



HUMANS & ANIMALS: THE THINGS WE HAVE IN COMMON

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Humans are playful creatures, and children especially love to play. It not only helps pass the time more quickly, it is extremely important for their development. Through play, we learn new skills, cultivate relationships with others and get to know the world around us. In the course of our lives, the games change and we develop in all kinds of ways. We are lucky that our childhood is unusually long compared to that of other creatures. It means we have a lot of time for playing different games!



CHILDREN LIKE PLAYING CHASE AND HIDE AND SEEK.

WE PLAY

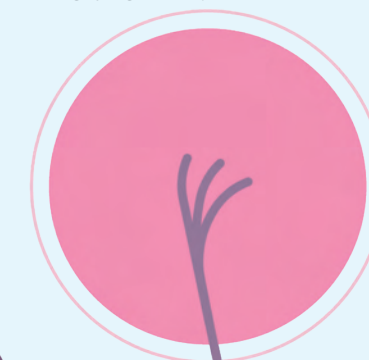


EVERY CHILD NEEDS TO PLAY, JUST LIKE THEY NEED FOOD AND SLEEP.

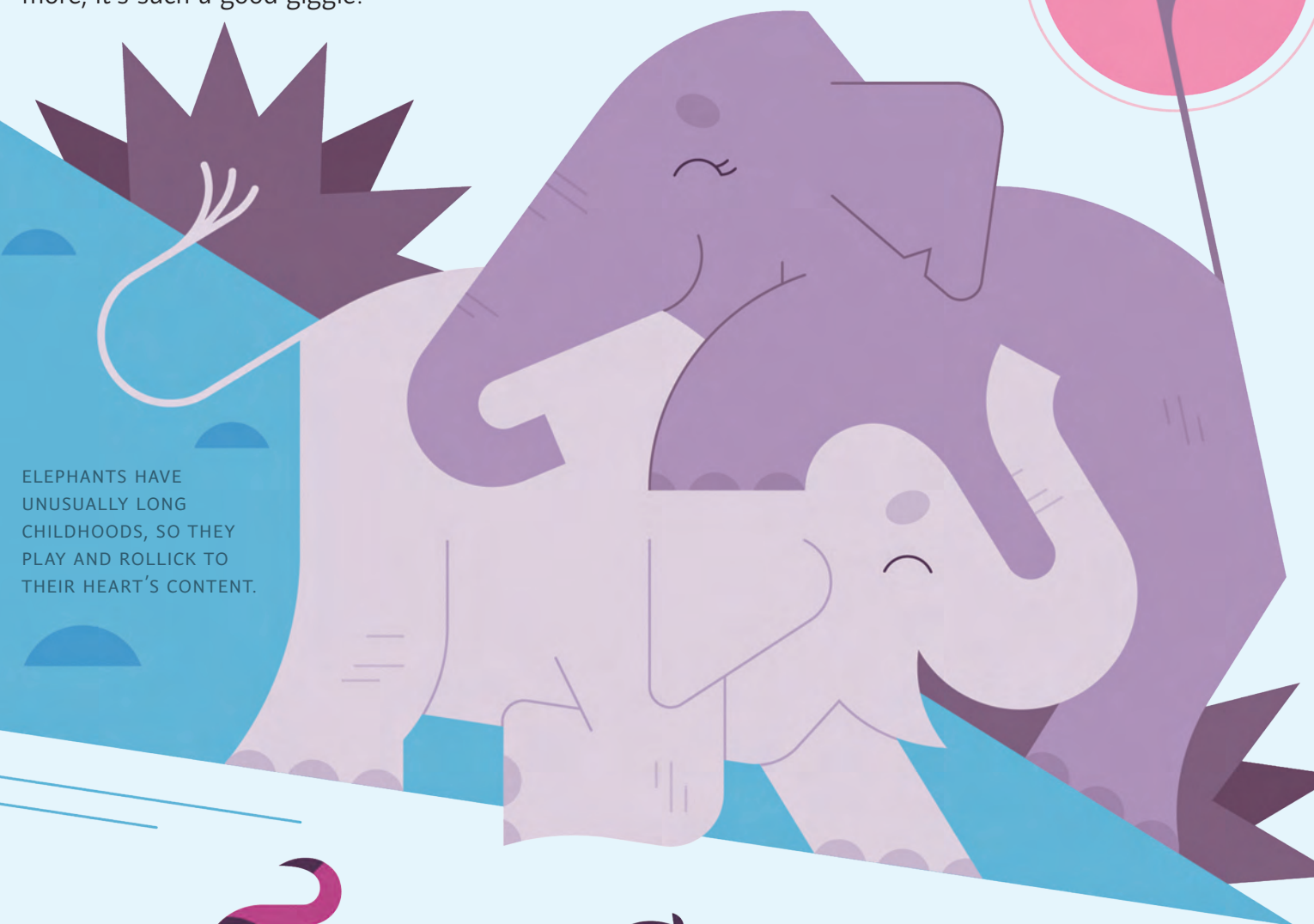


You are most likely to see young mammals engrossed in play, but birds and reptiles are no exception. Animals spend a lot of time playing and they play different kinds of games. Animals sometimes play alone, or with their parents and friends. The most common form of play is a 'fighting' or chasing. Young ones explore their surroundings and face unfamiliar situations while playing. It engages and strengthens their bodies and brains. What's more, it's such a good giggle!

