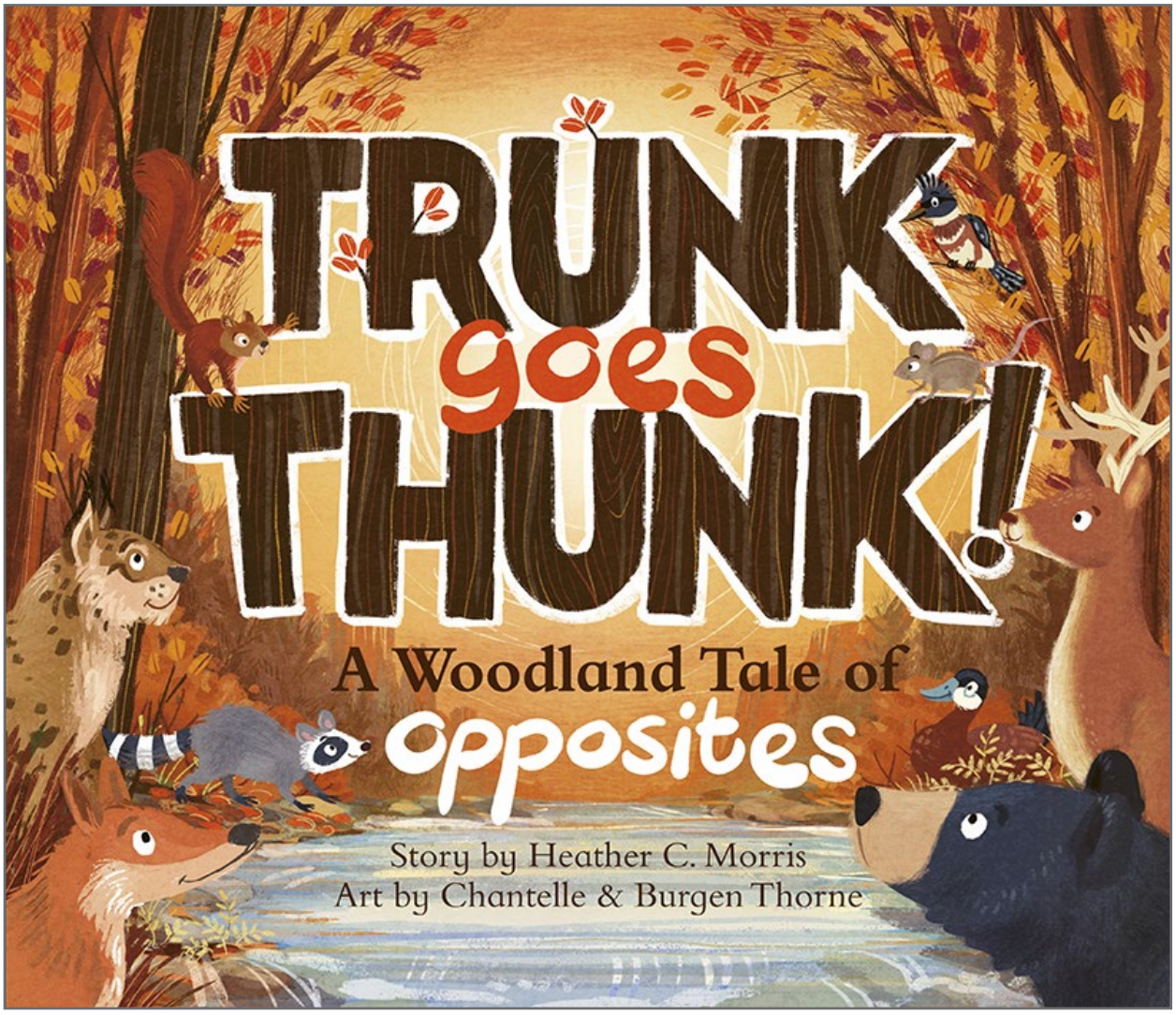
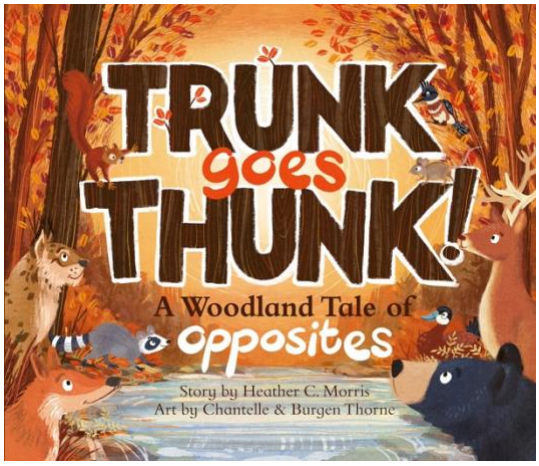
GNOME ROAD

