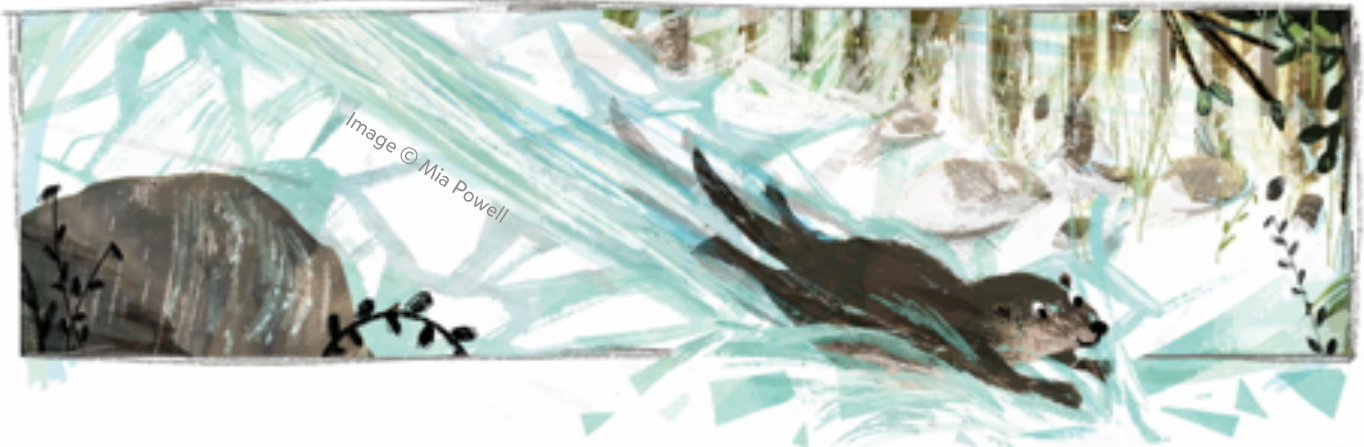


PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL!

CREATE YOUR OWN GAME TO SPLASH, RACE, TWIRL, AND CHASE LIKE A CRITTER!



Are your kids fidgeting or needing to get away from their screens? Invite them to “play like an animal.” We have taken the animals, action words, and STEM facts from the picture book *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL: WHY CRITTERS SPLASH, TWIRL, AND CHASE* by Maria Gianferrari and illustrated by Mia Powell (Millbrook Press) to create game cards for creative play.

Why play? To say healthy, doctors say, “Play every day!” Why? Because it’s fun! And scientists says free play stimulates brain growth. That’s just a fancy way of saying playing makes you smarter and more ready to face the world. Make time for play every day! –Maria Gianferrari

ASSEMBLE THE CARDS

Cut on the dotted line and fold on the solid line. Spread glue on the folded interior to seal the card.

MAKE YOUR OWN RULES

Animals that live in groups, like elephants, dolphins, wolves, gorillas, and others, play to discover the rules of living together. In honor of their time-tested traditions, we are not offering up any rules to this game. Build the rules together!

CREATE PLAY ENVIRONMENTS

Invite kids to build their own play environments. Use the cards to create obstacle courses with a card at each location. How about a pile of blankets for the peccaries or the rhinos to wallow in? Is there a branch or bar, that your pretend monkey can dangle from? Break out the scooter or skateboard for sledding ravens. Pull out the gymnastic moves for the dolphins, otters, and rats. Find a rope for the wolves to play tug of war with and then turn it into a jumprope for the capering ungulates. Play tag with the gorillas and capture the flag with the keas. Play with your animal imaginations fully engaged! Share your ideas with the author on Instagram (@pennyandjelly) with #PlayLikeAnAnimal.

PLAY WITH STEM

Add an animal fact into your play or play into your STEM study. Have your kids research the play habitats of their favorite animals or encourage them to find video evidence of animals featured in this game playing. We have included a card blank for your to expand the game!

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EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

Collared peccaries, also known as javelinas, play in the mud. Their play creates an ecosystem for other creatures. The wallows they dig hold water for other animals to drink and bathe in. The holes also attract insects and frogs who make their homes there.

MORE ABOUT PECARIES

EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

When rhinos play or wallow in mud, they are also protecting their skin. A layer of mud acts as protection from the sun's harmful UV rays. The mud also creates a barrier against biting insects and parasites. Additionally, rolling in the mud can cool a rhino down on a hot day.

MORE ABOUT RHINOS



PLONK, DIG, SLIDE!



RUB, PLOP, BLOW!

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EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

Many monkeys are arboreal, meaning they dwell in tree-tops. Playing in trees helps monkeys practice fleeing from predators and builds strong muscles.

MORE ABOUT MONKEYS

EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

Common ravens are among the world's most intelligent tool-using birds. Exploring new objects and making new movements helps ravens sharpen their problem-solving skills.

