

# Who am I?

GUESSING GAME | GRADES K-4



## PREPARATION:

Print out these pages, including the Do Not Flush symbol and Mystery Animal sections 1–5. Cut the question strips along the dividing lines, fold them in half, and organize them into 5 separate envelopes.

## MATERIALS:

- Computer printer
- Scissors
- Hat, fishbowl or paper bag (for game)
- 5 envelopes or zippered bags (for 5 sets of questions)

## OVERVIEW:

What do the animals in this guessing game have in common? They're all harmed by water pollution from sewers and other sources. Some are endangered and all are at risk.

## INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go through the Talking Points below with your group.
2. Put the first set of folded questions into a hat. Kids can take turns picking them out at random and then hand to you to read.
3. Read each question aloud and ask kids to raise their hands to guess the Mystery Animal.
4. Once the correct answer is guessed, move on to the next animal group.
5. Play the game again another day or right away. How many clues does it take this time?



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### TALKING POINTS:

- This guessing game features five different animals that all have something in common: They are all harmed by water pollution. They may live in different habitats—like oceans, rivers, lakes, ponds or wetlands—but they all need clean water to survive.
- Where does this pollution come from? Sewers, storm drains, plastic litter and other sources. How can you help? Here’s a clue. *[Hold up the Do Not Flush symbol.]* Think before you flush!
- Every day people flush things down the toilet that can pollute the water. Trash (like plastic wrappers, cotton swabs and dental floss) and disposable wipes (like baby wipes and cleaning wipes) can clog toilets and sewer pipes. Plastics in these products can end up in our waterways.
- Never throw trash in the toilet and always look on disposable wipes packaging for the “Do Not Flush” symbol. If you see that symbol, always throw the item away in the trash, not the toilet.
- Do your part to stop water pollution and protect important habitats. These animals will thank you!



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## Mystery Animal #1: Who am I?

<p>I live both on land and in water. (I am an amphibian.)</p>	<p>I live in fresh water — in ponds, streams, wetlands and swamps. My habitats are harmed by water pollution from sewers and other sources.</p>
<p>I eat insects, spiders and worms. I can catch my prey with my tongue!</p>	<p>I need water to live but I don't drink it with my mouth. My skin absorbs water, just like a sponge.</p>
<p>I can hibernate.</p>	<p>The noise I make is called a croak.</p>
<p>My eggs hatch into tadpoles.</p>	<p>I can be found in every continent except Antarctica.</p>
<p>I have powerful muscles in my back legs. I can hop long distances.</p>	<p>I have 360° vision. That means I can see everything around me in a complete circle!</p>

THE ANSWER #1

## I'm a frog!



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# Mystery Animal #2: Who am I?

<p><b>I am a reptile and breathe air.</b></p>	<p><b>I have a beak, not teeth.</b></p>
<p><b>I live in freshwater ponds, lakes or rivers.</b></p>	<p><b>I can live a long time — sometimes to 100 years old, depending on my species.</b></p>
<p><b>My animal group has lived on earth for over 200 million years — since the days of the dinosaurs!</b></p>	<p><b>I have claws on my toes.</b></p>
<p><b>Sometimes I climb out of the pond to rest on a log or rock in the warm sun.</b></p>	<p><b>I move very slowly.</b></p>
<p><b>The shell on my back protects me from predators. I can hide my head inside my body to protect myself, too.</b></p>	<p><b>I am sometimes sold as a pet or harvested for food in other countries. My habitats are harmed by building developments as well as water pollution from sewers.</b></p>

THE ANSWER # 2

# I'm a (freshwater) turtle!



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## Mystery Animal #3: Who am I?

<p>I migrate thousands of miles each year, though oceans and seas.</p>	<p>I can grow to be more than 7 feet long — as big as a sea lion.</p>
<p>I am a reptile and breathe air. But I can also stay under water for hours at a time.</p>	<p>My animal group has been on earth for over 200 million years — we’ve outlived the dinosaurs!</p>
<p>I am an omnivore. I eat plants like sea grass and animals like jellyfish.</p>	<p>I sometimes eat plastic bags, thinking they are jellyfish. Half of the animals in my group have plastic in their stomachs.</p>
<p>My babies, called “hatchlings,” live in sandy nests on beaches.</p>	<p>I have flippers instead of front feet.</p>
<p>All 7 species in my animal group are endangered or threatened.</p>	<p>I often get caught in fishing lines and nets. Litter washed up on beaches can harm my nesting sites. Water pollution from sewers and other sources threatens my health.</p>

ANSWER #3

## I’m a sea turtle!



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## Mystery Animal #4: Who am I?

