

Anuta and Neku's summer started with a surprise that Arseni had prepared for them. Pavel, his friend, had been invited to spend a week helping the local inspector at the Bakhta River sanctuary. Pavel offered the children to join him.

Before the departure, Neku got worried.

"Arseni, let's stay here until you have your vacation, and then we'll all go to the Bakhta, set up our tents, go swimming... We can do it without Pavel, can't we?"

"No, my dear friend, it is prohibited to camp or go swimming there."

"Why?"



"The Bakhta is home to the Siberian taimen; this fish is listed in the Red Book as a threatened species. The Bakhta River sanctuary was created to preserve it. This river serves as a nursery for the growing fry. How can we protect those little ones if everyone starts swimming or building fires there? But it's a fantastic place with amazing nature. So pack your things, and go with Pavel, you'll never get bored with him. He is a very interesting person: a master of sports in swimming, a mountaineer, and a biologist..."

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"Yes, Arseni was right, this place is like a fairy tale!" Neku squeezed his eyes shut and let the cool breeze blow through his face. Anuta was sitting on the riverbank and listening to the waves rolling pebbles over the bottom of the Bakhta. Up ahead, the river made a curve, the woods were getting denser, and it seemed that after that curve, a magical world was opening: tempting Siberian landscapes, mountain ranges lost in the mist, and unspoiled nature, which was becoming more and more scarce.

"elp... eee...!" the children heard a distant cry.

"Anuta, did you hear that?"

The girl leaped to her feet and followed Neku, who was already walking towards the sound.

"elp... eee...!" the cry went on.

"There's a child there!" exclaimed Anuta.

The children ran, and soon, around the curve, they saw a boy of about six years old.

"Why were you crying "help me"?" asked Neku.

The boy frowned.

"I'm not a coward! I wasn't crying "help me," but... Look!" and then he cried again, pointing to the river. "A dinosaur!"

Neku squinted his eyes. A gray shiny back with a fin glistened above the water not far from the bank. Neku started to laugh.

"Oh, no it's not a dinosaur! It's taimen, the largest species in the salmon family. The inspector told us about it."

"Just a fish?" the boy sighed disappointedly.

Anuta came closer to the boys.

"What's your name and what are you doing here alone?" she asked.

"I am Danya. I am looking for ancient animals here. Look!" and the boy reached for his backpack and took out a book titled "Ancient animals on

the planet Earth. Children's encyclopedia". "Some of them must be living here!"

"I am Anuta, and he is Neku," the girl introduced the two of them. "And the taimen is not "just a fish". It's listed in the Red Book. The Red Book records all plant and living species that may soon become extinct."

"Like dinosaurs? Because of the meteorite! I know!"

"No, not like dinosaurs. It isn't always a meteorite. Let's take a look together!"

Anuta sat down next to Danya and opened the encyclopedia at the letter "D".

"Here, the dodo bird."

"It's so funny! I'd really like to see it, at least a glimpse of it!" Danya got delighted.

"We won't be able to see it, unfortunately. People had hunted the dodo so much that they wiped them all out. There are no dodo birds left on Earth."

"But don't worry, to make sure that no one else disappears forever, like the dodo, people create nature reserves and sanctuaries. Those are places where animals, fish, birds, or plants are protected," Neku quickly added. "Taimen will not disappear! It is prohibited to catch it here, so it can live and not be afraid of fishermen."

Danya got sad for some reason, lowered his eyes and started to say goodbye to the children.

"Thanks, I get it now. I have to go. My father's waiting for me."

"We won't let you go alone!" protested Anuta. "Show us the way!"

Danya sighed again and took the children up the river. The farther they went, the louder the river was getting: the current was quite strong there.

A boat showed up near the bank, and a man was fishing nearby.

"Danya! You've made friends here, too!" he smiled and walked up to the children.

"Dad, they say the taimen..."

"You cannot fish for taimen. Both fishing and camping are prohibited here," Neku said. "Oh, hello," he added, embarrassed. "Anuta and I are helping the sanctuary inspector, so I know it all."

"Hello, young people," replied the man. "What makes you think that I am fishing for taimen...? I might be interested in carps. And we are staying at a tourist camp just outside





the sanctuary. Anyway, thanks for the heads up, we should get going."

"Dad, but we are..."

Danya's father put him into the boat before he could finish, jumped in and, waved to the children and started to push off from the bank.

"I don't believe in this fishing for carps..." Anuta said thoughtfully. "And the current here is dangerous... We should tell Pavel!"

"I don't believe it either. Here, look what has fallen out of the boat!" Neku handed the girl a leaflet that read: "Tourist camp near the Bakhta Sanctuary. Fish for taimen with us!". "Let's go to Pavel quickly, I know a shortcut through the forest."

The children ran to the inspector's lodge and started to tell him about what they had seen.

"Those poachers from the tourist camp again!" the inspector frowned. "Well, no problem, we'll deal with it now."

The three of them rushed to the spot where Danya's father had been fishing.

The edge of the Bakhta was just beginning to show behind the trees when they heard cries through the noise of the water.

"Well, what's that, dinosaurs again?" Neku started to laugh, but then immediately stopped, frightened.

In the middle of the river, the current was spinning Danya and his father's boat.

