



WILD

The Canadian Wildlife Federation's magazine for kids

WILD
CLASSES
OF THE YEAR

Stories written by YOU,
our amazing readers



Egg-specting
What life is like in the nest

Meet some of
your favourite

Wild Species

↑
Cougar

Vol. 22 Number 1
Apr/May 2018

Build a pollinator-friendly
miniature garden



INSIDE WILD

April/May 2018

Vol. 22 No. 1

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Moose & Weasel



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Backside Contest

The winner of the February/March 2018 Backside contest is Linden Buchanan. He knew our animal was an American Goldfinch. We're sending out a cool CWF prize for that answer, which we drew from your correct responses.



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Poster

FEATURE STORIES

From our **WILD** Classes

This story is written by our favourite people in the world - you guys! Dive in and learn about the Wolverine, the Northern Cardinal and more.

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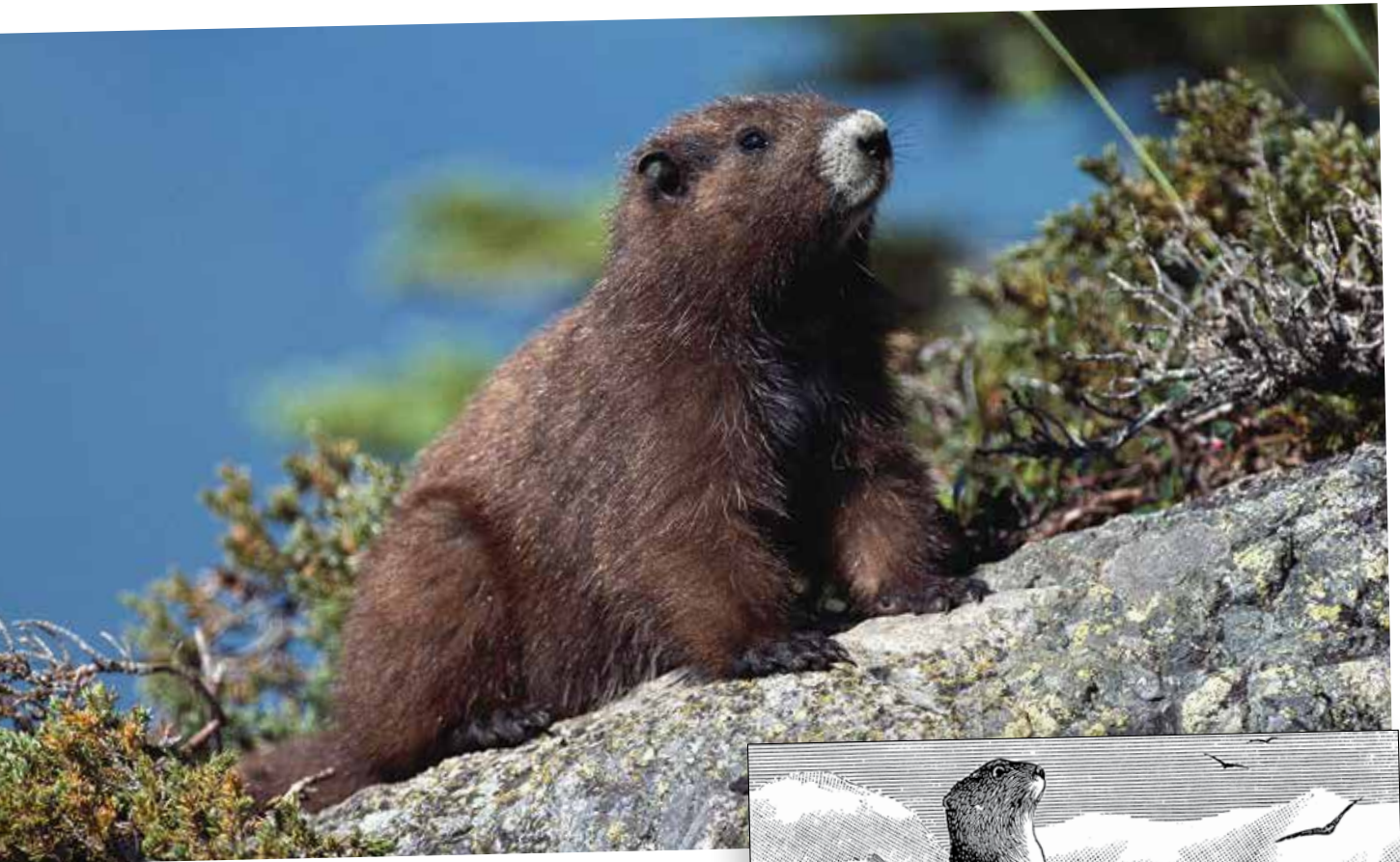
Egg-specting

Have you ever wondered what life in the nest would be like? Check out how songbirds get their start before they discover their wings.

