

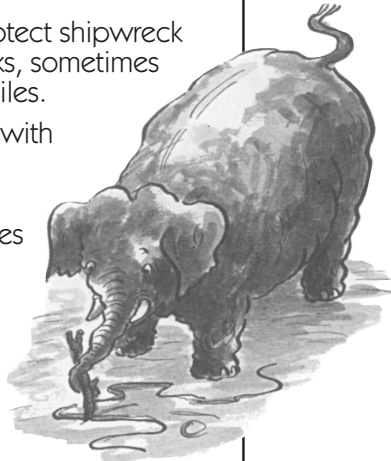
THE AMAZING WORLD OF ANIMALS

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THE WORLD**

part 1/AMAZING ANIMAL FACTS

The more you know about animals, their abilities, and their behavior, the more you'll see how complex and amazing they are. Here are some fascinating facts about animals that may surprise you.

- ✓ **Dolphins** have been known to protect shipwreck survivors from drowning and sharks, sometimes keeping people afloat for many miles.
- ✓ **Beavers** live in complex societies with homes, lodges, and food storage.
- ✓ **Musk oxen and cows** form a protective circle around their calves when danger or rough weather threatens.
- ✓ **Elephants** have been known to enjoy painting or drawing, using paintbrushes or even twigs held in their trunks.



- ✓ **Orangutans** build overhead platforms in their "nests" to keep out the rain and use large leaves as umbrellas.
- ✓ A **blackpoll warbler** can fly all the way from Canada to South America and back, then return to the exact same nest.
- ✓ Male **emperor penguins** guard and incubate the females' eggs for two continuous months, without food, in the perpetual Antarctic cold.
- ✓ **"Electric" fish and eels** communicate by transmitting electrical signals to one another.

part 2/ANIMAL I.Q. TEST

Now, let's put your animal I.Q. to the test. Read each statement below. Check "A" if you agree that the statement is true, "D" if you disagree, or "NS" if you're not sure.

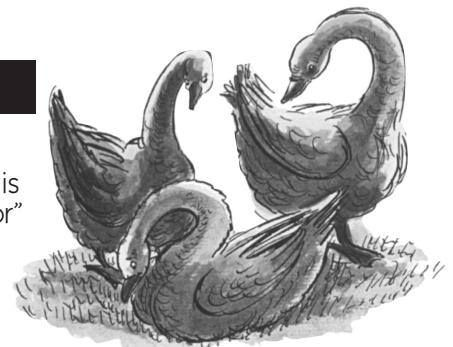
1. **Whales'** communication powers are so strong that a whale in Antarctica can hear the calls of a whale in Alaska.
2. **Crows** in the south of France have a different "accent" from crows in the north.
3. If an injury forces a **goose** to leave the flock, others stay with the injured bird until he or she recovers or dies.
4. **Deer** have been known to "guide" other deer who have gone blind.
5. **Elephants** mourn their dead and can shed tears of grief.
6. Black-tailed **prairie dogs** use "kisses" to identify members of their community.
7. After a fight, **chimpanzees** sometimes comfort the loser by putting an arm around or grooming him or her.
8. Some **birds** use mud and plants to set and heal broken bones.
9. There have been thousands of cases in which **dogs** and **pigs** have saved children from danger.



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part 3/ANIMAL PROJECT

Although we have yet to fully understand animal languages, we can imagine what animals might be thinking and feeling. Choose an animal and research his or her natural habitat. Then turn this sheet over and write a "letter to the editor" from the animal's point of view in response to a threat to his or her home.



ANIMALS AND THEIR FEELINGS

We think of some animals as our friends. Others we may think of as dangerous, and others we hardly think of at all. But all animals, from the family dog to the tiniest mouse, are, like us, living, feeling beings. We can learn more about how animals experience life by developing **empathy** toward them—in other words, by identifying with their needs and feelings to understand them better.

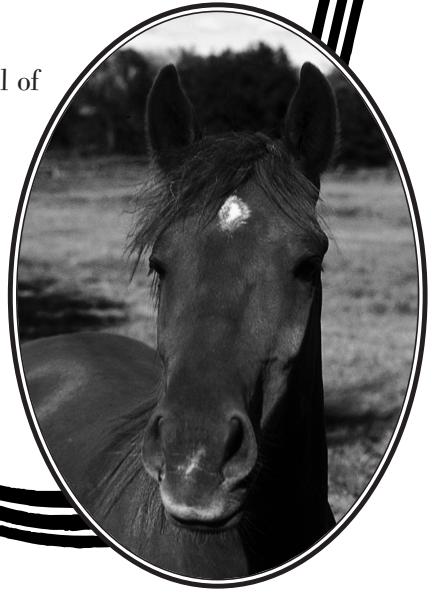
For a classic example of writing that displays empathy toward an animal, read this passage from Anna Sewall's classic novel **Black Beauty—The Autobiography of a Horse**. In it, a horse named Ginger tells Black Beauty of her experience with humans. Then think about how the author shows empathy toward Ginger and her plight.

