. It makes a small hole with its two very sharp incisor teeth and laps up the blood, which doesn't clot because of anti-coagulants in the bat's saliva.
- **Megachiropterans:** These large bats use the sense of smell to find their food, fruit and/or nectar. Some Megachiropterans include the fruit bat, the blossom bat, etc.

---

***The following advice should be taken when bats are located on your property:***

***--Never touch or pick up a bat with bare hands, even if it appears dead.***

***--Have all domestic animals in your care currently vaccinated for rabies.***

***--Immediately notify your local animal control if you suspect exposure to a human or domestic animal.***

***--Bat-proof all dwellings to deny access.***

---



*Photo of a red bat courtesy of Bat World Sanctuary/www.batworld.org*

**Bats** are the only flying mammal. They are helpful to the ecosystem because they pollinate plants and spread seeds. They also keep insects under control since they are insect predators. Sixteen species can be found in Orange County.

Bats leave their roost at dusk and will hunt throughout the night until morning. They look for areas that are dark and quiet during the day.

Bat-proofing your home is important. Bats can fit into small spaces and openings. To keep them out, close up opening in roofs, walls and floors. Put screens on all windows and doors.

If you wake up and find a bat in your room, notify animal control to have the bat tested. Rabies, a virus which can be spread by bats, can affect people and animals. Make sure that all of your pets have current rabies vaccinations. If you think a human or domestic animal has been exposed to a bat, notify your local animal control immediately. Never touch a bat with your bare hands!

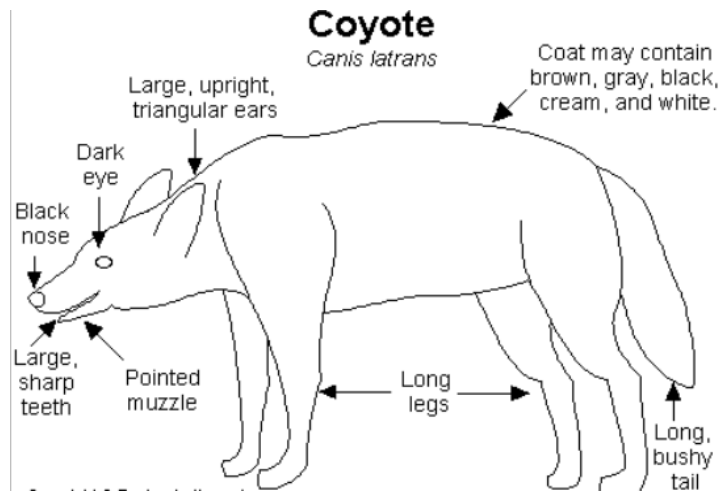
Orange County Animal Care will help with any bat that is:

- Injured, sick or dead
- Involved in a bite with a human or animal
- Trapped in a home

If any of these things happen, please call OC Animal Care.

Adapted from:

<http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Info%20OC/Departments%20&%20Agencies/OC%20Animal%20Care>



The coyote is a fast-running **carnivore** (meat-eater). The coyote is closely related to the wolf. Coyotes probably mate for life; they have 3 to 12 pups each spring. Both parents care for the pups. Coyotes live in small family groups and guard their home territory fiercely.

### **Habitat**

Coyotes inhabit all life zones of the Desert Southwest from low valley floors to the crest of the highest mountains, but especially open plains, grasslands and high mesas. Its natural habitat is open grassland, but it will move to wherever food is available.

**Anatomy:** These mammals have a brown, gray, cream and/or black coat that camouflages them while hunting. Adults weigh from 20 to 50 pounds (9 to 23 kg). They have very good eyesight, acute hearing, and a keen sense of smell.

**Hunting and Diet:** Coyotes eat rodents, carrion (dead animals that they find), fish, snakes, lizards, grains, and fruit. They swallow food in large chunks, barely chewing it.

Adapted from: [www.enchantedlearning.com](http://www.enchantedlearning.com)

---

*Many steps can be taken to protect you and your property from nuisance animals like coyotes and other wildlife.*

*--Fence off animal enclosures*

*--Keep cats and small dogs indoors or in the close presence of an adult.*

*--Feed pets indoors.*

*--Store trash in covered heavy-duty containers.*

*--Keep yards free from potential shelter such as thick brush and weeds.*

*--Enclose the bottoms of porches and decks.*

*--Eliminate potential food and water sources, such as fallen fruit and standing water.*

---



Coyotes are found in ALL areas of Orange County.

Coyotes do not need open space to survive. In fact, most coyotes who live in urban areas are the offspring of generations of coyotes who lived in the urban areas of Orange County.

Coyotes are very comfortable living close to human beings. They have little fear of humans and are often seen trotting along within a few feet of joggers, bikers and horseback riders. Coyotes are not usually a danger to humans, but they will show defensive behaviors if threatened or cornered. It is important to leave a comfortable distance between you and a coyote.

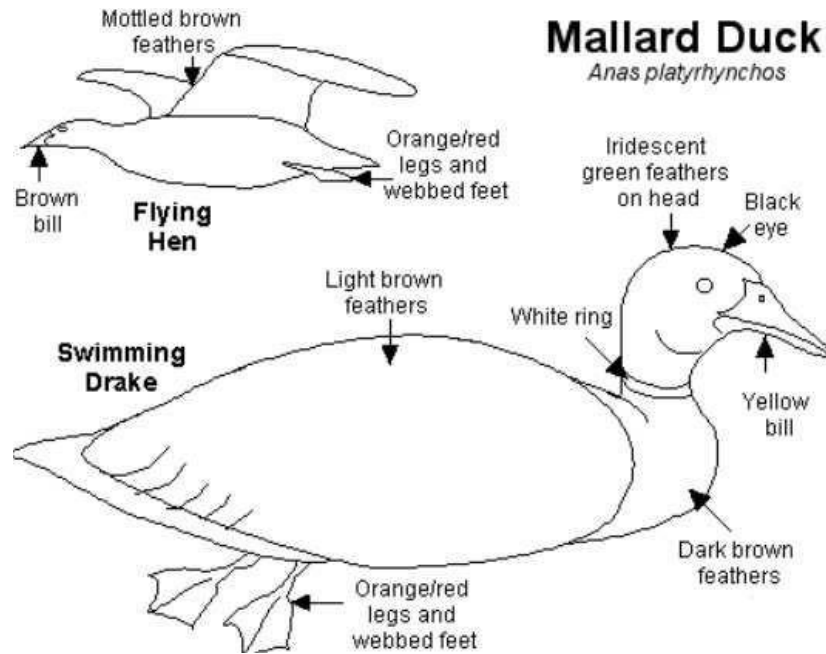
Small pets can easily become coyote prey. Cats and small dogs should not be allowed outside alone in an area where there are coyotes.