ELEPHANTS CAN COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER. A SHAKE OF THE HEAD IS AN INVITATION TO PLAY!



ELEPHANTS HAVE UNUSUALLY LONG CHILDHOODS, SO THEY PLAY AND ROLLICK TO THEIR HEART'S CONTENT.



Parents play with their children from a very early age. It's not just for fun! When playing, children use all of their senses, which helps them to develop in all kinds of ways.



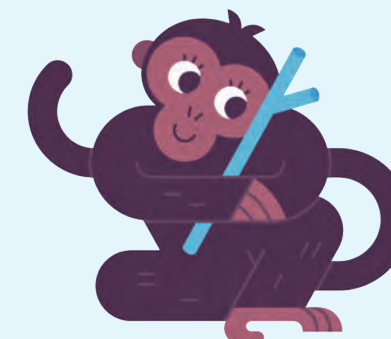
Older children use their imagination in their games, because they have more developed brains. A stick can be a sword for fighting a dragon and a soft toy is a great companion for a tea party.



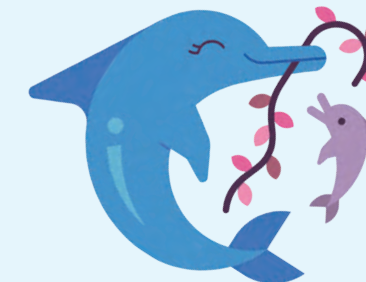
Even adults still like playing games. They are just a bit different from the ones they used to play. Adults like to play board games or card games with their family or friends!



Kittens are excellent at playing the hunter. Almost anything can draw their attention. They often catch their prey and then release it for fun. Perhaps they are practicing hunting for the future.



Some chimpanzee girls collect sticks or pebbles to use as dolls. They look after them, cuddle them, carry them around and put them to bed. They will certainly make excellent mums!



Adult dolphins like play a clever seaweed game. They pass it to each other in the pod like a ball. It's a fun game and it also helps strengthen relationships between the dolphins.



Every day, millions of adults leave their house and go out to work. Some of them work in buildings and others work out in the open air. If you look around you, you will see all kinds of different professions. All of them are useful and important, because thanks to them, we make a great community. It doesn't matter if you work as a teacher or a postman. The best is when people enjoy their work. What would you like to do when you grow up?



A HOT-DOG VENDOR

WE WORK

A POLICEMAN



A STREET CLEANER



Wild animals may not work in the same sense that humans do, but it certainly doesn't mean they don't work at all. So, what do they do? They usually look for food for themselves and their families and try to protect themselves from danger. Many animals also have important roles that contribute to the proper functioning of their environment. In the water and on land, you will find inspectors, cleaners, security guards and gardeners everywhere. If their home happened to be damaged or destroyed, all that work would have been for nothing.



ANIMALS THAT LIVE IN GROUPS, SUCH AS MEERKATS, ALL HAVE THEIR SPECIFIC ROLES.

A SECURITY GUARD



A NANNY



A SUPPLIER



We go to work to earn money and provide our families with food, shelter and security. We spend a lot of time at work, and that's why we cherish the time we spend with our families.



Many people work helping others. Some people have exceedingly responsible jobs, such as doctors. Before they can start work, they have to become experts in their field.



In the creative professions, people can make their ideas and visions take shape. Architects can transfer their designs from paper right onto the street and their buildings can rise up in many cities.



Bird moms have very important jobs: day after day, they provide food and protection for their chicks. They have to do their job really well, otherwise their young wouldn't survive.



Going inside a moray eel's mouth takes a lot of courage. Cleaner wrasse fish operate stations where they give their customers a healthy cleaning. In return, their customers don't eat them!



Beaver dams are not just opulent homes. They contribute to the health of the neighborhood. The dams prevent flooding and drought, and ensure the well-being of other living creatures.



Even in prehistoric times, humans knew that there was strength in unity. When they cooperated with others, they accomplished much more, and more easily, than if only one person had tried. They were able to overpower large wild beasts, share food among themselves, and build communities. It's no wonder that the idea of cooperation has survived to this day. Working together simply benefits us all – we save ourselves time, share the workload, and achieve much more.

DOGS NOT ONLY PROTECT US, THEY HELP US AS WELL. THEY AID THE POLICE, RESCUERS, AND ALSO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.



WE COLLABORATE

THE DOG BECAME MAN'S BEST FRIEND MANY THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO.



When people work as a team, they are very effective, whether it's building a house or working in a factory. Every member of the team plays a part in carrying out a task successfully.