EDUCATOR RESOURCE GUIDE





Educator Resource Guide

TRUNK GOES THUNK! A WOODLAND TALE OF OPPOSITES

Written by Heather C. Morris
Illustrated by Chantelle and Burgen Thorne

Forest animals repurpose a fallen tree as a log bridge as told through playful word opposites.

Juvenile Informational Fiction
32 Pages ~ 11 x 8.5 inches (landscape)
Grades Pre-K to 2nd ~ Ages 3-7

ISBN: 978-1-957655-29-1 (trade); ISBN: 978-1-957655-33-8 (eBook)

Key Concepts: Forests, Animals/Woodland Animals, Nature, Opposites

About the Author: Heather C. Morris writes books for kids full of science, wonder, and imagination. She is a member of SCBWI and the 12x12 picture book challenge community, and her short stories and poetry have appeared in multiple arts journals and anthologies. When she's not reading or writing, you'll find her hiking the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains with her husband, three kids, and rescued border collie. *Trunk Goes Thunk!* is her debut picture book. Connect with Heather at https://heathercmorris.com.

About the Illustrator: Chantelle and Burgen Thorne work together as an internationally-published illustration team specializing in children's books. In the last three years they have illustrated twelve trade books - two of which have won international awards. They have a long history in creating art for the educational market and their work has been featured in over 1000 readers and text books worldwide. Most recently, their work in Kantiga finds the Perfect Name was selected for the IBBY 2022 honours list for Best Illustration in South Africa. They are the illustrators of other Gnome Road Publishing titles including the award winning, *Finley: A Moose on the Caboose*, and *Science, Matter and the Baseball Park*. A fourth title, *Alpacas Make Terrible* Librarians, is also releasing with Gnome Road this year. Connect with them at https://www.chantelleandburgen.com.

Using this guide:

This educational resource guide can be used by anyone interested in sharing enthusiasm about *Trunk Goes Thunk! A Woodland Tale of Opposites* with children of all ages. If you are a teacher, librarian, home school instructor, camp counselor, or super cool parent, grandparent or guardian,

this guide is for you! Feel free to adapt the suggested learning projects and activities according to your needs, interests, time, audience, and goals.

We have done our best to provide information, discussion points, and resources that may be useful for you and your learning participants. However, this is not an exhaustive list of ideas or topics. Also, website content and accessibility is subject to change. Please review all suggested resources and websites prior to sharing them in your learning environment to ensure they meet with your individual standards and contain age-appropriate content for your participants.

This guide is broken down into two general categories: 1) learning opportunities (with associated activities) related to forest animals and natural forest changes, and 2) learning opportunities (with associated activities) related to word use and opposites. These are broad categories with overlap between subjects, and each activity will vary in complexity depending on the age of the participants. Please modify as you see fit.

Suggested learning activities can be found for each category and are intended to align with appropriate Common Core, NGSS and/or National Core Arts Standards. To inquire about additional materials or if you have questions about this guide, please view our website at: www.gnomeroadpublishing.com.