The man that had the care of us never gave me a kind word in my life. I do not mean that he ill-used me, but he did not care for us one bit further than to see that we had plenty to eat and shelter in the winter. Very often the great boys passing through [our field] would fling stones to make us gallop. I was never hit, but one young colt was badly cut in the face ... we settled it in our minds that boys were our enemies.

We had very good fun in the free meadows, galloping up and down ... and chasing each other round and round. But when it came to breaking in, that was a bad time for me; several men came to catch me ...

one caught me by the nose ... so tight I could hardly draw my breath; ... and so by force they got on the halter and the bar in my mouth; one dragged me along by the halter, another flogging behind ... this was the first experience I had of men's kindness ...

... I had a good deal of spirit ... it was dreadful to be shut up in a stall day after day instead of having my liberty, and I fretted and pined and wanted to get loose.



part 1

The passage you've just read shows that **empathy** is the key to understanding what animals are feeling. Now read each situation below. Then, in the spaces provided, list all the feelings you can think of that each animal might be experiencing.

1. A dog let into a warm home on a very cold night feels ...

2. A pony giving rides to children, walking around and around in circles on a hot day, feels ...

3. A small calf separated from his or her mother feels ...

part 2

Now stretch your imagination further. Imagine that you are any animal of your choice. On the other side of this sheet, write a brief story from the animal's point of view, based on the topic "If I had three wishes." Give your story a title, and draw a picture to go with it on a separate sheet of paper. Then share both your story and your picture with the class.

Changing Times, Changing Minds

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, PEOPLE HAVE USED ANIMALS FOR THEIR OWN PURPOSES

And we have often failed to realize that animals experience life—including fear, pain, and happiness—as we do. But we have been learning, as the “headline history” timetable here shows!

part 1 If newspapers had been around as long as humans have, they might have featured headlines like these. Each one announces an event or trend that in some way has brought about positive changes. For each headline, tell how the event might have helped reduce the use of animals by humans.



LINEN IS “IN” FOR FASHIONABLE PHARAOHS

CIRCA 4,000 B.C.:

*LAMPLIGHTERS CHANGE
THEIR OIL ... FROM WHALE
TO PETROLEUM*

CIRCA 1860s:

“HORSELESS CARRIAGE” HONKS ITS WAY INTO HISTORY

CIRCA 1903:

Fashion Plates Find Fake Fur Warm and Friendly

CIRCA 1960s:

Researchers Flip for Computer Models

CIRCA 1980s:

Veggie Burger Adds Life to Fast Food

CIRCA 1990s:



Cavepeople Switch From Bones to Stones for Tools

CIRCA 70,000 B.C.:



part 2 Despite such animal-friendly developments, animals are still being used by people today. After reading each of the uses below, write an animal-friendly alternative for each on a separate piece of paper.

1.

Dissecting frogs
in classrooms.

2.

Using elephants’
tusks and
tortoises’ shells to
make piano keys
and jewelry.

3.

Raising and killing
animals for food.

4.

Killing animals for
their feathers, fur,
and skin.

MAKING HUMANE CHOICES

We can each make changes in our own lives to make sure that we treat animals with compassion and respect. We can also encourage others to do the same. The "Golden Rule" that we try to follow in our relationships with other people should also apply to our relationships with animals:

"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Take a look at these descriptions of situations in which the Golden Rule is not being applied to animals. For each one, tell in the spaces provided (a) how the situation fails to live up to the Golden Rule and (b) how you would change it to make it follow the Golden Rule.

- 1.** At a local zoo or circus, you see a bear circling aimlessly, without shade, on a very hot day.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

- 2.** You see many people hurry past a bird with a broken wing who has fallen onto a busy sidewalk.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

- 3.** On your way both to and from school one day, you notice a dog tied up on a short chain, with no food or water in sight.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

- 4.** You see your best friend remove a turtle from a riverbank.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

- 5.** You see a cat or dog being hit for going to the bathroom on the carpet.

(a) How does this situation fail to live up to the Golden Rule?

(b) What would you do about it?

