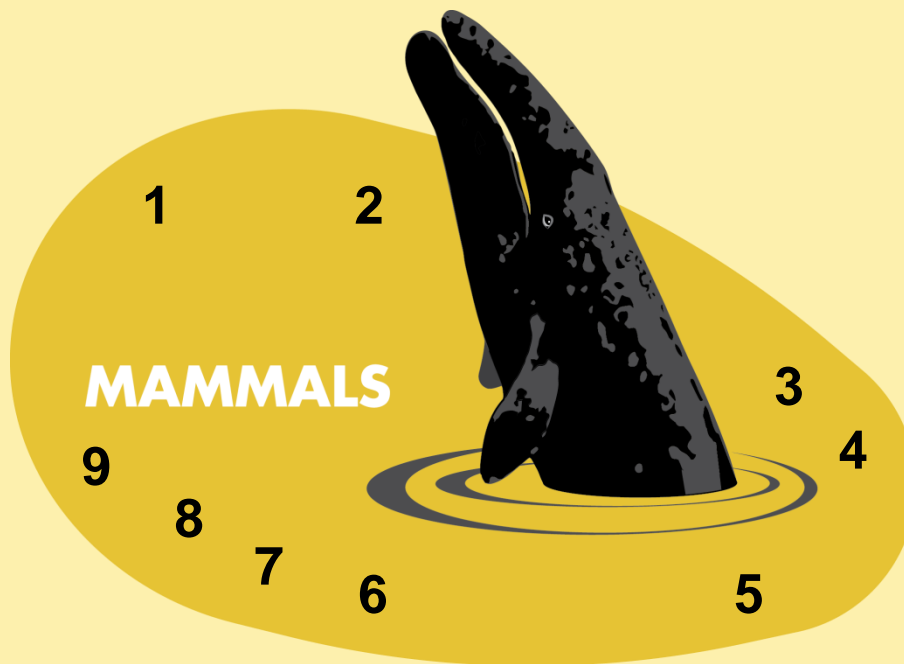




SCULPTURE LEARNING PLAZA



- 1 Gray whale (*Eschrichtius robustus*)
- 2 Arctic hare (*Lepus arcticus*)
- 3 Pangolin (Genus *Manis*)
- 4 Indian flying fox (*Pteropus giganteus*)
- 5 Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*)
- 6 Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisi*)
- 7 Aye-aye (*Daubentonia madagascariensis*)
- 8 Star-nosed mole (*Condylura cristata*)
- 9 Ethiopian wolf (*Canis simensis*)

All sculptures in this section are true to size.



Gray whale

Eschrichtius robustus

Habitat/diet: Gray whales are usually bottom feeders along shallow continental shelf waters. They eat small crustaceans, such as mysids and amphipods, they are also known to eat red crabs, baitfish, crab larvae, herring eggs and cephalopods.

Status: Least Concern

Range: Gray whales are found in the eastern Pacific Ocean from Baja California to the Bering Sea and in the western Pacific Ocean from South Korea to the Okhotsk Sea.

Fascinating facts:

- The gray whale makes the longest known migration of any mammal. Each spring and fall, they pass between their Arctic summer feeding grounds and the warm waters near the equator where females give birth. Some individuals may travel more than 12,000 miles a year.
- They are the only whale to feed by straining sediments from the ocean floor.
- Killer whales are their only non-human predator.
- There are two deep grooves in their throat, which allows the mouth to expand when feeding.



Sculpture Photo by Blair Bazzarich

Can you find?...

- Another organism that lives in the water for its entire life?
- Another animal with a big mouth?





Arctic hare

Lepus arcticus

Habitat/diet: Arctic tundra, surviving on woody plants, mosses, and lichens dug up from under the snow in winter. In other seasons they eat buds, berries, leaves, roots, and bark.

Status: Least Concern – IUCN 2008

Range: Northern region of the Arctic Circle, predominantly in Canada, Europe, Greenland, and the North Pole.