Though coyotes generally hunt between sunset and sunrise, they can see at all hours of the day. They will not pass up the opportunity for an easy meal. A dog or cat left in a backyard can be taken in a matter of moments.

If you see a coyote that behaves aggressively, you have probably gotten too close to its prey or its family. A coyote behaves in a similar way as domestic dogs that are defending their territory and family. Don't get close to them.

All children should be taught from a very early age to avoid strange animals, whether domestic or non-domestic. They should never try to feed a wild animal. When older children are hiking or are in parks, they should be taught coyote safety. Practicing this advice will minimize the problems caused by urban coyotes. Adapted from:

<http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Info%20OC/Departments%20&%20Agencies/OC%20Animal%20Care>



Mallard Ducks are common wild ducks that live in the Northern Hemisphere. Mallards can be found in almost any wetland habitat, including permanent wetlands such as marshes, lakes, and ponds. Most domestic (tame) ducks were bred from mallards. The female is called a **hen**, the male is called a **drake**, and the young are called **ducklings**.

**Anatomy:** Males are brightly colored, having a green head, a white collar, and a bright yellow bill. Females are mottled brown with a brown bill. Mallards are about 20-23 inches (51-59 cm) long.

**Diet:** Mallard ducks have a varied diet. They eat insects, worms, frogs, snails, slugs, small shellfish, grasses, and other plants that grow near shore.

**Eggs and Nests:** Mallards build cup-like nests made of grass and leaves; they are lined with duck down (delicate feathers). Nests are usually on the ground in dense undergrowth. Females lay 5-14 greenish-white eggs in each **clutch** (a set of eggs laid at one time). The female cares for the young.

Adapted from: [www.enchantedlearning.com](http://www.enchantedlearning.com)



---

*Steps to prevent ducks from nesting in undesirable areas should be taken prior to the arrival of duck mating season. The following is a list of steps, which may be taken to discourage ducks from making a backyard area a nesting site:*

*--Cover swimming pools during the nesting season.*

*--Allow beach or pool balls to float on the surface of pools, ponds or fountains.*

*--Clear away foliage from around water sources to eliminate a protected nesting area.*

*--Enclose above ground decks with skirting to eliminate a nesting site.*

---



From late February and into August, Animal Care Services (ACS) receives many phone calls from residents who are concerned about the well-being of ducks who have selected, what appear to be, strange locations to nest and raise their young. Many calls are received regarding a mother duck and ducklings crossing the road, or ducks nesting around a backyard swimming pool. Some calls are from residents who feel the presence of ducks at their home is a nuisance, and should be removed. This information is intended to help explain duck behavior, the laws protecting ducks and other migratory birds, and how to determine if a duck should be impounded for health and safety reasons.

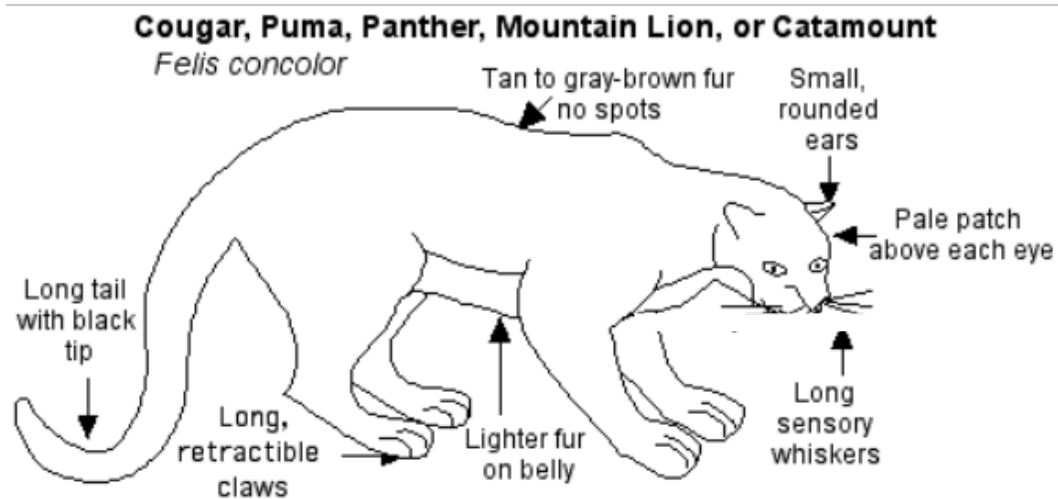
There are many species of ducks that migrate through Orange County. The most common specie is the Mallard. During breeding season, males have a beautiful, glossy green head with a narrow white collar. They have a chestnut breast, a white tail, yellow bill and orange feet. The females look completely different—mottled brown with a whitish tail. A female’s bill is dark and patched with orange and their feet are orange. They, as well as the males, have a prominent violet blue stripe bordered with white on the lower edge of their wings.

During January and February, mates are chosen and nesting areas are located. Mallards usually nest close to water. In urban areas, this means ponds, swimming pools, fountains, and even very unusual locations. After nesting, both the male and female stay near the nest to defend it. Females usually lay about 8-10 eggs. After

four weeks, the eggs hatch and the mother will take the ducklings to water, even if it means walking across a busy intersection. Females will aggressively protect their young so the entire brood should be avoided. In 10-12 weeks, the ducklings can fly and will soon fly away and join other ducks who have completed the cycle.

