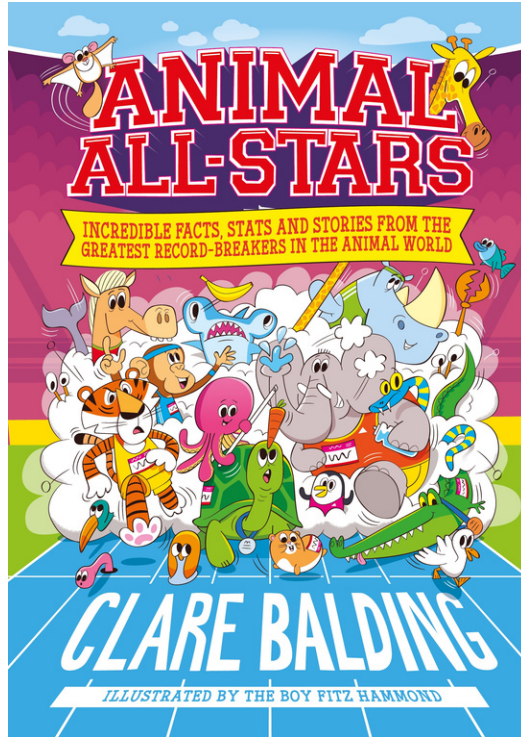


# ANIMAL ALL-STARS

CLARE BALDING



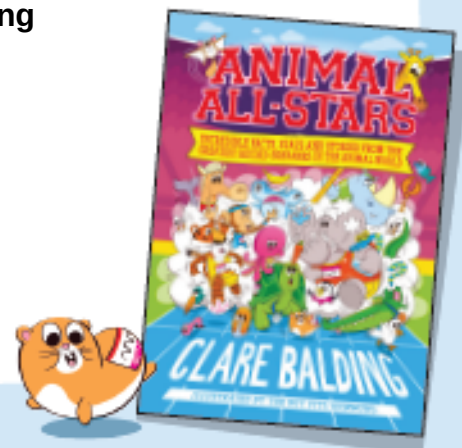
## Teaching Notes & Resources

Key Stage 2 and 3

Themes: Animals | Sports | Problem-Solving



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# Activity 1: Extract and Questions



Read extract 1 on the following page and then answer the questions below.

- How does the author make the writing sound like it's being announced on the radio or on TV?
- How does the author highlight certain phrases and words to emphasise their importance?
- How many alliterations can you find in the extract?
- Can you come up with your own alliterations for some of your favourite animals?
- Based on the extract, which is the fastest animal?
- Can you think of any other animals that would excel in a 100-metre race?
- What do you think makes the writing so funny?



## Extract 1

So here it is, the first event of this year's Animal All-Stars octathlon. All the contenders have taken their place on the starting blocks. The 100-metre track stretches out in front of them: **GLORY AWAITS!** No matter how speedy they are in their own habitats, anything can happen in this event. It's all about performance on the day.

**SO GET READY, ANIMALS:  
ON YOUR MARKS,  
GET SET,  
GO!**

Barry the tiger beetle has sprung from the blocks and leaps into an early lead – my goodness, he is *speedy*. Close behind is Cassidy the pronghorn, using her acceleration to amazing effect there. Oh, look at Amy the American quarter horse go – she **DID** manage to fit into a running suit, and those muscles are straining every piece of Lycra to the max.

Charlie the cheetah is edging into the lead at halfway; what a smooth, elegant stride he has—**HANG ON**, he's just stuck out a leg to try and trip up Nancy the greyhound! I told you, **NEVER trust a Cheating Cheetah!**

Saxon the sailfish is making great strides in his specially designed water lane, but as the animals dash towards the finish line, what's that already – a lap of honour? It's Percy the peregrine falcon, who has **ALREADY finished!** That surely must be an Animal All-Stars record – **what a performance from the winged wonder.**

It's **GOLD for Percy the peregrine falcon, SILVER for Saxon the sailfish**, who silently swam over the line in second, and a **HUGE upset for BRONZE as Amy the American quarter horse gallops over the line**, adjusting her running suit as she goes – a sight that neigh-one wants to see.



## Activity 2: Your Dream Pet

What would your dream pet be? Can you draw it in the space below?

Now imagine your pet was starring in the Animal All-Stars games, what event would they excel at? Write a short passage about describing the event and how well they do.



# Activity 3: Fact from Fiction

Can you separate the true animal facts from the funny falsehoods? Mark a T for true and an F for false, then check the answers along the bottom to see if you guessed correctly.

1. Rhinos sniff each other's poo to interact with each other
2. Birds migrate so they can sunbathe on the beach
3. Dinosaurs and birds are related
4. The sphinx moth holds the world record for the slowest moth
5. A great white shark has around 300 teeth
6. Pigs can be found on every continent in the world
7. Gorillas share 80% of their DNA with humans
8. There are about 70 species of fish that can fly
9. Greenland sharks can live to be between 250 and 500 years old
10. The oldest living giant tortoise is over 190 and his name is Jonathan

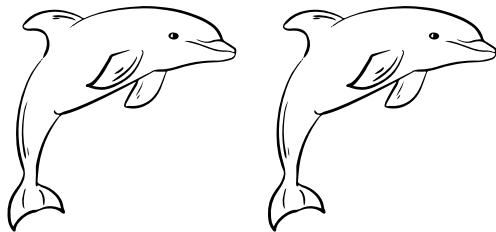
Answers:  
1. True. Their poo tells them if another rhino is looking for more territory, or is ready to mate.  
2. False. Birds migrate to take advantage of seasonal resources like food.  
3. True. Birds evolved from a group of meat-eating dinosaurs called theropods.  
4. False. The sphinx moth is the fastest moth out there.  
5. True. Like a conveyor-belt, new teeth replace lost and broken ones.  
6. False. Pigs aren't naturally found in Antarctica.  
7. False. Gorillas actually share 98% of their DNA with humans!  
8. False. There are roughly 40 species of fish that can fly.  
9. True. Whilst most live up to 250 years, it is believed some may live to 500.  
10. True. Jonathan is the oldest known living land animal.