Fascinating facts:

- Arctic hares can run up to 40 mph!
- They only sport their thick white coat in winter; in the summer their hair is thinner and blue-grey to match rocks and vegetation.
- They are an important element of Native American tradition, serving as a source of food and fur in the harsh winter.
- Predators include arctic foxes, polar bears, lynxes, wolves, and snowy owls.
- They huddle together in groups of up to 200 individuals for warmth.
- They are one of the largest living lagomorphs, at up to 30 inches and 15 lbs.

Can you find?...

- Another animal from an extreme environment?
- Another animal who is very fast?





Pangolin

Genus *Manis*

Habitat/diet: Arboreal species find shelter in trees, while terrestrial species live in burrows. They are insectivores, feeding mainly on ants and termites with their extremely long tongue, which stretches out to be longer than their entire body.

Status: Vulnerable, Endangered, or Critically Endangered, depending on species – IUCN 2013

Range: Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Fascinating facts:

- Their name is derived from the Malay word “pengguling,” which loosely translates to “something that rolls up”.
- Pangolin scales make up approximately 20% of their body weight.
- Some species have prehensile tails to help them climb trees.
- They can seal their ears and nostrils to keep bugs out while feeding, and have special muscles in their mouths to prevent escape.
- The biggest threat to pangolins is poaching for bushmeat.
- Pangopups travel with their mother, riding on the base of her tail.
- One adult pangolin can eat up to 70 million insects annually.

Can you find?...

- Another animal with an unusual body covering?
- Another animal that eats bugs?



Indian flying fox

Pteropus giganteus



Habitat/diet: Tropical forests, swamps, and wetlands. They require very large trees as bat colonies live together in huge groups. The most common trees are banyan, tamarind, and fig. Their diet consists mainly of figs, but they supplement with other fruit, flowers, nectar, and occasionally insects.

Status: Least Concern – IUCN 2008

Range: Southern Asia.

Fascinating facts:

- The Indian flying fox has a wingspan of approximately 5 ft!
- Colonies number from several hundred to thousands of bats.
- Flying foxes can consume up to half their body weight every day.
- They fly 9-40 miles every night in search of food.
- Unlike insectivorous bats who rely on echolocation, flying foxes depend on sight and smell to find their food.
- As they feed, they spit out dry pulp and seeds, enabling plant growth and dispersal.



Can you find?...

- Another animal that lives or moves in a group?
- Another nocturnal animal?
- Another animal that lives in trees?





Platypus

Ornithorhynchus anatinus

Habitat/diet: Crepuscular and semi-aquatic, they prefer rivers and streams with beds suitable for digging burrows. Platypuses are carnivores that feed on worms, crustaceans, and insect larvae. They hunt via electrosensory reception through their beak and scoop up gravel along with their food to grind up their prey, as they lack teeth .

Status: Least Concern – IUCN 2008

Range: Freshwater rivers and lakes in eastern Australia and Tasmania.

Fascinating facts:

- The platypus was originally thought to be a duck head on a beaver body and a hoax when the first pelt was sent to Europe in 1798.
- There is no agreed-upon plural for platypus in the English language.
- Males have venomous stingers on the heels of their hind feet.
- When diving for food, folds of skin cover their eyes and ears to prevent water from entering, and their nostrils seal closed.
- The platypus and the echidna are the only egg-laying mammals.
- Females seal themselves in mud burrows to incubate their 1-2 eggs, nursing them for 3-4 months after they hatch.

Can you find?...

- Another animal with webbed feet?
- Another animal that has a special sense?



Sculpture Photo by Marianne Hale





Tasmanian devil

Sarcophilus harrisii

Habitat/diet: Tasmanian Devils are nocturnal carnivores that live in dry forests and coastal woodlands. They mostly feed on carrion, but will hunt if easy food is not readily available, and will consume almost any meat. Their extremely sharp teeth help them eat all parts of a carcass, including bones! Their preferred food is often wombats, due to their high fat content.

Status: Endangered – IUCN 2008

Range: Exclusively on the Australian Island State of Tasmania.