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DID YOU KNOW...



Vancouver Island Marmot IOI

By Iris Osborne, Grade 4
Northlake Woods Public School, Waterloo, Ont.

- ★ Vancouver Island Marmots are herbivores. They eat more than 40 different types of grasses, herbs and wildflowers.
- ★ These small mammals hibernate below ground from the middle of September until late April or early May.
- ★ In the spring, when they wake up from hibernation, they have to tunnel through several metres of snow.
- ★ A hibernating marmot's heartbeat slows to three or four beats per minute. It has an average of 110 to 200 beats per minute when it's active.
- ★ Vancouver Island Marmots are also called "whistle pigs" because they whistle when they are alarmed.

HINTERLAND WHO'S WHO

VALÉRIE GAGNON

Hinterland Who's Who is positively bursting with videos, fact sheets and tips for taking action. We have been motivating Canadians to understand and protect wildlife since 1963.

Visit **HWW.ca**
and take a look around!

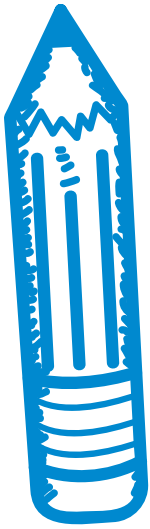


This project was undertaken with the financial support of:
Ce projet a été réalisé avec l'appui financier de :



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Changement climatique Canada



WILD Q&A WITH SCARLETT ROHN FROM PICKERING, ON

Are you ready to meet another reader of *WILD*? Check out what Scarlett loves to do outside and what her favourite outdoor game is. Don't forget to send in your answers if you want a chance to see wonderful you in an upcoming issue of *WILD* magazine!

1. What is your favourite Canadian animal?

A Polar Bear.

2. What do you love to do outside?

Play in the creek.

3. What do you want to be when you grow up?

A vet.

4. What is the coolest plant you've seen?

The Venus Flytrap.

5. What do you LOVE about Canada?

I don't know.

6. If you could spend the day as any animal, what would you choose?

An owl.

7. What is the best outdoor game to play?

I like freeze tag.

8. What animal skill do you wish you had?

Flying.

9. What is your favourite season?

Fall.

10. If you could save any animal which would you pick?

Owls.



WRITE TO US!

Would you like to see your face in *WILD* magazine? We would too! And we would love to know what you care about most in Canada's wilderness. If you want the chance to be a star, here's what you have to do:

- Tell us your name
- Tell us where you live in Canada
- Send a picture of yourself (ask your parents' permission and make sure you send a high enough quality photo – about 1MB+ is good!)

Now for the fun stuff! Answer the following questions:

- What is your favourite Canadian animal?
- What do you love to do outside?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- What is the coolest plant you've seen?
- What do you LOVE about Canada?
- If you could spend the day as any animal, what would you choose?
- What is the best outdoor game to play?
- What animal skill do you wish you had?
- What is your favourite season?
- If you could save any animal which would you pick?

Send all of the above to:
wild@cwf-fcf.org



Don't let city living stop you from getting

WILD



Start your own WILD Family Nature Club.



WILD Family Nature Club is a Canadian Wildlife Federation program supported by HSBC Bank Canada designed to connect youth and families with the benefits of exploring outdoors. Join a club or start your own.

Get full details on WILD Family Nature Clubs at canadianwildlifefederation.ca/education.



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WILD CLASSES OF THE YEAR

No WILD Classes issue would be complete without features written by our amazing readers! Dive in and learn about some of our favourite wild species — from the Wolverine to the Northern Cardinal!





Say Howdy to the

Atlantic Walrus

By Owen Fitzpatrick — Hilson Avenue Public School, Ottawa — Grade 6

FACTS

WEIGHT

Males: 900 kg
Females: 560 kg

LENGTH

Males: 3.1 m
Females: 2.6 m

DIET

Clams, sea worms,
crustaceans, fish,
octopuses

PREDATORS

Polar Bears and
Killer Whales

The Atlantic Walrus is a large animal with very long tusks that live mostly in cold waters. Atlantic Walrus use their tusks for a lot of things. They plant their tusks into the ice and drag themselves up to get out of the water. They use their tusks to fight other walruses over females. And they also use them as a defence against Polar Bears and Killer Whales.