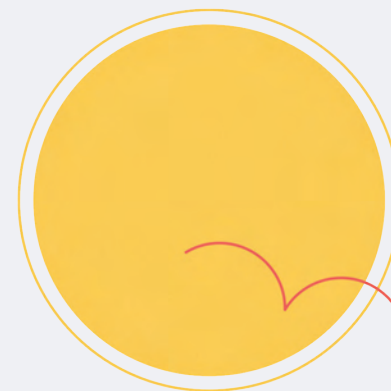
When there has been an accident, particularly, people can come together, put their differences aside, and focus on one goal: working together to help a person (or animal) in difficulty.



Many sports are team sports, such as football, hockey or relay races. The individual members always try to help their team win. If they hadn't made an effort, the team wouldn't go very far.



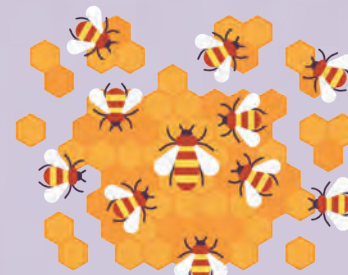
Some animals only look after themselves and no one else benefits. However, many animals have discovered that if they work with others, they can live a little better. They don't just stick to their own species, they are willing to team up with other kinds of animals. The best kind of teamwork is the kind that all the participants benefit from. In the wild, many animals and plants are so closely connected that they could not survive without each other.



ON THE AFRICAN SAVANNAH YOU WILL FIND OXPECKER BIRDS THAT ARE FRIENDS WITH MANY ANIMALS.



OXPECKERS HELP ZEBRAS CLEAN THEIR HAIR AND GET RID OF TICKS. IN RETURN FOR THEIR SERVICES, DINNER IS ON THE HOUSE!



Bees are a shining example of teamwork. To keep the nest healthy, each of the over ten thousand individual bees plays its own predetermined role in the community.



Animals also help each other selflessly. For example, when a member of an elephant herd is injured or a baby elephant falls, the herd will gather round and help the unfortunate one out.



When it comes to food, animals that live together function as one unit. During a hunt, every member of the wolf pack knows its job, so they all can fill their bellies.



Humans have always built homes where they can live together in safety with their families. Whether its a cave, a hut, an apartment or a grand villa, home is a place that we can return to and spend time together with our loved ones. Some people live in city apartments, while others prefer to live in houses in quiet villages. Even today, there are indigenous tribes in the world that have very modest living arrangements. For some people it is normal to wander, not always staying in one place. These people have portable homes which are easy to put up wherever needed.

WE HAVE HOMES

IN CITIES, THERE ARE TOWER BLOCKS AND SKYSCRAPERS WHERE LOTS OF FAMILIES LIVE.



Not many animals live with their families in open, insecure places. Most have homes where they are protected from exposure to the weather and their enemies, and where they are able raise their young in peace and safety. Many animals use natural structures such as caves, crevices and tree hollows. Many crafty creatures inhabit abandoned burrows or nests that were built by others. We cannot overlook the ingenious builders who can build homes of such magnificence that humans can only look on with envy. And for those that are always on the move, home is where their family is.



THE MOUND IS INTERWOVEN WITH CORRIDORS AND CHAMBERS, WHICH EVEN HAVE VENTILATION.

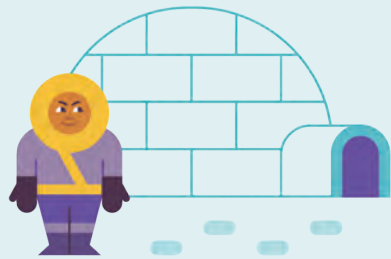


A TERMITE MOUND IS, IN FACT, A HUGE CITY THAT CAN RISE TO A HEIGHT OF OVER 8 METRES.

IT IS INHABITED BY MILLIONS OF TERMITES.



Although humans are clever builders, they often inhabited places they just adapted for their needs. In Tunisia, for example, some people live in cave dwellings to this day.



Indigenous peoples live in harmony with nature, so their houses are simple and practical, built from the materials they find around them. The Inuit, for example, build their homes from blocks of snow.



People who wander from place to place are called nomads. Desert nomads carry their homes with them on camel caravans. Their homes are tents, which are easy to put up and fold up again later.



When animals lack building skills, they do not despair. This raccoon family made a home in an empty tree hollow. If it hadn't been available, they would have easily found another natural place to live.



The tiny harvest mouse weaves its house from little blades of grass and suspends it above the ground between the stalks of tall grasses. In this remarkable little home, it rears up to eight young.



Some animals have more than one home, mostly those that travel. Many birds fly off to warmer climes for the winter months, after which they return to their normal residence.



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COMPARE
THINGS
WE HAVE IN
COMMON!

They are able to construct majestic buildings that provide shelter for many families, they can communicate with their companions and do all kinds of different jobs. Do you know who we're talking about? If you thought it was humans, you are mistaken. No, we were thinking about termites! Humans have much more in common with other creatures than it might seem at first glance. And that's exactly what this book is about. Enter a world where we shine a light on the similarities between ourselves and other living beings. Like us, many animals learn and can use tools. They experience emotions, have friends and show their love for one another. Open your mind and learn to treat the living creatures around you with the respect and reverence they deserve. We can learn a lot from them in many ways!