"Stay here!" Pavel said, took of his shoes and, he jumped into the water.

Anuta put her hands over Neku's eyes and shut hers tightly, glancing occasionally at the river. She was so afraid for the boy and his dad who had got into the raging current of the Bakhta!

Every now and then, the inspector's head disappeared in the foaming waves... Soon he reached the boat and shouted something to Danya's father. Danya's father started rowing as hard as he could, while the inspector grabbed the rope attached to the stern and pulled the boat across the current towards the bank. Suddenly the inspector disappeared under the water... but then he emerged again. Finally, exhausted, all the three of them got to the bank.

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Danya's father hugged his son tightly and spoke first.

"I'm so sorry. Thank you! They said it's a solid boat. That it could

handle handle both the current and the taimen…"

The inspector was silent and only breathed heavily. At last, he said, "There are people who don't care about anything but themselves. They don't care about the forest, fish, birds, animals… and they don't care about other people. You just met such people, and I hope you learned something. Now let's get dry, change our clothes, and you can show me who sent you to fish."

Everyone got up and walked to the inspector's lodge: the men went first, the children followed.

Anuta heard Danya sniffle. She stopped and took his hands in hers.

"Are you scared? It's over, everything's okay now!"

"I'm not afraid" discreetly, Danya tried to wipe away the tears. "It's just, that… I'll never see anyone from my book, they're all gone."

"Hold on! Is there anything about a giant deer in your book?"

"Yes, sure!"

"Pavel promised to introduce us to his great-great-great-great-great-grandson tomorrow."

***

Danya and his father spent the night in the inspector's lodge. The next day early in the morning the men left for the tourist camp. In the afternoon, Pavel took them all to a small meadow by the river and asked them to keep quiet. The children were discussing the previous day's events in a whisper when a huge deer came to the water, treading cautiously, pushing the branches of the trees with its mighty antlers.

Danya was fascinated by the forest giant and thought that he would become a biologist or a zoologist or a nature reserve inspector when he grows up. The most important thing is to protect nature, and ensure that no more fish, birds or animals disappear for good.



REINDEER

The reindeer is an artiodactyl mammal that belongs to the deer family. It has an elongated body and neck, but relatively short legs.

The medium-sized reindeer inhabits the tundra and taiga of Eurasia and North America, and a number of islands in the Arctic Ocean.



HOW DO THEY DIFFER FROM OTHER DEER?

- ✓ *Both males and females have horns.*
- ✓ *They feed mainly on lichen.*
- ✓ *They live in large herds.*

In the distant past, the reindeer allowed people to explore the North. Nowadays, they remain the most important biological resource for more than twenty peoples across Eurasia and North America.

FUN FACTS:

- ✓ *Reindeer hairs are hollow inside. Thanks to this, they are very good at retaining heat. In addition to the fur, the thick layer of fat under their skin also saves them from the cold.*
- ✓ *A newborn fawn weighs no more than 6 kg, but just a few minutes after its birth it can stand on its feet, and a few days later it can walk several kilometers a day.*
- ✓ *The fat content of female reindeer milk is approximately 22%. Cow's milk contains roughly five times less fat.*
- ✓ *On our planet, reindeer are the only mammals that have UV vision. Besides, their eyes change color depending on the season.*
- ✓ *Reindeer's antlers are shed and regrown every year. Males shed their antlers in early winter, and females in spring. Besides, unlike other deer, not only the reindeer's nose is completely covered in fur, but their ears, too.*



WHAT ARE TAILS FOR?



SAFETY

While climbing trees, animals grip branches with their tails.



COMMUNICATION

Animals show their happiness or willingness to play by wagging their tails.



WARMTH

Animals cover themselves with their tails while sleeping.



HUNTING

Some animals use their tails to attack and get food.


ACCELERATION
Tails help to run faster.
BALANCE
Tails help to maintain balance and stay on course when flying.
MOVEMENT
Tails help to make a turn.
BEAUTY
Tails draw attention to the animal's beauty.
BATTLE
Animals use their tails for both defense and offense.
SUPPORT
Some animals use their tails as an extra leg for support.

WHOSE TAIL IS THAT?

Link a tail to its owner..