The Walrus finds food by messing up the dust on the seafloor with its long whiskers and its tusks. This takes off the top layer of dust, exposing the clams and other small aquatic animals that burrow into the sea floor. It then squeezes them out of their shells with its thick lips while holding them in its flippers. It then swallows the flesh inside it.

Walrus blubber is very thick, at 15 centimetres thick, plus their skin is 10 cm thick. That's how they can stay in water for several days at a time! However, they have to lie in the sun all the time to soak up energy into their skin so they have more power.

Get to Know the

Northern Cardinal

By **Evan Both**

Crolancia Public School, Pickle Lake, Ont. — Grade 6

FACTS

WEIGHT

42 to 48 g

LENGTH

21 to 23 cm

WINGSPAN

25 to 31 cm

DIET

Seeds and fruit

LIFESPAN

3 years on average

The Northern Cardinal is an interesting-looking bird. The adult male is bright red, while the female is brown or green with a bit of red on its chest, crest and wing tips. Male cardinals have a black mask. Females don't usually have a mask but have dark brown markings on their face. Each has a cone-shaped orange bill, a long tail and a feathery chest.

Males are very territorial of their breeding grounds and will defend them. During the spring, you might see a male attacking the window. He is attacking his reflection in the glass, because he thinks the reflection is an intruder.

Cardinals communicate through calls and songs. Mating couples will sing a similar song of whistles. A female Cardinal will sing from her nest during mating season to tell the male she needs more food. But when predators get too close to the nest, she will chirp loudly to scare them away.



Welcome to the

Wolverine

By **Ethan Qiu** — Hilson Avenue Public School, Ottawa — Grade 6

Have you ever seen a Wolverine? This funny-looking animal looks like a cross between a skunk and a small bear. It has small eyes, round ears and a small round face. Its thick head, neck and shoulders are full of muscles. Covering the muscles is a thick layer of brown fur with two yellow stripes side by side. It also has huge paws with a lot of fur to prevent it from sinking in the deep snow and sharp claws for digging and climbing.

Wolverines eat a wide range of food, from berries and plants to small mice and even moose and caribou. They are also scavengers and will eat the remains of other animals. They might even dig into burrows and eat the animals that are hibernating in there. Wolverines will even scare away bears to steal their food. When a Wolverine cannot finish all its food, it sprays the food with musk and saves it for later. The musk discourages other animals from eating its food.

Did you ever hear that Wolverines are solitary animals and come together only to have their young? That's true! Wolverine families stay together for 30 to 50 days. However, the male Wolverine only stays with its mate when mating or caring for its kits (babies).

For the most part, wolverines are really shy, so you won't see them too often in the wild. They live in dens made of snow tunnels, boulders and rocks. However, they often wander around. Males usually have a home range (where they roam around) of 1,000 square kilometres, while females have a home range of 100 square kilometres.





FACTS

WEIGHT

Males: 12 to 18 kg

Females: 8 to 12 kg

HEIGHT

66 to 86 cm

DIET

Berries, plants, small
and large mammals

LIFESPAN

7 to 13 years

All About the

Canada Goose

By **Angeline Yan** — Hilson Avenue Public School, Ottawa — Grade 6

FACTS

WEIGHT

1 to 8 kg

LENGTH

76 to 110 cm

WINGSPAN

127 to 170 cm

DIET

Seeds, flowers
roots, berries
and other plants

LIFESPAN

10 to 24 years

PREDATORS

Coyotes, Arctic
Foxes, Red Foxes,
Brown Bears,
Black Bears

You've probably seen or at least heard of the Canada Goose before. These herbivores (animals that eat only plants) are found in all the provinces and territories of Canada and across the United States.

Canada Geese are incredible migrators. They can cover over 1,500 kilometres with preferable wind conditions in just 24 hours! So it's really important for them to stick together and not get left behind.

Chances are, you've noticed that Canada Geese always migrate in a "V" formation. This isn't just random—it's aerodynamic and strategic. The geese take turns flying in front and creating less wind resistance for the birds flying behind, which saves them energy. When the goose in front gets tired, it falls to the back of the line, and the next goose comes forward.

Another benefit of flying in a "V" is to communicate and coordinate well, and to keep track of each other when they're flying. Mother Nature has really got them covered!