Federal law strictly prohibits interfering with nesting ducks. Heavy fines are levied against anyone who violates the Federal Migratory Waterfowl Act. Once a nest is made, it cannot be interfered with and nature must be allowed to take its course. If a pair has selected your yard in which to nest, enjoy this natural occasion and in a few short weeks, the ducks and ducklings will be gone. If your pool is selected as a water source, place a screen in front of your filter opening so the ducklings will not be harmed and enjoy the show. In any instance of an injured duck, Animal Control Services should be called. Adapted from: <http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Info%20OC/Departments%20&%20Agencies/OC%20Animal%20Care>

## Mountain Lion



The Mountain Lion is a fierce cat that lives deep in forests, grasslands, and deserts of North America and South America. These solitary cats can purr but cannot roar. Very athletic, these cats are excellent jumpers, climbers and swimmers.

### **Moving into the city:**

Some people believe these lions are being forced out of their former home ranges into the city by humans. Another reason mountain lions might come to the city is that the good habitat is already full of lions. Since they compete for food and space, some lions are forced to move, ending up in the city.

### **Anatomy:**

The mountain lion has keen eyesight and good hearing. It has a small head, big ears, powerful jaws, long, pointed canine teeth, and sharp, retractable claws on each foot. The brown eyes have circular pupils.

### **Diet:**

Mountain lions like to prey on deer, though they also eat smaller animals such as coyotes, porcupines, and raccoons. They usually hunt at night or during the hours of dawn and dusk. These cats employ a blend of stealth and power, stalking their prey until an opportunity arrives to pounce, then going for the back of the neck with a fatal bite. They will hide large carcasses and feed on them for several days.

Adapted from: [www.enchantedlearning.com](http://www.enchantedlearning.com)

---

***What should a person who is approached by a mountain lion do—or not do? The following suggestions are based on studies of mountain lion behavior and analysis of attacks by mountain lions, tigers and leopards:***

***--Do not hike alone***

***--Keep children close to you***

***--Do not approach a lion***

***--Do not run from a lion***

***--Do not crouch down or bend over***

***--Do all you can to appear larger***



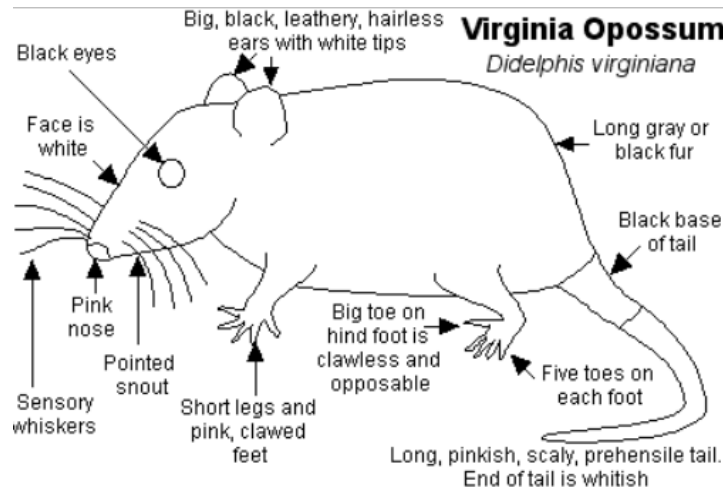
More than half of California is prime mountain lion habitat. Generally speaking, mountain lions can be found wherever deer are present, since deer are a mountain lion's main food source. Foothills and mountains are the most suitable mountain lion habitat, while valleys and deserts are considered unsuitable.

If a mountain lion is declared a public safety threat, then an animal control officer will secure the area, then locate and kill the animal as soon as possible. Factors that are considered include the lion's behavior and its proximity to schools, playgrounds and other public gathering places. Animal Services receives hundreds of reported mountain lion sightings annually statewide, but few turn out to be public safety threats. Usually, there is no apparent explanation for why a mountain lion seems to abandon its instinctive wariness of humans. Mountain lions usually live alone and stay away from people. Sometimes disease will cause an animal to behave strangely.

Mountain lion attacks on humans are rare. Mountain lions are wild animals though, and like any wildlife, can be dangerous. People who live in a mountain lion habitat can take precautions to reduce their risk of encountering a mountain lion. By deer-proofing the landscape, homeowners can avoid attracting a lion's main food source. Removing dense vegetation from around the home and installing outdoor lighting will make it difficult for mountain lions to approach unseen.

There have been only 15 verified mountain lion attacks on humans in California since 1890, six of them fatal. It has become increasingly common for mountain lions to prey on pets and livestock as more people move into mountain lion habitat. Animal Services receives hundreds of reports annually of mountain lions killing pets and livestock.

# Opossum



The opossum is the only living marsupial from North America. It is common in the eastern USA and has spread north and west. This large opossum lives in deciduous forests and prairies. Opossums are **nocturnal** (most active at night). They sleep during the day in a den in a hollow tree or in an abandoned rodent burrow.

## Habitat:

Ideal opossum habitat is woodland and farmland, but the opossum is very adaptable and will thrive in nearly any habitat, from wilderness to inner city.

It is a common visitor to backyards that provide the basic necessities, such as a source of water, food, and appropriate den sites. The opossum is not particular, and will live almost anywhere.

## Playing Possum:

When opossums are attacked, they will "play possum," pretending that they are dead; they remain still, do not blink, and their tongue hangs out. This act often makes the attacker lose interest in the opossum. Some of their many predators include foxes and dogs.

**Anatomy:** The opossum is about 2.5 feet (76 cm) long, including its foot-long, hairless, prehensile (grasping) tail. This opossum is about the size of a cat. It has a clawless, opposable thumb on each hind foot.

**The Pouch:** The young are about the size of a bee when they are born. Females have a fur-lined pouch on their abdomen into which these tiny, under-developed young crawl. The young live and drink milk from teats in the pouch for about 2 months.

**Diet:** The opossum is an **omnivore** (eating both plants and animals). It eats insects, lizards, mice, snails, earthworms, fruit, nuts, seeds, grasses, and carrion (dead meat that it finds, like road kill).