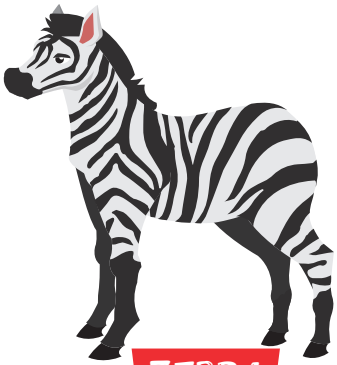
SNOW LEOPARD



TIGER



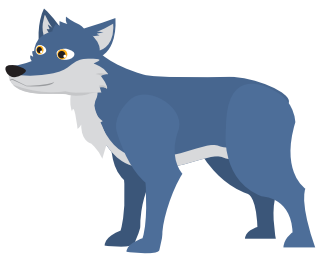
RACCOON



ZEBRA



LEMUR

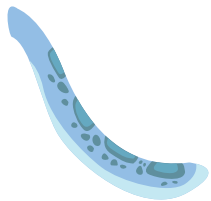


WOLF



ARMADILLO









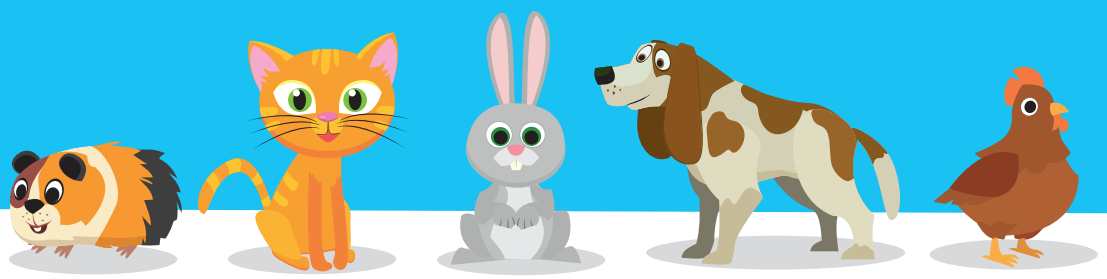




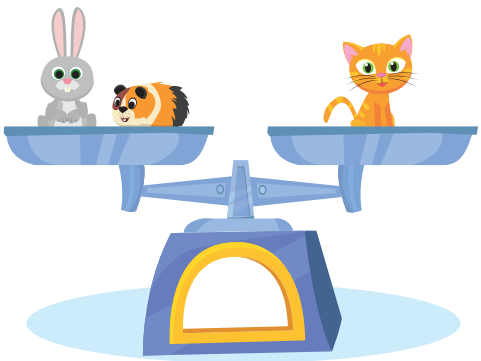


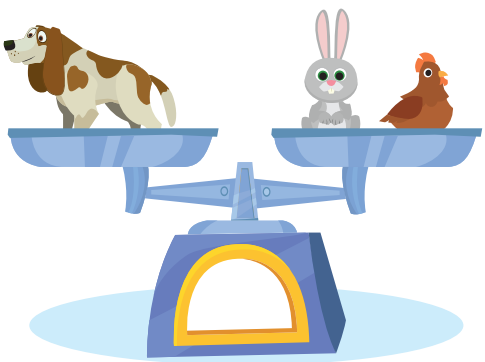
SCALE

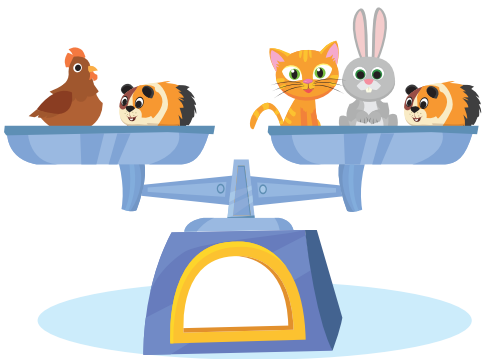
Determine the weight of the bowls. Draw an arrow in each box toward the bowl that weighs more. If the weights are the same, put an equal sign.