During migration, mating partners remain together (and actually stay together for their whole lives). During mating season, they build a nest out of dry plants, and the female chooses the spot, usually on high ground, where there is a good view in all directions, in case of predators.

The two parents split the responsibility of raising the goslings during the nesting season. The female lays the eggs and the male shares the task of keeping them warm. He will also protect the goslings from predators once they hatch.









Meet the

Cougar

By **Amelia Singh** — Hilson Avenue Public School, Ottawa — Grade 6

FACTS

WEIGHT

Males: 60 to 100 kg
Females: 35 to 60 kg

LENGTH

(nose to tail tip)
2 m

DIET

Small mammals such as Ground Squirrels and large mammals such as Deer

LIFESPAN

10 to 12 years

Cougars, also known as Pumas and Mountain

Lions, are the largest cats that can purr. Cougars do not roar like a Lion. Instead, they scream or purr like a house cat. Cougars also have similar bodies to house cats; they both have slender bodies, roundheads and pointed ears. But of course, Cougars are bigger.

Unlike adults, Cougar kittens have spots all over their tawny brown fur to help them camouflage (blend in with their surroundings). When the kittens are first born, their mother licks them to clean them. At two weeks old, they open their eyes and begin to walk. They eventually will nap less and start to play fight with their siblings. Playing with each other helps them develop the muscles necessary for hunting.

In the wild, Cougars will mostly hunt large and small mammals such as Deer, Moose, Coyotes and Ground Squirrels. Cougars will even occasionally attack a Porcupine. Scientists who study Cougars sometimes see them with quills stuck in their muzzles, shoulders and paws. Ouch!

Cougars can run fast but only for short distances. Therefore, Cougars rely on stealth for hunting. Once a Cougar obtains its prey, it will drag it to a place where they are hidden to avoid having Bears and Wolves steal their food. A Cougar will sometimes drag a heavy Moose half the length of a football field!





ATLANTIC PUFFIN

Fratercula arctica

WEIGHT

Up to 500 g

LENGTH

30 cm

WINGSPAN

50 cm

FUN FACTS

Atlantic Puffins can hold up to 61 fish in their bills.

They are poor fliers — they have a hard time taking flight and often crash while landing.

Females lay a single egg in a clutch.



IT WON'T BE LONG
NOW BEFORE YOU'LL
BE WAKING UP TO
THE SOUND OF
SONGBIRDS SINGING
THEIR MERRY
TUNES! THEY'RE
VERY BUSY IN THE
SPRING—SEARCHING
FOR SCRAPS AND
BUILDING THEIR
NESTS. WHAT FOR?
WHY, THEIR BABIES,
OF COURSE! HERE'S
WHAT LIFE IS LIKE IN
THE NEST.



LIFE IN THE NEST



MOMMY DEAREST

The bond between a female bird and her young starts even before the egg is hatched! Researchers have found that by changing the conditions inside the egg, female canaries essentially “tell” their young what to expect when they hatch. If moms spend less time sitting on the eggs and warming them because they’re spending more time looking for scarce food, then the chicks will stay in the egg longer and try to gain more weight.



TOASTY WARM

Although most songbirds lay one egg per day, they don't start sitting on them until the last or second-last egg has been laid. That way, they can time when they start to hatch. When the female tucks the eggs underneath her, the eggs become warmer and get the cue that they can hatch when they're ready to. If any eggs aren't going to hatch, it's usually the first eggs laid.



COPYCAT... ERRR... BIRD

Just like toddlers, young songbirds mimic (mirror) their parents when they learn to talk. And just like toddlers, it sounds like babbling to start. Babbling helps babies learn how to speak, and similarly, babbling helps songbirds learn to sing. While young songbirds try to imitate their parents' songs, they'll make mistakes, but they'll also learn from them. That's how they learn to sing correctly. Try and try again!



FEED ME!

Once the eggs are hatched, parents work overtime trying to get all their little ones fed. But how do hatchlings make sure they get enough to eat? They use their beaks and a good set of pipes! Some bird species, like the Jackson's Golden-Backed Weaver, are able to tell one chick's call apart from the others. And juuuuust in case the parents aren't listening, the hungrier a chick gets, the longer and more high pitched its calls become.