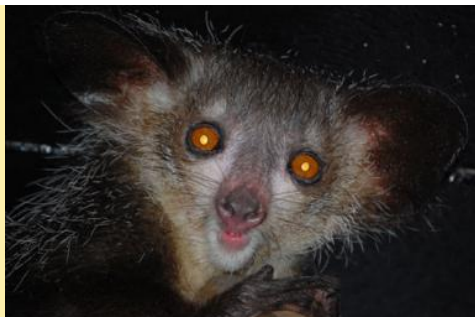
Fascinating facts:

- They got their name as “devil” after European settlers saw their fierce displays of teeth-baring, lunging, and guttural growls.
- They are the largest carnivorous marsupial, at 30 inches and 26 lbs.
- Pound for pound, they have one of the most powerful bites of any mammal.
- Their main threat is Devil Facial Tumor Disease, the cause of which is still unknown. Vaccine development is their best chance for survival.
- Devils yawn when threatened to showcase their huge mouth and plentiful teeth. Their ears will also turn bright red in the display.

Can you find?...

- Another animal that carries their young in a pouch?
- Another animal that eats carrion?





Sculpture Photo
Coming Soon

Aye-Aye

Daubentonia madagascariensis

Habitat/diet: Rainforests and deciduous forests of Madagascar. They eat animal matter, nuts, insect larvae, fruits, nectar, seeds, and fungi, classifying them as an omnivores.

Status: Endangered - IUCN 2014

Range: Fragmented pockets of low population density across coastal Madagascar.

Fascinating facts:

- Aye-eyes are the world's largest nocturnal primates, and a type of lemur.
- They tap on trees to find grubs, then gnaw holes in the wood using their forward slanting incisors to create a small hole in which they insert their narrow middle finger to pull the grubs out.
- This type of feeding strategy is called percussive foraging.
- The aye-aye is an endangered species because of habitat loss as well as native superstition. Ancient Malagasy legend said the Aye-aye was a symbol of death so people frequently kill them on sight.

Can you find?...

- Another animal with large ears?
- Another nocturnal animal?
- Another great climber?





Star-nosed mole

Condylura cristata

Habitat/diet: Seldom far from bodies of water. The star-nosed mole prefers wet soils in flood plains, swamps, meadows, and other openings near water. They eat aquatic invertebrates, earthworms and small fish.

Status: Least Concern

Range: Northeastern United States and southeastern Canada

Fascinating facts:

- They are good swimmers and divers and have large feet and claws for digging.
- Very unique appearance with 22 fingerlike appendages surrounding its nostrils.
- These sensitive appendages are used for object manipulation and perhaps for detection of electrical signals emitted by prey in the water.

Can you find?...

- All 22 of the appendages around the nose?
- Another animal that may like to dig?
- Another animal with a poor sense of sight?



Sculpture Photo by Blair Bazarich



Sculpture Photo by Blair Bazarich





Ethiopian wolf (with pups)

Canis simensis

Habitat/diet: Ethiopian highlands, above the tree line at about 3,200 meters. Wolves utilize all Afroalpine habitats, but prefer open areas with short grasses along flat or gently sloping areas with deep soils. Unlike other canids, these wolves are highly specialized hunters, eating mainly rodents. Their primary prey species is the big-headed mole-rat.

Status: Endangered – IUCN 2011

Range: They are found exclusively in seven isolated mountain enclaves in the highlands of Ethiopia.

Fascinating facts:

- They are the rarest and most endangered canid in the world, as well as Africa's most endangered carnivore.
- Other names include Simien fox, Ethiopian jackal, and cuberow.
- Their greatest threat is rabies and distemper caught from domestic dogs in the area, followed by habitat loss, road kills, and shooting.
- Ethiopian wolves live in tight packs of 3-13 adults, and only the dominant female will breed, usually with neighboring males.
- The group patrols their territory together at dawn, noon, and dusk, rests together at night in the open, but each wolf hunts individually.



Can you find?...

- Another animal that lives in a group?
- Another great hunter?