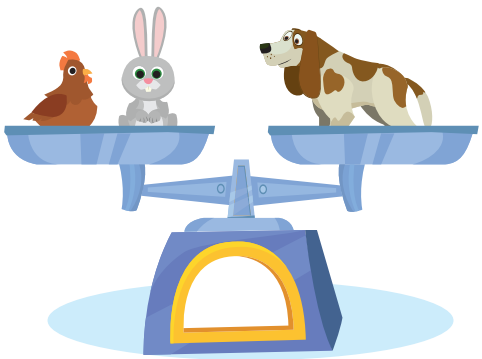


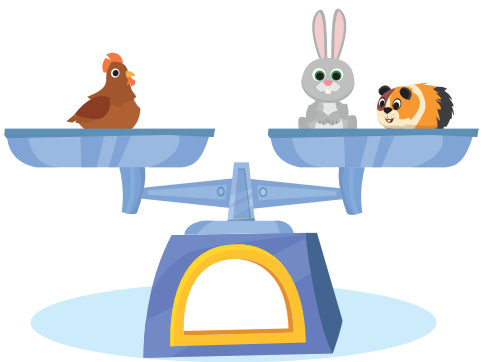
1 KG 5 KG 3 KG 8 KG 4 KG

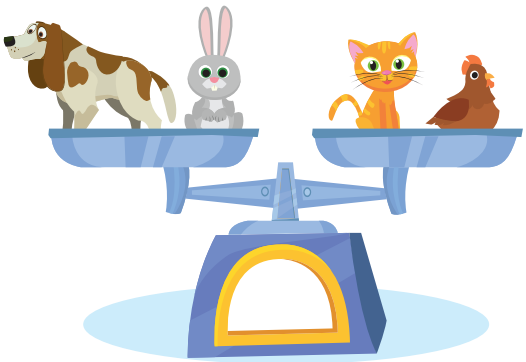








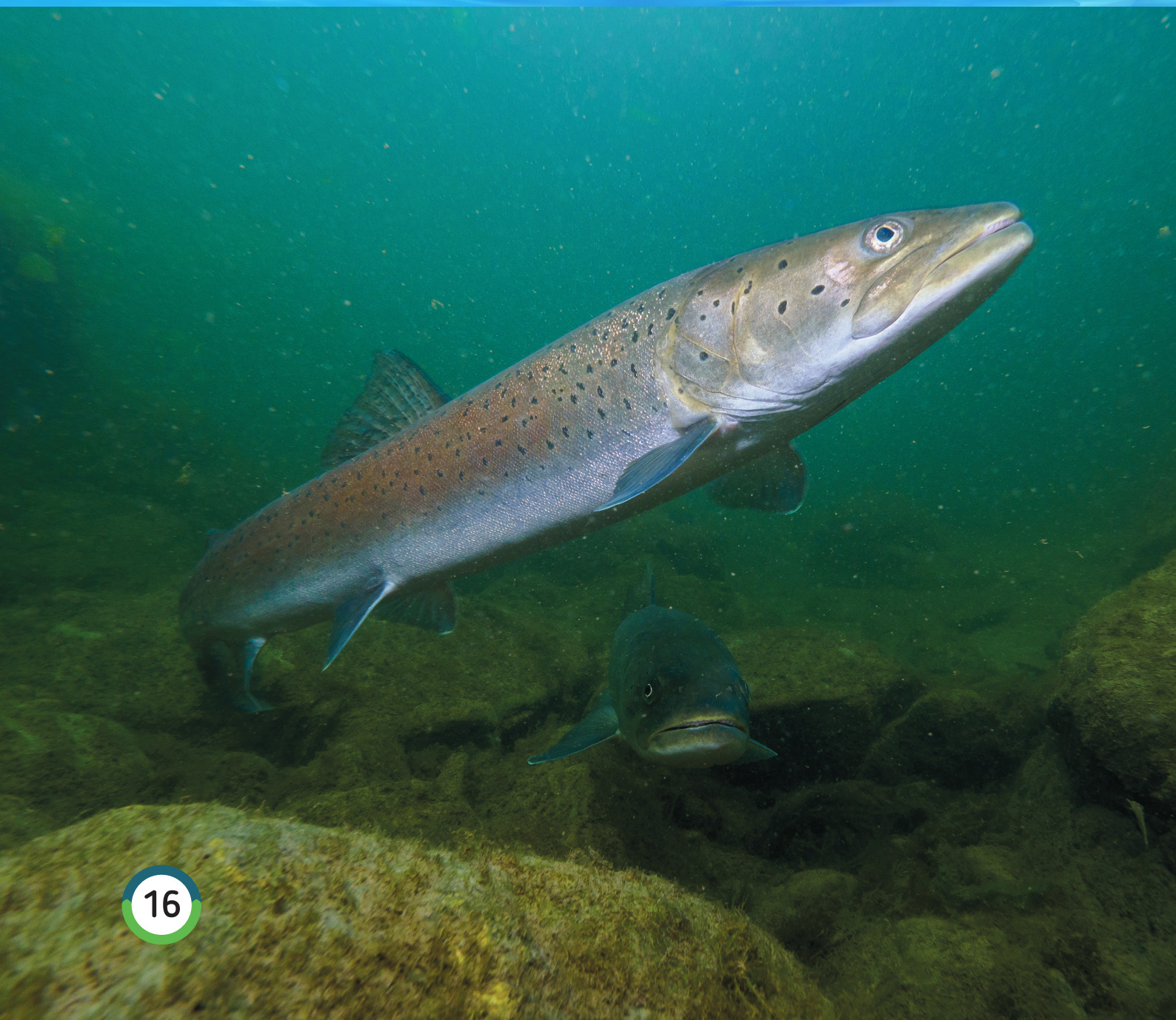




TAIMEN, THE WATER TIGER

The largest fish in the salmon family
Length: 1.5–2 m
Weight: 60–80 kg

Fishermen call this fish a water tiger. Taimen can easily hunt even land animals.



DIET

The taimen is a large predator and its diet consists of smaller fish as well as small mammals such as voles and muskrats.

DESCRIPTION

The elongated, streamlined body is covered with fine scales. Its large head is flat; its wide mouth is armed with a row of sharp teeth that form a continuous band with blades. Besides, its teeth grow along the edges of the jaw as well as on the palate. It is simply impossible for fish and small birds to escape from such a snare.

It is usually dark olive green on the back, changing to silvery white on the belly.

LIFESPAN

Due to population decline, the taimen was listed in Russia's Red Book of endangered animals.

There is indeed something tiger-like about the taimen. Legends are told about its strength and endurance. Fishermen say that it can easily knock a man out of a boat or seriously injure an opponent with a blow of its tail. That is why taimen fishing was often compared to bear or tiger hunting.

The taimen is found in many rivers of the Urals, Siberia and the Far East, as well as in the waters of Lake Baikal and Lake Teletskoye. It lives only in fresh water: in rivers and flowing cold-water lakes; it never goes to the sea.





START

1 2 3 4

ANUTA AND NEKU DECIDED TO ORGANIZE A SPORTS RACE! JOIN THEM IN SOLVING ALL THE TASKS!

MAZE

Roll the ball through the maze with Neku.