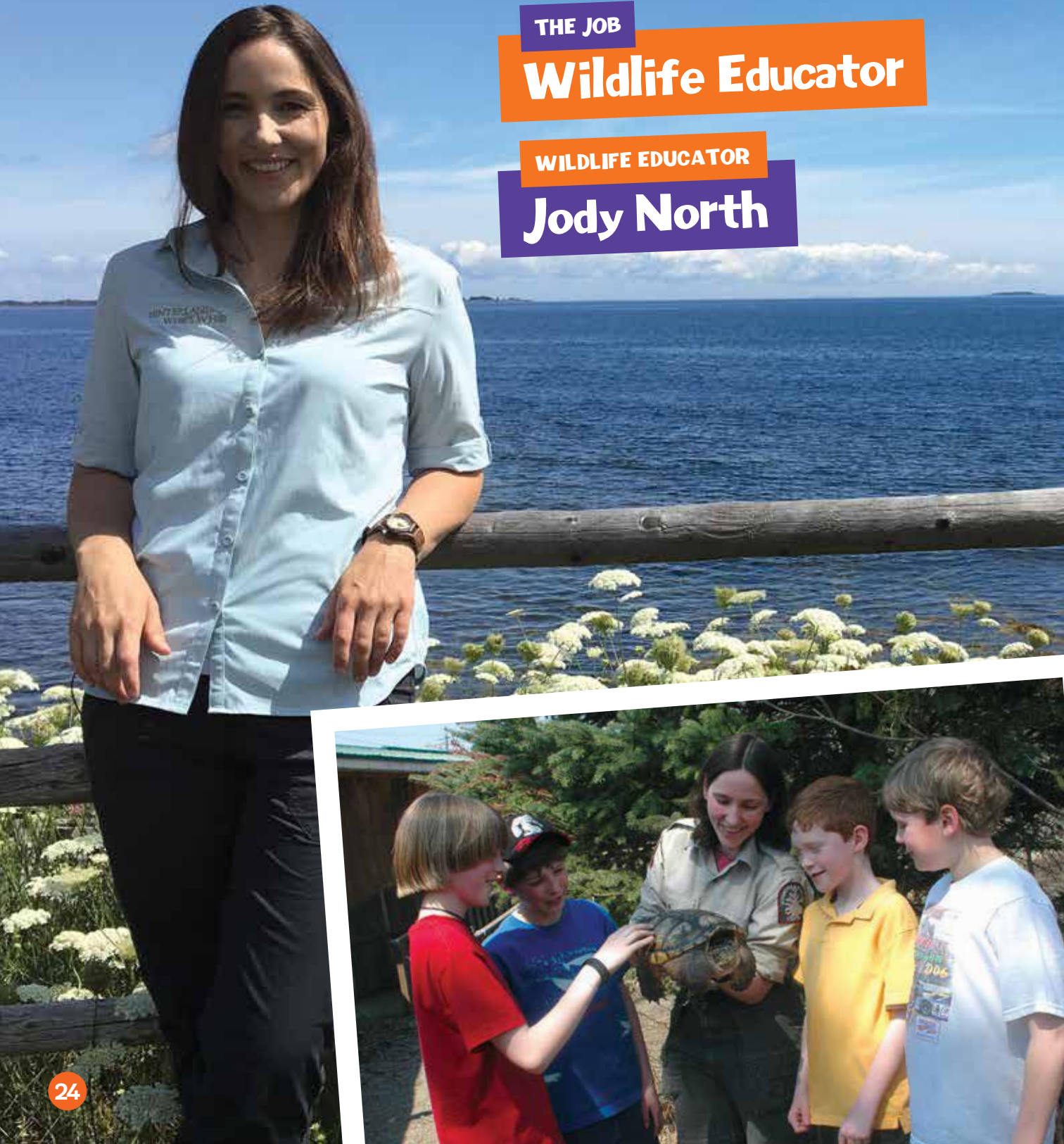
Want to Work with Wildlife?

THE JOB

Wildlife Educator

WILDLIFE EDUCATOR

Jody North



Searching for lizards in the Prairies and travelling alongside a pod of Humpback Whales is just an average (yet amazing!) day for Jody North. The host of Hinterland Who's Who has travelled all over Canada to see our country's amazing wild species and share them with all of us. Want to follow in her footsteps? Keep reading!

W: What does a wildlife educator do?

JN: Wildlife educators constantly learn up-to-date information about wildlife from scientists and research studies. Then we translate the scientific information into facts or stories that will be interesting or useful to other people. A wildlife educator is happy to teach anyone about wildlife, from toddlers to seniors. We can teach indoors or outdoors, using natural history items like antlers or nests, and when we're very lucky, we get the help of live wild animal species.

W: What's the best thing about being a wildlife educator?