Adapted from [www.enchantedlearning.c](http://www.enchantedlearning.c)

---

*The following steps can be taken to discourage opossum activity on your property:*

*--Keep pet food indoors and do not leave food of any kind outside at night*

*--Remove any fallen fruit*

*--Cover trash containers tightly*

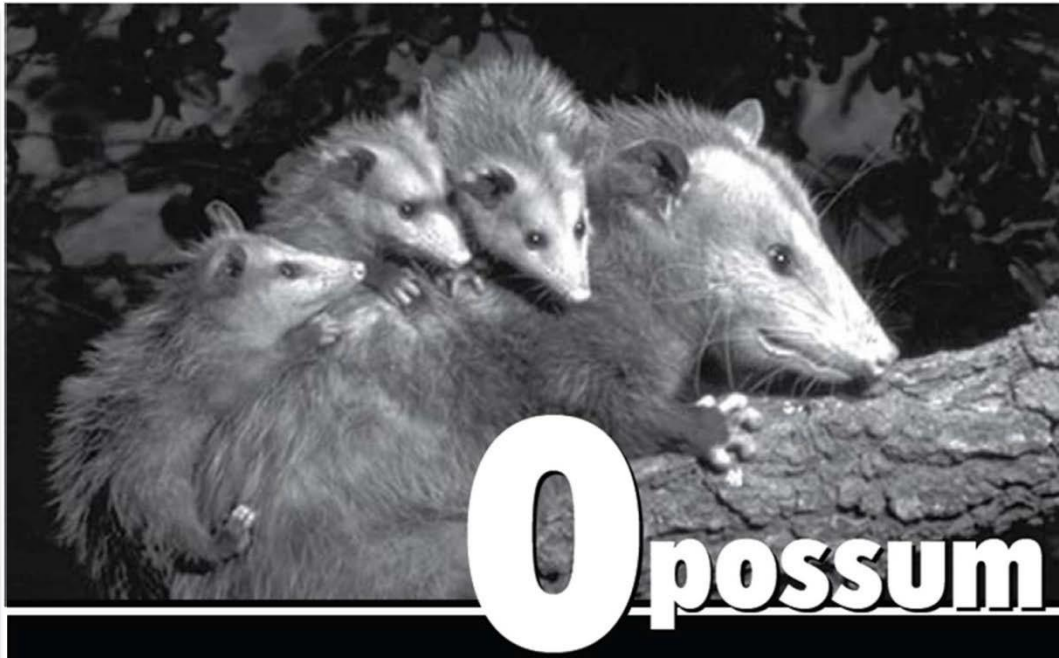
*--Do not leave plastic trash bags outside*

*--Change automatic sprinkler settings regularly*

*--Remove garbage, debris, lumber, etc.*

*--Check fencing, eliminate access points and seal house and decking foundations*

---



The opossum is an animal commonly found in urban Orange County, and generally is not a threat to humans or pets. However, some people have concerns about the opossums' nightly forages in their yards and trash.

The opossum is the only marsupial (pouched animal) in North America. It is a house cat-sized mammal with white to dark gray fur. Its face is long and pointed and it has dark rounded, paper-thin, hairless ears. The opossum's tail is long, hairless, and scaly and can be used for grasping. The opossum has 50 teeth, that it readily shows when it is afraid; however, showing its teeth is usually the extent of its actions. When an opossum is scared, it "plays possum," pretending to be dead.

Opossums, as well as most wildlife, stay in certain geographical areas as long as they have food, water, and shelter. Without these three things, the opossum will not remain. Opossums eat a wide variety of foods including fruit, vegetables, nuts, meat, insects, pet food, and garbage.

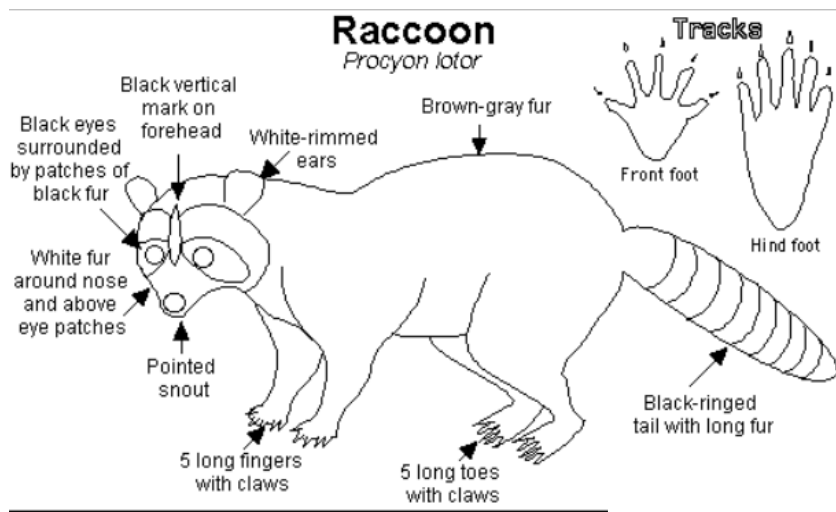
In urban areas, opossums have been found to live in attics, garages, woodpiles, under houses and decks, or in any other place that offers protection. Although common, they are often not seen due to their nocturnal habits.

Animal control will help any opossum that is:

- **Injured/Sick/Dead**
- **Has been involved in a bite with a human**

If any of these conditions exist, please call Orange County Animal Care Services.

Adapted from: <http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Info%20OC/Departments%20&%20Agencies/OC%20Animal%20Care>



Raccoons are small, very adaptable mammals from North and South America and a few tropical islands. They live in a variety of habitats, including marshes, forests, prairies, cities, and suburbs. These **nocturnal** (most active at night) animals have a life span of about 6 years in the wild.

Raccoons have adapted well to urban life and are among the most common species found in cities and towns. The ideal raccoon habitat is an area with small stands of timber bordering corn and vegetable fields, and with water close by.

### **Anatomy:**

Raccoons have distinctive black patches around their eyes that look like a mask. They have a bushy, black-ringed tail, clawed feet, and a pointed snout. They have long fingers and toes and an acute sense of touch. Newborn raccoons do not have black eye patches or a ringed tail; these develop after a few days. Raccoons grow to be about 18 to 26 inches (46-66 cm) long plus a striped, furry tail 9 to 12 inches (23-30 cm) long.