5 FALSE START Skip your move!

6 7 8 9 10

PATHWAYS

Climb to the very top using only intact ladders

11 Do it again! 12 13

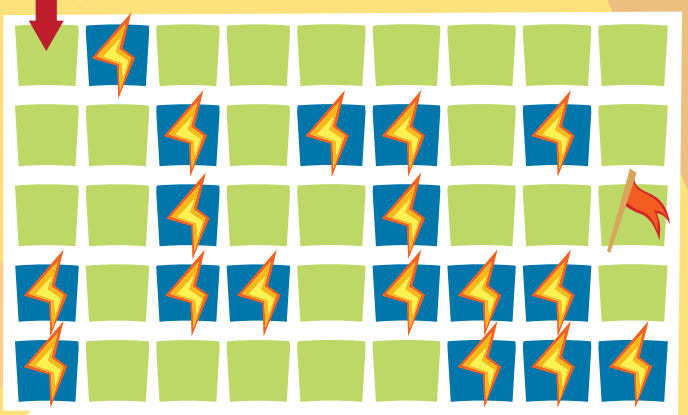
Roll the die and move your chip the number of steps indicated.
When you stop on the space with a task, complete it. If you do it correctly, you roll the die again, if you don't, you skip your move.
The one who gets to the finish first wins!

14 15 16 17 18 19

THROUGH

Help Tisha run across the field with his eyes closed and grab the flag. Pay attention to Anuta's instructions.





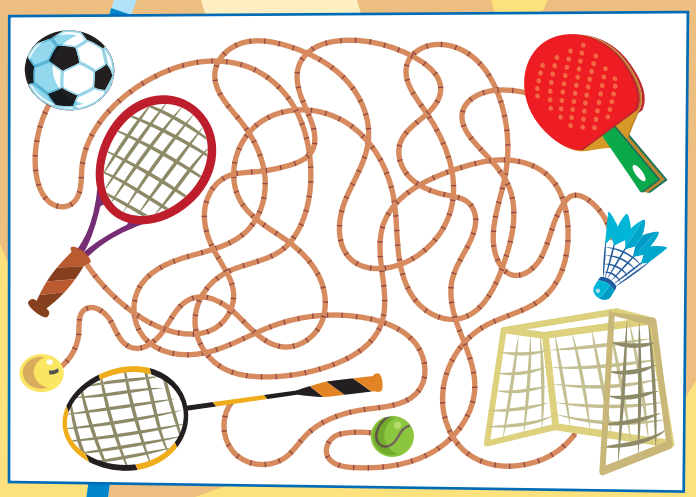
Two steps down,
one step right, three steps down,
three steps right, two steps up,
one step left, two steps up,
three steps right, two steps down,
two steps right.

It's a pit!
2
Skip your move!

21 22 23 24

RACKETS

Help the children stack their sports equipment correctly.



Stop!
25
Skip your move!

30 29

FINISH

27 26 28

BALLS

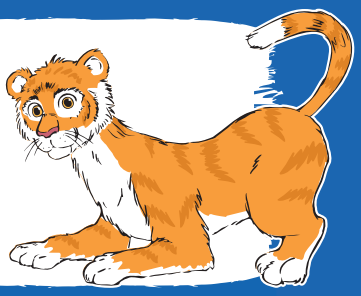
Throw each ball into the right basket.





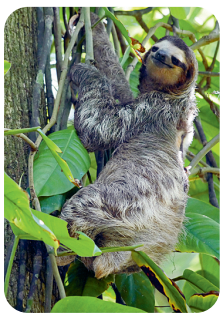
LOGIC

Find the animal: there is a red squirrel on its left, a yellow bird on its right, a peacock with an open tail above, and a grey squirrel below.



CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across: 1. The slowest land animal. 2. The fastest bird.
Down: 1. The slowest mollusc. 2. The fastest acquatic mammal. 3. A little bird that flaps its wings very, very fast. 4. The fastest land animal.















WHAT IS SOUND?

Sound intensity is measured in decibels. Look at the noise level scale to see how loud different phenomena are.

A plane taking off	140	Soundproof headphones needed
A jackhammer	120	
A chainsaw	110	Very loud
A rock concert	100	Very loud
A railroad	90	Loud
A busy freeway	80	Loud
A calm conversation	60	Can hear well
Raindrops	40	Can hardly hear
A whisper	30	Quiet
Clock ticking	25	Very quiet
Grass whisper in the wind	20	Very quiet
Leaves rustling	15	Very quiet
Cotton candy falling	10	Cannot hear



What do you think is the loudest animal on Earth? You probably thought it was an elephant? But no, it's not!

Surprisingly, the loudest animals in the world live underwater. **Sperm whales** can produce sounds of **233 decibels.**





The snapping shrimp, though very small, is capable of producing a sound of **200 decibels**.

Howler monkeys' cry can reach an impressive **140 decibels**.