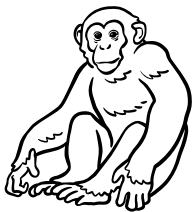
# Activity 4: Match the Animal to the Event



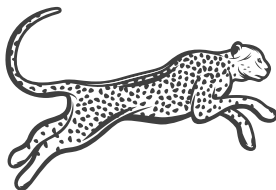
Can you match the animal to the event they would be best at?



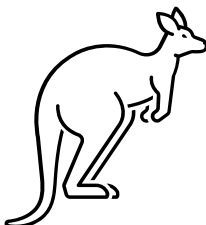
Climbing



Sprint



Synchronised swimming



Diving



High jump



# Activity 5:

## The Ultimate Animal All-Stars Trophy

Using your brightest colouring pencils and pens, design an Animal All-Stars trophy fit for a winner!



## Activity 6: Animal Playing Cards



Cut out the playing cards at the back of this pack and fill the blank cards with your own favourite animals.

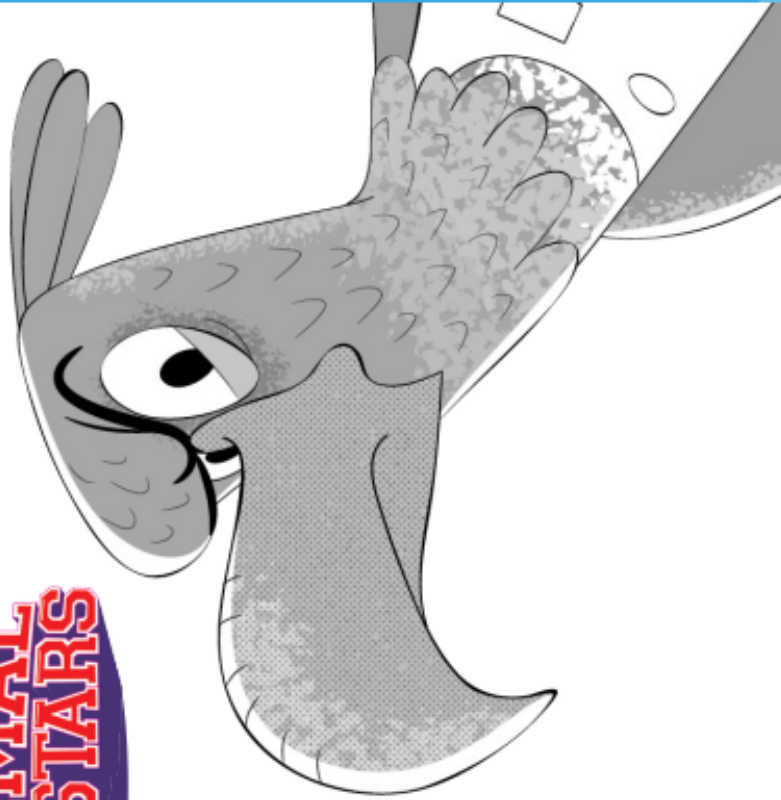
Once you've finished, find a partner and take it in turns to choose different sporting events and pit the animals against each other.

## Activity 7: Animal All-Stars Certificate

Fill in the certificate at the back of this pack with your dream pet's name and their winning event!







## ELIJAH

ANIMAL SPECIES: Harpy Eagle

COMES FROM: Tropical Forest of South America

SUPER SKILL: Incredible strength

IMPRESSIVE FACT: Terrifying talons that measure between 7 and 10cm in length

Illustrations © The Boy Fitz Hammond, 2024



## FERGAL

ANIMAL SPECIES: Great White Shark

COMES FROM: Coastal and offshore waters worldwide

SUPER SKILL: Super swimmer

IMPRESSIVE FACT: Can sniff out a drop of blood in the water from over a third of a mile away

Illustrations © The Boy Fitz Hammond, 2024



## RUBY

ANIMAL SPECIES:	Greater Wax Moth
COMES FROM:	Across the globe
SUPER SKILL:	Impressive listening
IMPRESSIVE FACT:	Can pick up sounds at frequencies as high as 300 kilohertz (humans can only manage about 20 kilohertz)



## MAUDE

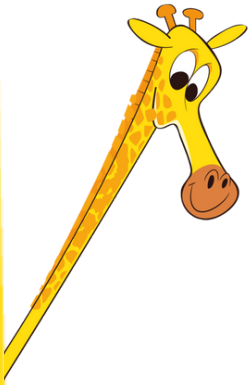
ANIMAL SPECIES:	Sloth
COMES FROM:	Central and South America
SUPER SKILL:	Speedy swimmer
IMPRESSIVE FACT:	She can hold her breath for 40 minutes



ANIMAL SPECIES:
COMES FROM:
SUPER SKILL:
IMPRESSIVE FACT:



ANIMAL SPECIES:
COMES FROM:
SUPER SKILL:
IMPRESSIVE FACT:



# ANIMAL ALL-STARS



## *Certificate of Achievement*

*This certificate is proudly awarded to*

---

*for winning the*

---

*in the Animal All-Stars Games!*