### **Diet:**

Raccoons are **omnivores**; they will eat almost anything, including frogs, crayfish, birds, mice (and other small mammals), fruit, nuts, plants, crops, and garbage. It's common to find raccoons raiding garbage cans and dumps, and many urban raccoons "commute" to their food sources via storm sewers, sometimes traveling miles underground from their dens within the woods to restaurant dumpster banquets.

Raccoons find much of their food in water. Adult raccoons have few natural enemies; young raccoons can be eaten by wolves and bobcats.

---

*Raccoons can cause considerable damage to roofs, attics, lawns and gardens. Simple measures can prevent such damage from occurring:*

*--Eliminate all sources of food, water and shelter.*

*--Store trash in solid containers with tight fitting or locking lids. Never use plastic trash bags for outdoor storage.*

*--Do not feed pets outdoors. If you must have food and water dishes outside, bring them in before nightfall.*

*--Keep lawn and garden free of insect pests. Snails, grub worms, and other soil dwelling bugs are a significant raccoon food source.*

*--Cut back tree branches that lead to your roof.*

*--Seal up holes leading under or into your home or patio decking and thin out vegetation.*



Raccoons have long been a part of Orange County life. In years past, they were found in relatively undeveloped areas; however, with the onset of urban sprawl, their natural habitat was lost. Nevertheless, raccoons are intelligent and hardy animals, adapting to life in an urban area.

Raccoons are usually seen foraging for food at night and in the early morning hours. They seek food in garbage cans, pet dishes that are left outside, vegetable gardens, and other man-made sources. When food is readily available, raccoon populations increase. Under these circumstances, problems occur.

Females normally give birth between February and April, though it is not uncommon to find new litters outside of these parameters. Prior to bearing young, raccoon mothers seek a safe den, which frequently is inside an attic, garage, storage shed or other location. Raccoons have one litter a year consisting of 3-5 babies. Though baby raccoons look adorable, they should never be captured and kept as pets. They are wild animals, and once they reach maturity, usually by two years of age, they become difficult to manage and bite and scratch. It is against the law to keep raccoons as pets for this and other safety reasons.

Wild animals do not have the benefit of veterinary care and may have diseases and parasites. For this reason, children should stay away from all wild animals they encounter, and pets should be brought indoors at night. This will help prevent any interaction with wild animals.

Animal Services will help with any raccoon that is:

**Injured/Sick/Dead**

**Has been involved in a bite with a human**

If any of these conditions exist, please call Orange County Animal Services.

Adapted from: <http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Info%20OC/Departments%20&%20Agencies/OC%20Animal%20Care>

---

*The following steps can be taken to discourage rattlesnake activity around your home:*

*--Snakes like to move through areas where they are not easily detected. Clear any land (shrubs, broken branches, overgrown bushes, etc.) surrounding your property.*

*--Remove vegetation far enough back from fences so that snakes cannot crawl up and get over into the property.*

*--Seal openings in or under buildings to keep snakes from nesting under the property.*

*--Fill up gopher and squirrel holes with stones and dirt. Snakes use these as passageways, and will be deterred away from property if the route is closed.*

*--When looking for snakes in concealed areas such as ivy, lawns, and untrimmed shrubbery, poke ahead with a long stick. If a snake is there, it will either attack the stick or glide away quickly.*

*--The desire to avoid direct contact is mutual.*

---



Rattlesnakes are found in the following areas of Orange County: desert-like and brush covered regions, the foothills and adjacent districts, mountainous areas, and around subdivisions located in formerly “wild” areas.

The active season for rattlesnakes starts toward the end of spring when they come out of hibernation. Most snakes will go back into hibernation when the colder weather months set in.

The main food source for rattlesnakes is rodents, therefore, rodent and snake control go together. A rodent free area is unattractive to rattlers, so remove rodent harborages by: 1) piling wood 18” above the ground; 2) keeping all trash away; 3) removing grass cuttings, weeds, tree trimmings, and the like where rats and mice may nest. Remember that gophers and squirrels are rodents!

Snakes will hunt for food day or night so long as the outdoor temperature is not too cold. When the sun is too hot or when it is chilly, snakes will seek shelter under shrubs, logs, rocks, or any other place that offers protection against the weather.

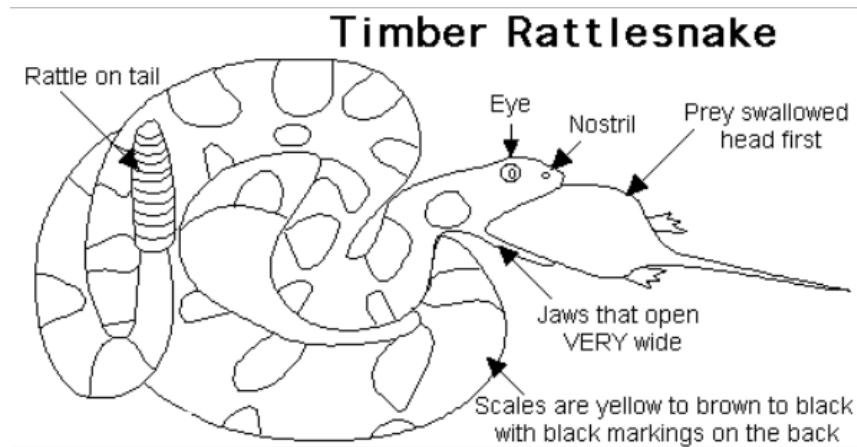
An Orange County Animal Care Services Officer will respond and/or impound any rattlesnake that is:

- **Injured/Sick/Dead**
- **Has had intimate contact with a domestic animal.**
- **On private property or in a location that would be a direct threat to the public.**

If any of these conditions exist, please call Orange County Animal Care Services

Adapted from: <http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Info%20OC/Departments%20&%20Agencies/OC%20Animal%20Care>





Rattlesnakes are poisonous snakes that have a rattle on their tail. In colder areas, this normally solitary snake overwinters in a den with many other rattlesnakes. These snakes are good swimmers. Rattlers try to avoid humans.

