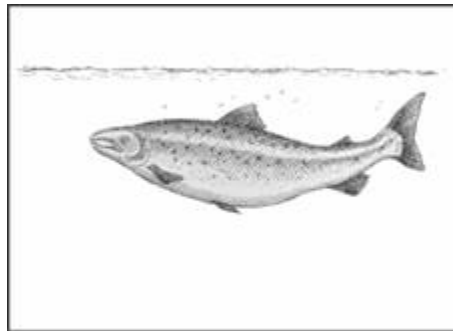


Animals in Stories

Many stories have animal characters.

Some traditional stories have animals as the main characters instead of people. We usually know what to expect of each animal – good or bad, fast or slow, strong or weak, trustworthy or cunning. In many stories the biggest, strongest animal is taught a lesson by the smaller, weaker animal.

Animal characters are found in stories from all over the world.



Fish in a story from China.



A duck in a story from England



Bush characters in a story from Australia

Each of these animals in fiction has its own character, but each one has links with facts about the animal in real life.

Animal facts

- Dogs like being with people. People keep dogs as pets or to do work.
- Dogs can be trained to look after people. Guide dogs help people who cannot see.
- Dogs have a very good sense of smell. Police dogs can find things and people by their smell.
- Dogs are sometimes called 'man's best friend'.
- Foxes will live almost anywhere there is shelter and food.
- Foxes will eat all sorts of different things. They sometimes steal chickens but more often hunt rabbits and other wild animals. In towns, foxes take food from bins.
- Fox cubs 'play-fight' with each other. They learn how to pin each other down and how to use their teeth. This trains them for hunting.

Dogs in Real Life



Foxes in Real Life



Animals in Fiction

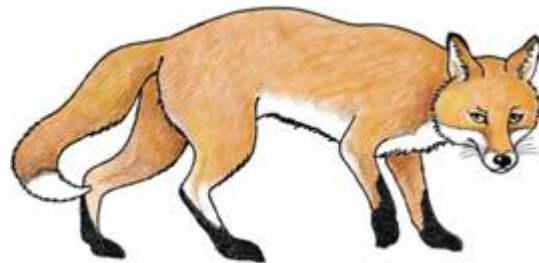
Dogs in Stories

Dogs in stories are usually good characters and often help people.



Foxes in Stories

Foxes in stories are clever and cunning.



Animal facts

- Hares can run at over 60 kilometres per hour.
- Hares live in the countryside, feeding on crops from the fields.
- Hares have giant ears and large eyes. They can see all around without moving their heads.

Hares in Real Life



- Tortoises live for many years.
- Tortoises move slowly.
- A tortoise can pull its head, legs and tail into its shell when it wants to hide.

Tortoises in Real Life



Animals in Fiction

Hares in Stories

- Hares in stories boast about their speed and rush into action before thinking.



Tortoises in Stories

- Tortoises in stories are steady and keep on trying until they succeed.



Animals in Stories

- 1 Look at pages 2 to 5.

Tick **True** or **False** for each statement about animals in real life.

Statement	True	False
Guide dogs are trained to look after people.		
Foxes sometimes take food from bins.		
Foxes only eat rabbits.		
Hares live in towns.		
Tortoises live for a long time.		

- 2 Look at the section about dogs in real life.

Find and **copy one** word that means *shown how to do something*.

- 3 Think about how animals in stories get their special characters from the way they behave in real life.

Look at pages 2 to 5.

Fill in the following table.

Some spaces have been filled in for you.

Animal	In stories	Because in real life they
Hares	boastful	can run very fast
Foxes	_____	have many different ways of finding food and shelter
Dogs	helpful	_____ _____ _____
Tortoises	steady	walk slowly

Mark schemes

2

1

Statement	True	False
Guide dogs are trained to look after people.	✓	
Foxes sometimes take food from bins.	✓	
Foxes only eat rabbits.		✓
Hares live in towns.		✓
Tortoises live for a long time.	✓	

5 correct = 2 marks
3 or 4 correct = 1 mark

2 trained

1

3

Animal	In stories	Because in real life they
		Answers in this column must refer to the animal's real-life characteristics and not to story-like or human-like characteristics
Hares	<i>boastful</i>	<i>can run very fast</i>
Foxes	cunning clever <i>Also accept:</i> sly wily sneaky smart	<i>have many different ways of finding food and shelter</i>
Dogs	<i>helpful</i>	<i>Accept answers that indicate with reference to the text that dogs do help people, eg: dogs/they help people by guiding blind people. use their nose to help policemen. help find people.</i> <i>Also accept answers that indicate the special relationship between people and dogs, eg: are man's best friend. like being with people. are pets. are trained.</i> Unacceptable: Minimal answers along the lines of: help people are nice
Tortoises	<i>steady</i>	<i>walk slowly</i>

2