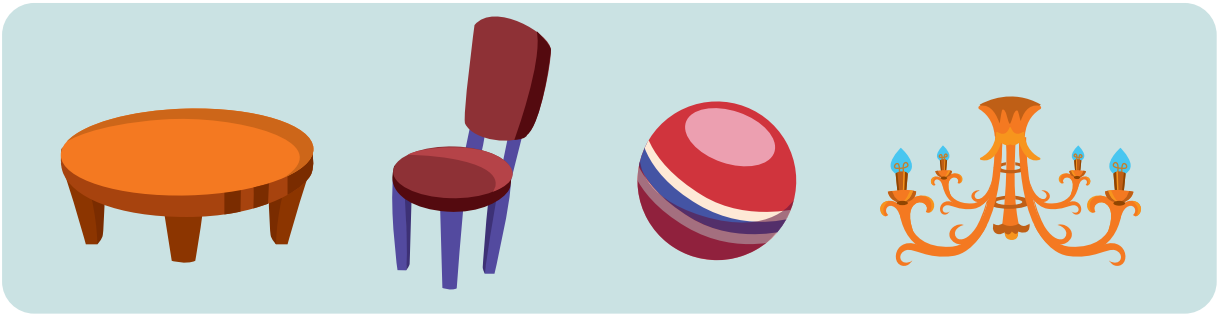
SOUNDS AROUND YOU

Listen to all the sounds around you and write down the loudest and the quietest ones.

LOUD	QUIET
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

ODD ONE OUT

Look carefully at the pictures and use logic
to find the odd one.







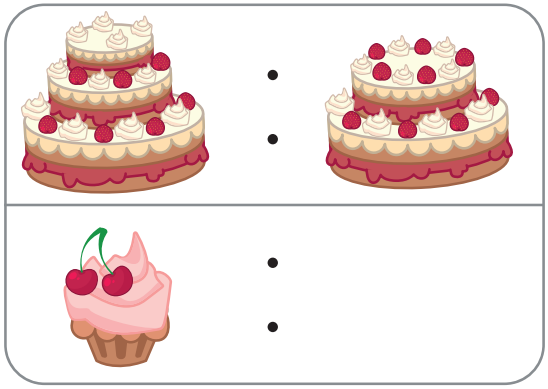




MATCHING PAIRS

Look at the example, select the right picture to copy the pattern and mark the right answer.

1.





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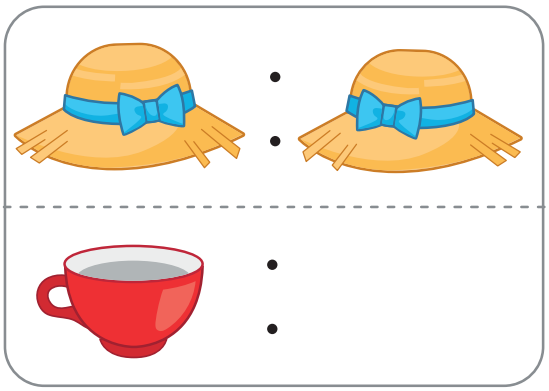



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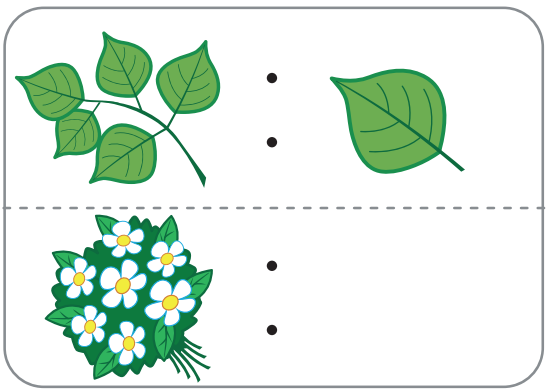

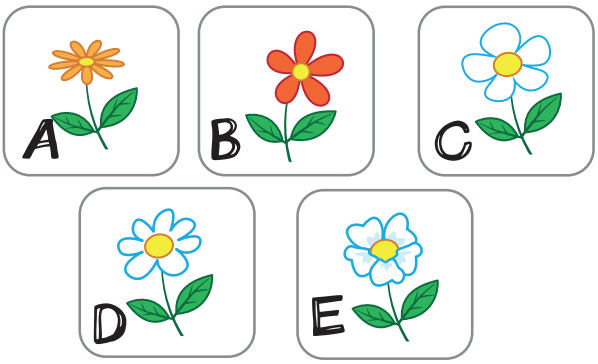

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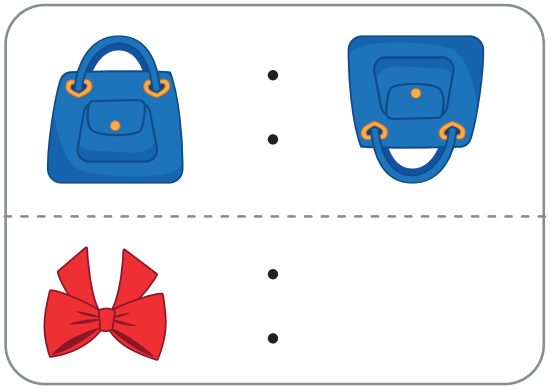
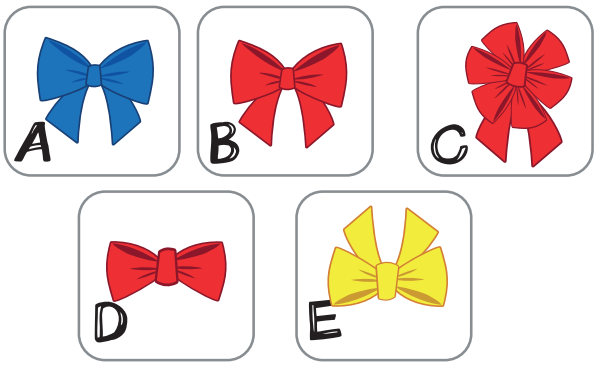




ANUTA'S FILLWORD

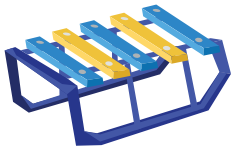
Find words and write them down according to the year season they belong to.