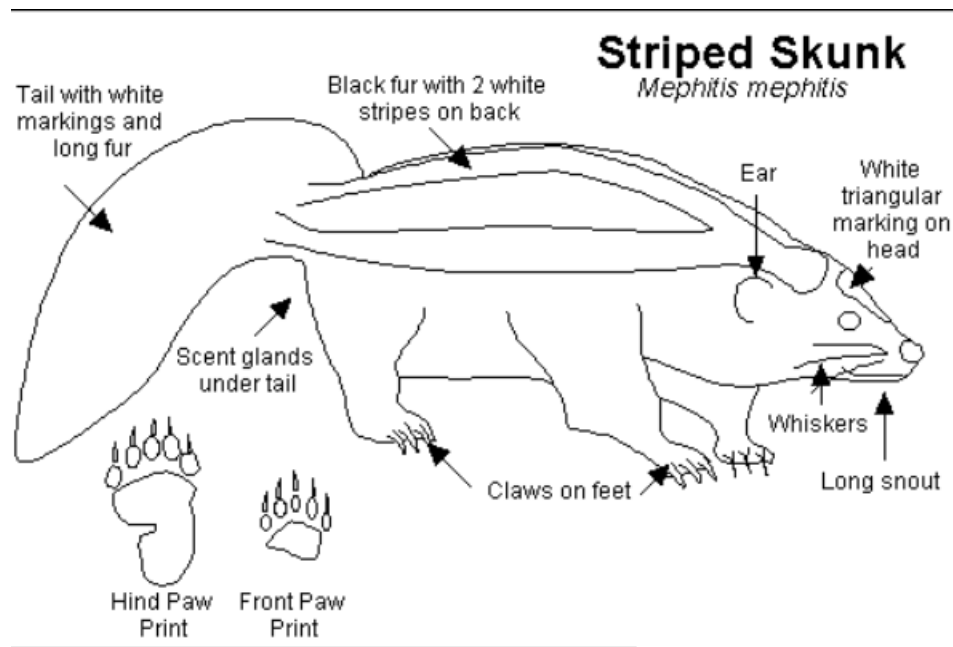
**Habitat:** This snake is considered a generalist, which means that it isn't too picky about its habitat. It can be found living in deserts, grassy plains, forests, rocky hillsides and areas along the coast.

**The Rattle:** A hollow rattle on the tail makes a buzzing sound when it moves. After each **molt** (losing the old skin), the rattle has another section added to it. Older rattlesnakes usually have a longer rattle (unless it has been broken off).

**Anatomy:** Like all snakes, rattlers are cold-blooded; they are the same temperature as the environment. They continue to grow all their lives, getting bigger and bigger each year. Their scaly skin glistens but is dry to the touch. The scales vary from yellow to brown to black, and there are dark V- or diamond-shaped markings along the back. The snake smells with its tongue and has two long, hollow fangs that inject a relatively weak **venom** (poison) into prey.

**Hunting and Diet:** Rattlesnakes are carnivores (meat-eaters). They mostly hunt at night (they are nocturnal) and can sense the heat of their potential prey. Rattlers kill prey with venom, which also contains digestive enzymes that begin to dissolve the meat even before the snake eats it. Like all snakes, they swallow prey whole, head first. Rattlesnakes eat rodents, lizards, and other small animals.

Adapted from: [www.enchantedlearning.com](http://www.enchantedlearning.com)



Skunks are the smelliest mammals. These small, nocturnal (most active at night) animals are found in South and Central America and much of North America (excluding the coldest regions).

**Habitat:**

Skunks can be found in their natural habitats of forest borders, brushy areas, and grassy fields. Skunks are burrowing animals. In urban areas, they are often found under buildings, and porches. Much of the skunk's natural habitat has been destroyed. Each year they are forced into closer contact with humans and must compete with us for food, shelter and space.

**The Spray:** Skunks produce a very smelly spray that repels most predators. This oily, yellow liquid is produced in two glands located under the tail. They can spray up to 10 ft. (3 m) away. The smell is long-lasting and very hard to get rid of tomato juice helps.

**Anatomy:** Wild skunks are black and white, but the patterns vary. They all have a bushy tail, short legs, clawed feet, and a long snout.

**Diet:** Skunks are **omnivores**; they eat insects, rodents, reptiles, small mammals, worms, eggs, fish, fruit, and plants.

Adapted from: [www.enchantedlearning.com](http://www.enchantedlearning.com)

---

*The following steps can be taken to discourage skunk activity around your home.*

*--Keep pet food indoors and do not leave food of any kind outside.*

*--Cover trash containers.*

*--Don't leave plastic trash bags outside.*

*--Change automatic sprinkler settings regularly.*

*--Eliminate garbage, debris, lumber piles, etc.*

*--Check fencing and eliminate access points.*

*--Seal house and decking foundations.*

*--Clear dense vegetation and thin*



The common skunk is about the size of a plump house cat. Skunks are not good fighters or runners but possess a strong-smelling gland at the base of their tail. When cornered or bothered, they stamp their front feet in warning and turn to aim their gland at their target. The powerful oily scent can be ejected for about 10 feet. If left alone, they will turn and scamper away. Skunks, as well as most wildlife, stay in certain areas as long as these things are present: food, shelter and water. Without these three items, the skunk will not remain.

Skunks eat a variety of food. In spring and summer they eat fruits, berries, eggs, all kinds of insects, small rodents and reptiles. In winter they dig small insects and rodents out of the ground. Their digging leaves little cone-shaped holes. They usually live in underground burrows which they may dig if the ground is soft. Otherwise, they live in vacant homes of other rodents, hollow logs, rock piles and under houses. Skunks are nocturnal and are rarely seen during daylight hours. There are certain steps that residents of an affected area should take to eliminate the problem of nuisance skunks. The problem will not go away overnight, but if everyone is willing to help, the problem will eventually subside. Animal control experts agree that education and cooperation are the keys to solving many wildlife problems.