JN: The best part of being a wildlife educator is discovering new information that is exciting or surprising and then sharing that information with others so they are excited too! Sometimes the new information we share with someone will help them to solve a mystery about a wild creature in their life, like what creature is living under their porch. Other times we can help someone help wildlife, like encouraging a skunk to move out from under a porch peacefully. The more we all learn about wildlife, the better we become as neighbours to those wild creatures.

W: Did you always know you wanted to be a wildlife educator? What inspired you to take this career path?

JN: I think I was a wildlife educator before I even knew what that was! Right from the beginning of my life, I have always been most comfortable outdoors. And each time I discovered something new about wildlife or nature, I had to tell anyone who would listen. I was always on a quest to find snakes, frogs, insects, worms, empty nests, tracks, dens... and I also always had a lot of pets at home. I feel that humans are part of nature too, even though sometimes we live pretty far from it, and I think that the closer we all are to nature, the happier we will naturally be.

W: As the host of Hinterland Who's Who, you're a wild educator who is often on screen. Have you always been good with being on camera? Do you have any tips on how to be more comfortable on screen?

JN: I have always liked to talk to people, even very big groups! When I was in elementary school, I loved taking part in public speaking competitions. When I talk to the camera, I don't think of it as talking to a lens or even notice the cameraperson holding it. I just think of the people listening and how I would

talk to them if they were right there. I do get a bit uncomfortable with having TV makeup put on me before we film, though, because I am not used to wearing makeup.

W: What's the craziest experience you've had on a Hinterland Who's Who shoot?

JN: I have had so many amazing experiences since I started Hinterland Who's Who that it would be hard to pick just one favourite! My top three experiences were:

- 1) Helping a team of scientists track tiny lizards in the Prairies using lizard-sniffing dogs
- 2) Travelling alongside a group of Humpback Whales while in a small zodiac boat on the way to an island covered in thousands of breeding Puffins
- 3) Tasting raw fish and Caribou, while learning from Inuit about life in the Arctic

W: Did you have any other jobs before you became the host for Hinterland Who's Who? What was that like?

JN: Before and during the time I have been hosting Hinterland Who's Who, I have had other jobs too. I was a zookeeper, a summer camp director and the creator of a wildlife education centre. My other favourite job was definitely running the wildlife centre because I got to work around over 70 rescued wild animals like Moose, eagles, Wolverines, Porcupines, beavers, opossums, wolves, owls, snakes and turtles every day! I also loved that over 40,000 people visited us every year, and they all came to learn more about wildlife!

W: If any of our WILD readers wanted to become wildlife educators, what should they study in school?

JN: If you want to be a wildlife educator, you could study science in school, but most importantly, you should spend lots of time outdoors in nature! I learned the most about wildlife while camping, hiking, canoeing, snowshoeing... and on bad-weather days, by watching nature documentaries or reading books.

You can check out Jody in action on hww.ca!

HINTERLAND
WHO'S WHO



Barn Owl

Scientific name

Tyto alba

Habitat

Barn Owls prefer wide-open spaces like agricultural lands. They rely on barns and abandoned buildings to nest. Pairs use the same nest year after year.

Appearance

Barn Owls have white, heart-shaped facial discs, long, curved bills and small, dark eyes. Female Barn Owls are 34 to 40 centimetres long, while males are smaller, at 32 to 38 cm long. Their wingspan is between 107 and 110 cm wide.

Diet

The Barn Owl has long talons that help it catch prey such as mice or voles in the long grass.

How It's Doing

The Barn Owl is listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act in Ontario, which means it lives in the wild in Ontario but is facing possible extinction.

THE BASICS

By Beth Cleave
Grade 4,
Saginaw Public School,
Cambridge, Ont.