MORE ABOUT RAVENS



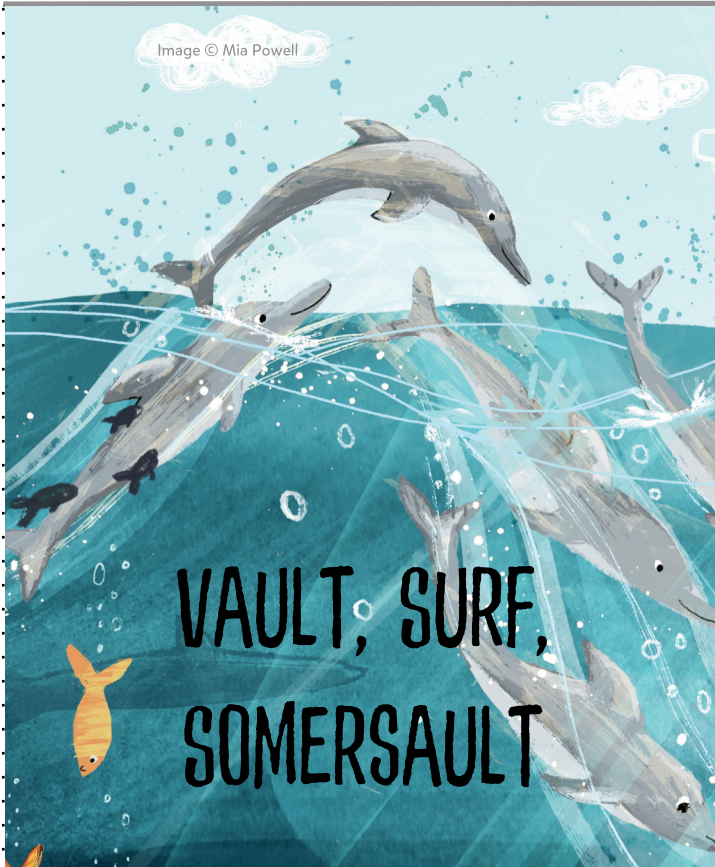
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EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

Dolphins are intelligent creatures who live together in groups. Playing together is good for cooperation. When you hear the word dolphin, you probably picture a bottlenose dolphin frolicking in the ocean. But there are 42 species of dolphins world-wide!

MORE ABOUT DOLPHINS



EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

Otters are curious creatures. Making new movements helps sharpen their problem-solving skills. River otters' powerful tails help propel them in the water. They also have special eyelids so they don't need goggles for seeing underwater!

MORE ABOUT OTTERS



Image © Mia Powell



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EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

Elephants live in herds and have special rituals to celebrate events like seeing old friends or announcing the birth of a baby: they flap their ears, twist their trunks together, trumpet and roar with delight. Playing together improves their cooperation skills.

MORE ABOUT ELEPHANTS

EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

Rat pups roll, chase, mount, pounce, and box. Wrestling teaches rats to play by the rules. Scientists have demonstrated that rats laugh when they're tickled. Their laugh is a high-pitched chirping sound that can't be heard with human ears.

MORE ABOUT RATS



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MORE ABOUT WOLVES

When wolves and other canines want to play, they ask their friends first. Canines use their bodies, crouching on their front legs with their rumps in the air, and a wagging tail. This is called the play bow. When wolf pups play tug of war, they're learning how to practice fair play.

EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

MORE ABOUT UNGULATES

An ungulate is a mammal with hooves. When they leap, they "cap", a jump with a joyful, twisting-turning motion. When goats, horses, giraffes, and antelopes leap, they're improving their coordination which can help them escape from predators.

EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).



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EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

When gorillas want to play tag, they first ask their friends by making a play face. Try it! Open your mouth, but cover your top teeth with your lip. Only your bottom teeth should be showing. Gorillas improve their communication skills, better deal with conflicts, and figure out what kind of behavior is acceptable by playing tag.

MORE ABOUT GORILLAS



EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK *PLAY LIKE AN ANIMAL* BY MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

Keas, a type of parrot from New Zealand, are smart and full of mischief. They play tag in the air and catch with rocks and sticks. Keas steal objects from yards and make their own toys, like sleds from doormats. They even laugh: they have a special play call that makes nearby keas join in the fun.

MORE ABOUT KEAS



PLAY LIKE AN ANiMAL!

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TWIRL, AND CHASE LIKE A CRITTER!

EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK **PLAY LIKE AN ANiMAL** BY
MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

EXPLORE MORE IN THE PICTURE BOOK **PLAY LIKE AN ANiMAL** BY
MARIA GIANFERRARI & ILLUSTRATED BY MIA POWELL (MILLBROOK PRESS).

MORE ABOUT

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