G	A	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	Q	J
V	L	H	U	L	I	E	T	R	E	E
K	E	O	H	E	L	T	S	K	I	S
Q	A	R	V	A	L	E	R	A	I	N
I	F	T	K	F	O	R	Z	N	P	O
C	J	S	R	F	W	U	F	B	K	W
P	X	U	E	A	S	K	A	T	E	D
S	U	N	G	L	A	S	S	E	S	R
N	H	A	I	L	V	U	L	X	L	O
O	S	U	N	D	X	N	I	C	E	P
W	I	N	D	E	Y	E	J	K	D	S
Y	M	U	S	H	R	O	O	M	S	E
D	R	O	P	L	E	T	S	V	R	A



WINTER







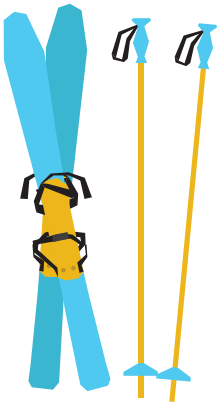
SPRING







SUMMER







AUTUMN





NATURE

In 2024, the 100-th birthday of the writer Viktor Petrovich Astafiev was celebrated. As part of the eco-education program, together with the writer Mikhail Tarkovsky, children wrote essays on the nature motif in Astafiev's works. More than 400 essays from 380 schools of the Krasnoyarsk region were submitted in the contest. We would like to share with you the essay of the winner from the junior group (7-9 years old).

"NATURE IN ASTAFIEV'S WORKS"

I am Semyon Cherepanov, I am nine years old. I live in a small village called Boshnyakovo. When I was very little, my mother left me. Now I have another mother, and I love her very much.

We have a lot of animals and my mother teaches me to take care of them, feed them, look after them. We have guinea pigs, a turtle, a cat Yashka and a big dog Shaman.

On winter evenings, we like to read books. Mother reads hers, and I read mine. Recently I read a story by Astafiev, "The White-breast". It is about how a marten's cubs were killed, I felt very sorry for them, especially for the marten herself. Why are people so cruel, why do they do this? Animals are living beings. They don't bother people, but end up getting hurt.

I also read the story "Tail." I felt so sorry for that little gopher. Poor little thing. It was suffering in that jar, it was covered in blood, its tail was moving like a little sprout, begging for help, and the boy saw it and laughed. He was just mean, that boy, and will probably become a bad person, because he doesn't love anyone.

I love nature, especially in summer when we go out to the banks of the Cana to sunbathe and swim.

Astafiev lived in our region, I read about it, and he saw the same nature! It is very beautiful here, and Astafiev writes about it in his works. But he also feels sorry for it, because people treat it very badly. They cut down forests, animals run away, factories pollute rivers and banks. When we come to our favorite place on the river, it is all covered with garbage: bottles, cans, bags. It takes us a long time to clean it up. But everything around is so beautiful: the grass, the flowers, the butterflies flying, the birds singing.