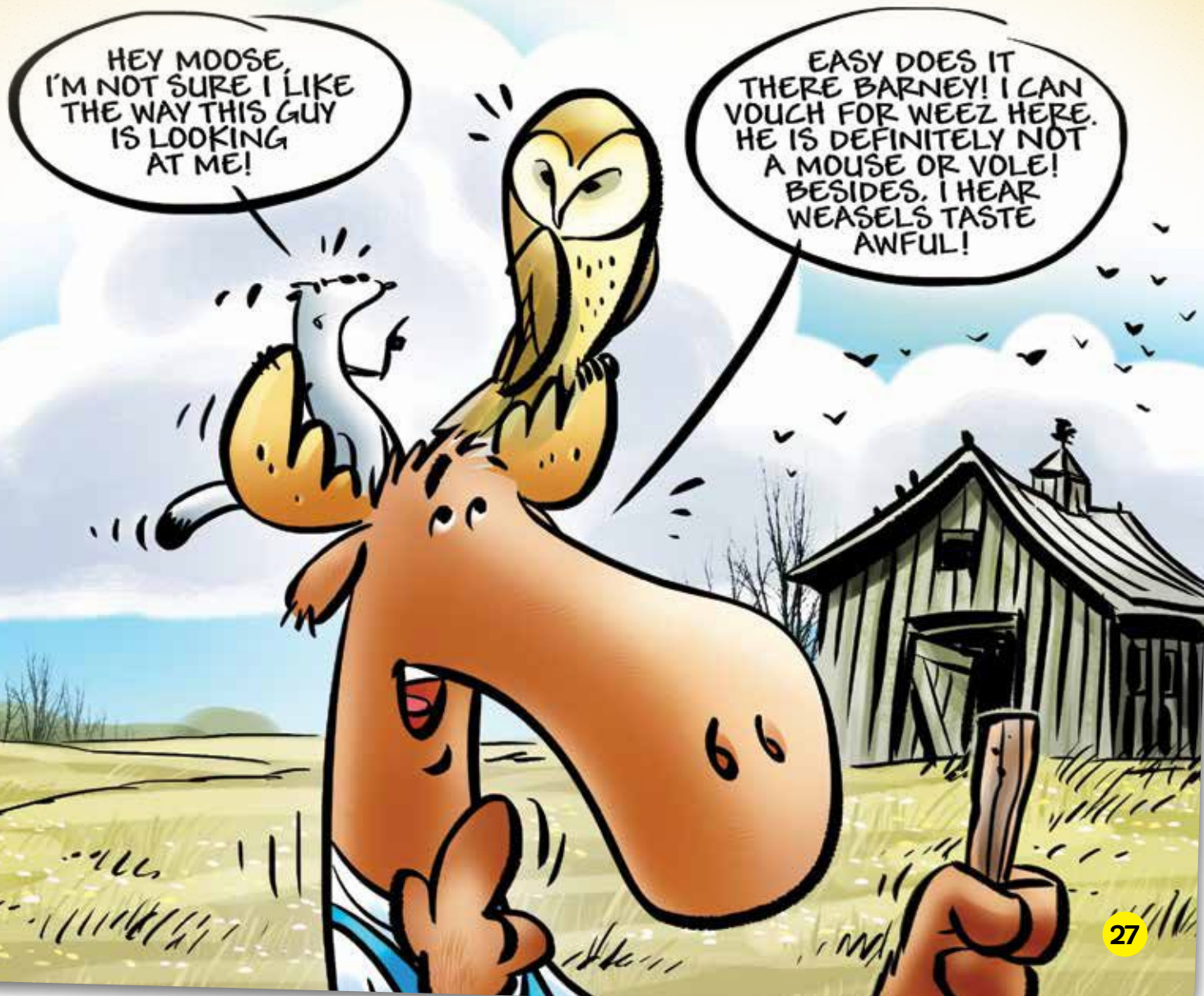
Barn Owl

Why Is It at Risk?

The Barn Owl population has decreased over the past several decades because older barns are being torn down, which is where the Barn Owls once roosted. Barn Owls are also crashing into motorized vehicles such as transport trucks and dump trucks. Shortage of food and the weather also affect their population.

What You Can Do

- If you would like to help the Barn Owl from going extinct, you could:
- Volunteer for a local nature club or provincial park to help protect endangered species
 - Donate money to a not-for-profit organization that helps endangered animals like Barn Owls
 - Minimize the amount of loud noises at nesting season so the owls can live peacefully
 - Report any sightings of a Barn Owl or possible nesting locations to the Ontario Barn Owl Recovery Project (OBORP)
 - Create habitat for the Barn Owl such as a meadow if you live on a rural property to attract wildlife and increase biodiversity





INTRODUCING MOTHER GOOSE

WHERE EXPECTING MOTHERS CAN
BE INSPIRED BY MOTHER NATURE



Are you expecting a little bundle of joy? Then make our Mother Goose program part of your experience. This program will help connect you to the natural world through all steps of your pregnancy. Month by month, we'll provide you with the inspiration to step outside, enjoy the fresh air, soak up some sunshine and let Mother Nature work her magic.



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WILD TRIVIA

Test your knowledge on animal tails!