Animal Control will respond to any skunk that is:

- **Injured/Sick/Dead**
- **Has had contact with a human or a domestic animal.**

If any of these conditions exist, please call Orange County Animal Care Services.

Adapted from: <http://egov.ocgov.com/ocgov/Info%20OC/Departments%20&%20Agencies/OC%20Animal%20Care>

## Assessment “Changing Habitats”



### Student Directions:

As a park ranger, you have been asked to write a paragraph informing tourists about black bears and precautions they should take if they encounter one. Read two articles about black bears. Create a Classifying Map to organize the information and have a collaborative conversation. Answer the four text dependent questions. Write an informational paragraph about the black bear and its changing habitat.

#### Part 1 - Close Reading

1. Do an unencumbered first read of the two articles. One is a news story and the other is an informational article.
2. Read the articles a second time and annotate the text: underline key ideas and important details.
3. Create a Classifying Map with information from the two articles.

#### Part 2 - Collaborative Conversation

In small groups, have a collaborative conversation about each of the four questions. Add any important details from the discussion to your answers. Be sure to use conversation norms.

#### Part 3 - Text Dependent Questions

1. Answer the questions in complete sentences citing evidence from the texts.

#### Part 4 - Write

Write an informational paragraph about the black bear and its changing habitats. Revise and edit your paragraph using the rubric.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 3: Text Dependent Questions

**Directions:** Answer the four questions below. They will help you think about the sources you have read. You can look back at the articles and the Classifying Map.

1. Describe the black bear and its natural habitat. Use details from the sources to support your answer.

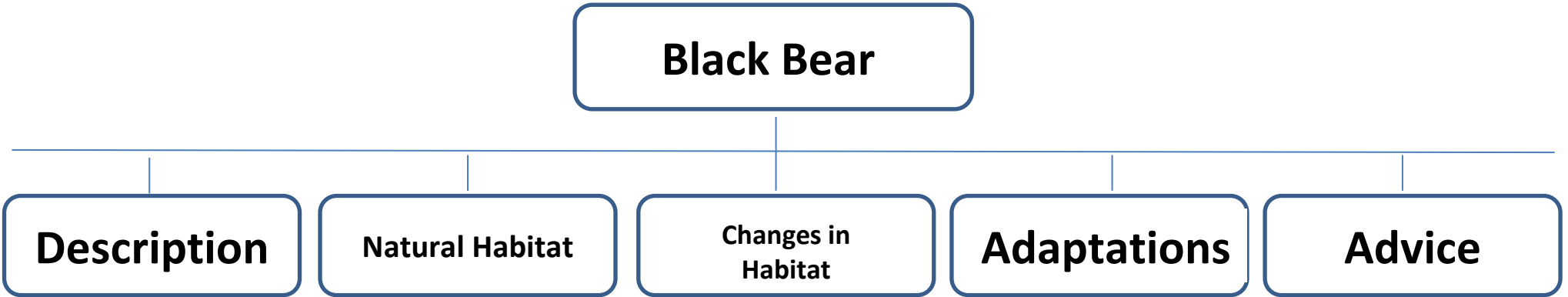
2. Why did the black bear come into the city?

3. What did people do when the bear came into the city?

4. What advice should people follow if they see a black bear in their neighborhood?

## Part 1- Organize the information

Classify the information from the articles and the answers to the questions on a Classifying Map (Tree Map)  
Use phrases, not sentences to note important details on your map.



## **Part 4: Prompt**

You are a park ranger in the Angeles National Forest. You have been asked to write a paragraph for the park newsletter informing tourists about the black bear and precautions they should take if they encounter one in the park.

Write an information paragraph using your Classifying Map. Be sure to include a topic sentence, important details, and a closing sentence. Describe the black bear, its natural habitat, and how it adapted to changes. Also, include the advice people should follow if they encounter a black bear in their neighborhood. Cite evidence from the articles to support your ideas. Revise and edit your paragraph using the rubric.



## Wandering Bear Stops Traffic on L.A. Freeway

By Eliza Murphy

A black bear that walked through a Los Angeles neighborhood has been taken back to the woods where she belongs.

Animal control officers hope she will stay there.

Around 7:30 a.m. Sunday, the bear walked onto the freeway in Los Angeles. This caused the highway to be closed. The bear then walked into a nearby neighborhood.

Residents first saw the bear climbing over fences and walking through yards.



Officials followed the bear by land and air. Animal control officers finally surrounded the black bear. They hit her with tranquilizer darts so they could return her to the woods.

“We caught the bear and returned it to the Angeles National Forest yesterday afternoon,” animal control officer Mackey told ABC News. “It walked off on its own at about 3:30 p.m.”

“Hopefully she’ll find some food and stay in the woods,” Mackey added.

There have been a high number of cases across the country of bears coming into the city. Wildlife officials have said they expect the fall to bring even more bears to the city. Drought and wildfires have made it harder for bears to find food in their natural habitat. Bears come to the city to look for food since can’t find food in their natural habitat. Animal control officers say that if people see black bears near their homes they should stay away from the bears and call their local animal control.

Adapted from: <http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/headlines/2012/09/wandering-bear-stops-traffic-on-l-a-freeway/>

## Black Bear

Black bears are North America's most common bears. They usually live in forests and are excellent tree climbers. They are also found in mountains and swamps.

Black bears are very adaptable eaters. They usually eat grasses, roots, berries, and insects. They will also eat fish and mammals. They easily develop a taste for human foods and trash. Bears that become used to human food at campsites, cabins, or homes can become dangerous and are often killed. That is why people should never feed bears!

Black bears live alone. They roam large areas. Males might wander a 15- to 80-square-mile home range.

When winter arrives, black bears spend the season resting in their dens. They use body fat they have built up by eating all summer and fall. They make their dens in caves or other sheltered spots. Sometimes they even make dens in tree holes high above the ground.

Female black bears give birth to two or three blind, helpless cubs in winter. They nurse the cubs in the den until spring. In spring, they all come out in search of food. The cubs will stay with their mother for about two years.