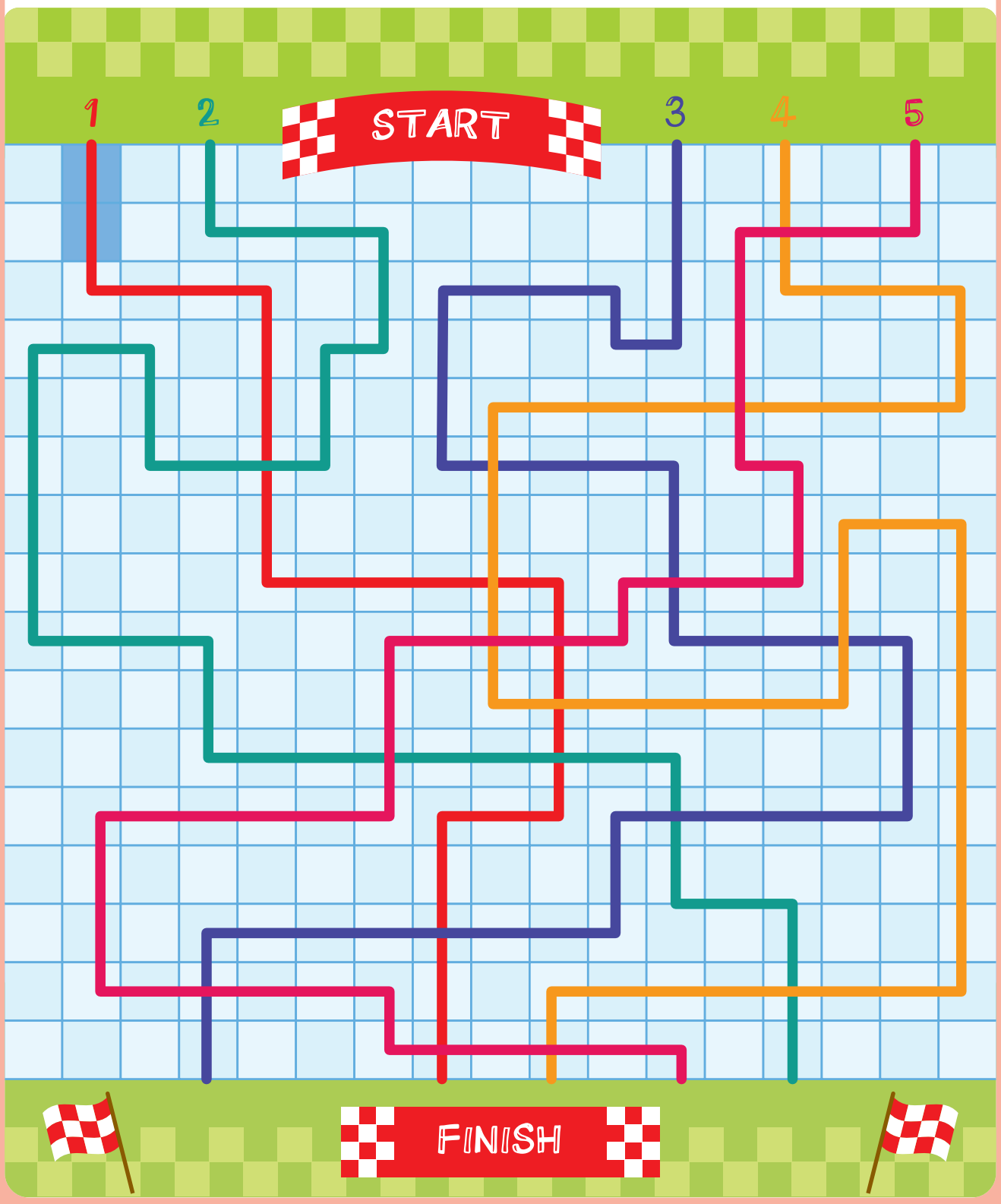
I will continue to read Astafiev's stories, I like to read about nature and animals, about how carefully the author treated all living beings. Maybe cruel people will read his stories and become kinder?





CATCH ME IF YOU CAN

Count the cells and mark the shortest
and the longest paths.



SUMMER CONTEST'S RESULTS

The contest winners receive prizes from **Osteria Mario (@osteriamario) and "Shvili" (@shvilibistro): a certificate for 10 pizzas/khachapuri**



I place
Sofia Chugunova
6 years



II place
Alina Andriyan
5 years



III place
Alisa Zherebtsova
5 years



III place
Fedya Baranov
9 years

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Editor-in-chief: Julia Winter
Editors: Henrik Winter
Elena Yurijtchuk
Svetlana Djachkova
Literary editor: Anna Mironova
Ecology consultant: Victor Nikiforov
Magazine supervisor: Victoria Salenko

Authors: Daria Dmitrieva
Anastasia Sergeeva
Designer: Alyona Morozova
Artist: Yulia Kondrashova

6+

ANSWERS

20 LOGIC



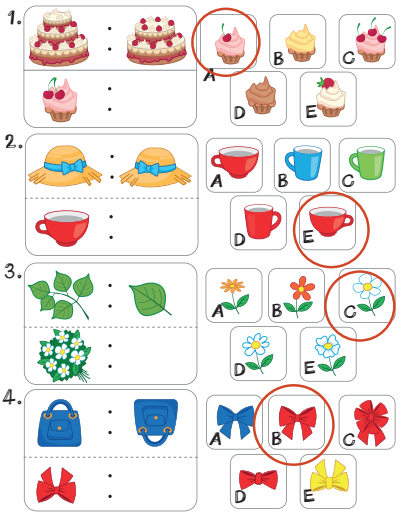
21 CROSSWORD

Across: 1. Sloth. 2. Peregrine.
Down: 1. Snail. 2. Orca. 3. Hummingbird.
4. Cheetah.

24 ODD ONE OUT



25 MATCHING PAIRS



27 ANUTA'S FILLWORD

Winter: sleds, skis, snowman.
Spring: droplets, willow, snowdrops.
Summer: shorts, sun, sunglasses.
Autumn: mushrooms, rain, leaffall.

BAKHTA CONTEST

We really hope that this story about friendship, nature and dreams touched you.

PARTICIPATE IN OUR DRAWING CONTEST!

Draw the reindeer from the story "ADVENTURE ON THE BAKHTA RIVER", the hero of the magical taiga!

THE BRIGHTEST AND KINDEST DRAWINGS WILL RECEIVE:

- Pizza gift certificates from Osteria Mario restaurant **(@osteriamario)**
- Khachapuri certificates from Shvili Restaurants **(@shvilibistro)**
- And even more: the winners' artworks will decorate takeaway cups in our restaurants!

HOW TO PARTICIPATE:

- Draw the reindeer from the story
- Bring your artwork to one of Osteria Mario or Shvili restaurants OR email it to: **kids@tigrus.com**

PLEASE INCLUDE:

- Your full name
- Your age
- Your parent's phone number as a contact

You can submit your artwork until August 30, 2025. The results of the contest will be announced by September 15, 2025 on the websites:
https://osteriamario.ae/, https://shvili.ae/