- 1 **True or False:**
Rattlesnakes use their tails to defend themselves.
- 2 Which animal uses its tail for balance?
a) White-Tailed Deer b) Eastern Grey Squirrel c) Grizzly Bear
- 3 Which animal keeps itself warm with its tail?
a) Red Fox b) Bald Eagle c) Beaver
- 4 **True or False:**
Skunks spray from their tails.
- 5 **True or False:**
A bird's tail helps it to fly.
- 6 What allows Great White Sharks to swim so quickly?
a) Their teeth b) Their skin c) Their fins and tail



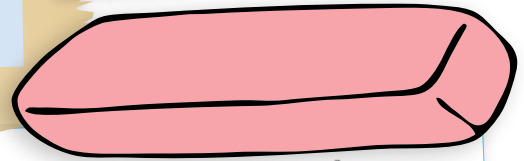
ALL ABOUT BEEHIVES

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

Can you spot these wild words?

COLONY
 HONEY
 WAX
 SWARM
 COMB

POLLEN
 QUEEN
 BROOD
 WORKER
 ROYAL JELLY



Why are frogs
 are so happy?
**They eat
 whatever
 bugs them.**



Why did
 the sea
 otter
 cross the
 road?
**To get
 to the
 otter
 side.**



How do snails fight? **They slug it out.**

What do you
 call a bee
 that's having a
 bad hair day?
Frisbee.



PROJECT

Build a Pollinator-Friendly Miniature Garden

Pollinators are animals like bees, hummingbirds and butterflies that transport pollen from one part of the plant to another so the plant can reproduce. Sadly the pollinator population is declining. You can help by giving them the ideal flower garden.

By **Samantha Benes, Grade 5
Hilson Avenue Public School, Ottawa**

What You'll Need:

- A sunny spot in your yard
- Native nectar plant seeds and native host plant seeds that are known to attract pollinators like bee balm, coneflowers, lupin, black eyed susans and milkweed (make sure you know what plants are native to your province)
- A small bowl
- ½ cup of water
- Medium sized rocks
- ¼ cup of marbles

Follow these Steps

- 1. Choose** two nectar plants and two host plants that are native to your province.
- 2. Then** dig holes that are about 6.3 millimetres deep in sunny spots.
- 3. Next,** sprinkle a few seeds inside the holes and cover the holes with dirt.
- 4. Water** your plant each day unless it rains or the instructions on the packet of seeds says not to.
- 5. Next,** place a few smooth rocks around your plants.
- 6. Now** for a spot to drink for the pollinators! Fill a shallow bowl with marbles and pour water into the bowl. Be sure to refill it when the water has evaporated.





*MOOSE AND WEASEL ONCE SUBMITTED AN ARTICLE ABOUT A FICTIONAL CREATURE CALLED A WOOSSEL - A WILD MUSHROOM EATING, HALF MOOSE, HALF WEASEL.



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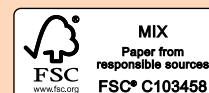
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Subscriptions: \$22 (taxes included) for one year (6 issues), \$39 for two years; \$49 per year in the U.S. and \$59 internationally. For subscriptions, donations and program information call 1-800-563-9453.

WILD is published six times per year by the Canadian Wildlife Federation. Advertising inquiries: Fred T. Ouimette, 1-800-563-9453; fredo@cwf-fcf.org. Editorial inquiries: wild@cwf-fcf.org.

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Return undeliverable Canadian addresses to: Canadian Wildlife Federation, 350 Michael Cowpland Drive, Kanata, ON K2M 2W1.



Funded by the
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WILD TRIVIA

(PAGE 30)

- 1. True.** A rattlesnake will shake its tail if it feels threatened. The sound it makes should scare off predators.
- 2. b.** The Eastern Grey Squirrel and all squirrels use their tails for balance. When they jump from great heights like a tree, their tails work as a rudder (a tool to keep them steady).
- 3. a.** The Red Fox is between 90 and 112 centimetres long. One-third of that length is its tail! When the temperatures dip, the Red Fox wraps its tail around itself for warmth.
- 4. False.** Skunks hold all their stinky fluid in a gland near their bums. And that smell? It's so strong that if the wind is blowing your way, you can smell it nearly a whole kilometre away!
- 5. True.** Birds' tail feathers are used to keep them in control of where they're flying. Essentially, their tails are like rudders!
- 6. c.** The Great White Shark swims at 60 kilometres per hour, thanks in part to its tail, which helps it move through the water.



ALL ABOUT BEEHIVES

(PAGE 31)

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

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