### Fast Facts

**Type:**

Mammal

**Diet:**

Omnivore

**Average life span in the wild:**

20 years

**Size:**

5 to 6 ft. (1.5 to 1.8 m)  
long

**Weight:**

200 to 600 lbs. (90 to  
270 kg)

**Did you know?**

Black bears are not true hibernators. During their winter dormant period, though, they do not eat, drink, urinate, or defecate, but may wake up if disturbed.

**Size relative to a 6-ft (2-m) man:**



**Mother black bears are notoriously protective of their cubs, who stay with their mothers for about two years. *Photograph by Norbert Rosing***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**RUBRIC**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Informational Paragraph**

<b>Student Checklist</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Teacher Points</b> (points TBD by teacher)
	<b>Content</b>	
	Description of black bear	
	Description of natural habitat	
	Adaptations	
	Advice	
	Cite evidence	
	Informational/Expository (Not narrative)	
	<b>Organization</b>	
	Clear topic sentence	
	Important details	
	Concluding sentence	
	Related information grouped together	
	<b>Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling</b>	
	Effective linking words (So, therefore, because, as a result, etc.)	
	Grade level words spelled correctly	
	Correct punctuation and capitalization	

Lesson 9

The brown bear is \_\_\_\_\_.

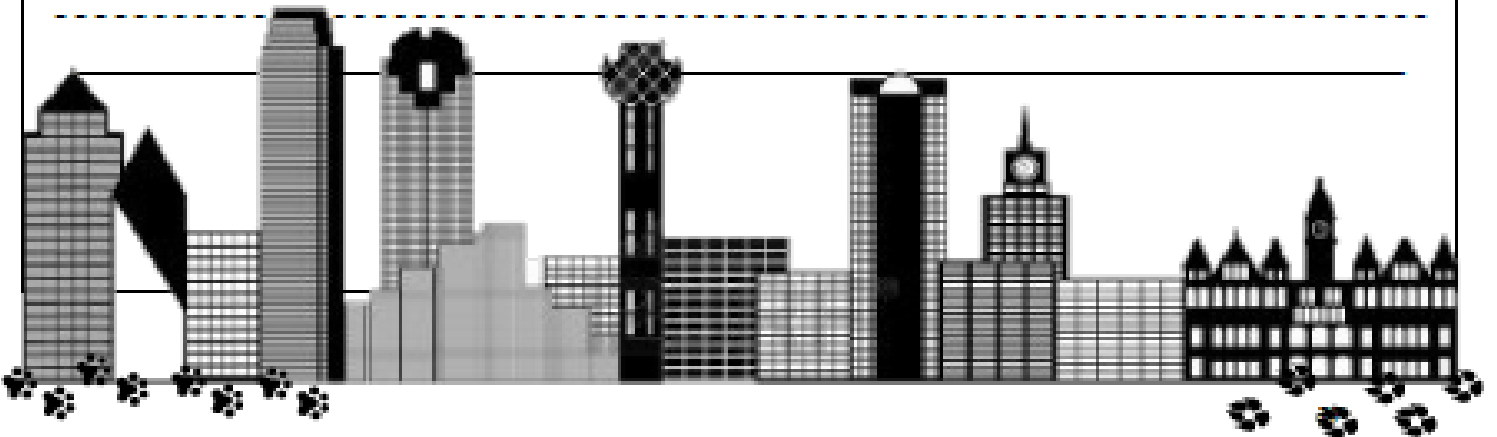
It has \_\_\_\_\_.

Its natural habitat is \_\_\_\_\_.

The brown bear's habitat changed  
due to \_\_\_\_\_, so it \_\_\_\_\_.

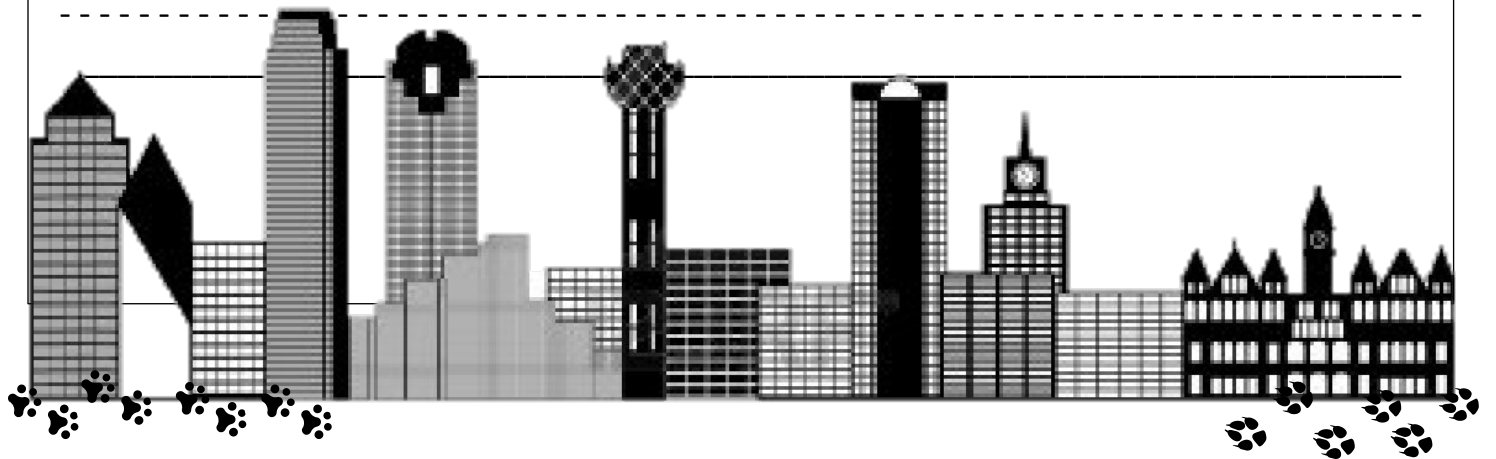


Handwriting practice area consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.





Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten sets of horizontal lines. Each set includes a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a guide for letter height and placement.





Handwriting practice lines consisting of ten sets of three horizontal lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line.