<p>I eat sea urchins, crabs and other shellfish with my sharp teeth and claws.</p>	<p>I sleep and swim on my back.</p>
<p>I can dive down deep into the ocean and stay underwater for 4 minutes at a time.</p>	<p>I have thick, shiny fur and webbed feet.</p>
<p>I use my long whiskers to detect prey in the water.</p>	<p>I am a mammal.</p>
<p>My babies are called pups. They are born in the water, not on land.</p>	<p>I am usually found near seaweed or kelp beds. I live in waters close to California, Alaska and Japan.</p>
<p>I am an endangered animal. For many years I was hunted for my fur. Now I am threatened by water pollution.</p>	<p>Air is trapped inside my fur to keep me warm. Unlike many other sea animals, I do not have blubber to keep me warm. I have the thickest fur of any mammal in the world!</p>

ANSWER # 4

## I'm a sea otter!



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## Mystery Animal #5: Who am I?

I live near rivers, streams, marshes and lakes.	I am a strong swimmer but can also walk on land.
I use my 4 webbed feet to paddle and my strong tail to steer through the water.	I swim with my belly down, with most of my body below the water.
I love to play and slide down hills on my belly. I also like to play chase and wrestle with my friends.	When I sleep, I sometimes hold hands with my friends so we don't drift apart.
When I dive, I close my ears and nostrils to keep the water out.	I have a long, slim body. I am half the size of a sea otter.
I build dens on dry land near the water. Sometimes I stay in burrows dug by beavers or woodchucks under trees and rocks.	I am not endangered, but I am still at risk. Water pollution and habitat destruction are the biggest threats I face.

ANSWER #5

## I'm a river otter!



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## EXTENSIONS

### BONUS QUESTIONS:

- A. I am the largest frog in the United States. I have a huge appetite and eat fish, turtles, bats, rodents, insects, and even other frogs! I live in swamps, ponds and lakes. I make a deep, loud call — some people say it sounds like a cow mooing. Who am I?  
**Answer: I'm an American bullfrog!**
- B. I belong to a group of frogs in Central and South America. I have brightly colored skin and can be red, yellow, orange or blue. My bright colors are like a danger signal to predators. If they eat me, they might die! Who am I?  
**Answer: I'm a poison dart frog!**
- C. I have much shorter legs than a frog. I crawl rather than hop. I have dry, warty skin. Although I'm part of the frog family, people call me another name. Who am I?  
**Answer: I'm a toad!**
- D. I live in marshes, lakes, ponds, rivers and streams throughout the United States. I eat insects, fish, frogs, and birds with my powerful jaws. I even eat other turtles! My shell is plain black, brown, or olive green, without a pattern. Who am I?  
**Answer: I'm a snapping turtle!**
- E. I am a type of snapping turtle that lives in the Southeast, from Florida to Texas. I am the largest freshwater turtle in North America and can weigh up to 200 pounds! Who am I?  
**Answer: I'm an alligator snapping turtle!**
- F. I am easy to spot: I have yellow, green and red stripes all over. I am small, measuring between 2–10 inches long. You'll find me in still water like ponds or marshes and in small lakes and slow-moving streams. Who am I?  
**Answer: I'm a painted turtle!**
- G. I am the largest type of sea turtle and can weigh more than 1,000 pounds. That's as heavy as a polar bear. I can swim in cold waters, from Chile to Alaska. My shell is soft and "leathery," not hard and bony. This makes my body better designed for swimming long distances. Who am I?  
**Answer: I'm a leatherback sea turtle!**
- H. I am the largest hard-shelled turtle in the world. I am known for my large head and strong jaws. I'm found in warmer waters in the Atlantic, Indian and Pacific oceans. You'll find me near coastlines and the mouths of rivers, but I can also swim far out to sea. Who am I?  
**Answer: I'm loggerhead sea turtle!**



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