PART 1: THE COMMUNITY OF FOREST ANIMALS

Learning Opportunity #1: ***Let's talk about different types of forest animals***

- In the book, *Trunk Goes Thunk! A Woodland Tale of Opposites*, we saw a wide range of animals living in the forest. Which animals do you remember seeing in the illustrations? Which animals are mentioned in the text? Which were your favorites?
- Forest animals can be grouped into categories – birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals. Can you find at least one animal that's an example of each category? Can you find any living creatures that do not fit into one of these categories?
- Forest animals make their homes in different places, just like humans do. Can you find a few examples of animals' forest homes in the book? Can you think of others that are not in the book?
- All the animals living in forests, from the smallest insects to the largest bears, need certain things to survive. What do all animals need to survive? What kinds of food do plants eat? Insects? Deer? Bears?

Suggested Activities ~

Match the Tracks with the Animal

- We've supplied a matching worksheet at the end of this Resource Guide both to color and to match the tracks to the picture of the animal they belong to. You can step this up by drawing the tracks for you own imaginary forest animal. Think about what your new animal is like. How big is it? Does it have fur? Where does it live? Would your answers make a difference in the shape of the tracks you drew? Then share your new forest animal with others!

Bird Watch Bingo!

- *Trunk Goes Thunk!* features many different kinds of birds that live in temperate forests, from woodpeckers to eagles to ducks. Now see how many you can spot right outside your own window using the Bird Watch Bingo printable cards in the Resource Guide. Spend 10-20 minutes watching a bird feeder or in the park/on the school playground. Every time you see a certain bird (for example, a robin or a sparrow), make a mark or cover that space with a coin. If you get five covered spaces of the same bird in a row, shout BINGO!

Learning Opportunity #2: ***Let's talk about natural changes in a forest environment!***

- All forests are different (different sizes, different kinds of trees, different animals) and there are different types of forests. The setting for this book was a temperate forest. What are some other kinds of forests? How are these other types of forests different than temperate forests?
- Temperate forests experience four seasons. Can you name all the seasons? What changes can you see in the illustrations of the book for each season?
- In *Trunk Goes Thunk!*, an older tree falls across a stream, making a natural log bridge for animals to use to cross. Old or dead trees are an important part of the forest ecosystem. Dead trees are called "snags," and provide homes for hundreds of different creatures. What kinds of animals, insects, or even plants and fungi live on logs?
- Some changes always occur in an *ecosystem* like a forest. For example, seasons change, the amount of water changes, the temperature changes, and trees lose their leaves. Big changes happen also – wildfires, storms, and invasive species that can take over. But there are changes that are directly due to the impact of people on forests and other ecosystems. Can you think of some changes/impacts that humans have had on forests? On rivers? On the air? On the oceans?

Suggested Activities ~

Take a nature-observation hike

- Being outside in nature can spark creativity, especially if you ask questions and pay close attention. Plan a hike or time outside for your class (if you are with other learning participants) on a nice, sunny day and take along a notebook. As a group (or individually if you like) write down a few questions to answer about the natural environment. What do you notice on the hike? Do you see any trunks that have gone THUNK! If you can't go on a hike yourself, take a few minutes to watch the video that inspired *Trunk Goes Thunk!* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DhYT2iQO_r4] What kinds of animals use log bridges in the wild? What was your favorite part of the video? Did you learn something new about forests or the animals that live in them?

Color the Seasons

- Included in the Educator Resource Guide is a coloring sheet featuring illustrations from the book, *Trunk Goes Thunk! A Woodland Tale of Opposites,* that highlight the changing seasons. You can color these worksheets with the colors that would be

found in each of the different seasons. On the back, write down the answers to these questions. Can you identify what changes in the forest from season to season? Are the animals different? The trees? How is the water different? How does the sky and the weather change?

PART II: LANGUAGE AND WORD OPPOSITES

Learning Opportunity #1: *Let's talk about language!*

- Words can make us think about things in a new way or feel different emotions. What words stood out to you in *Trunk Goes Thunk?* What were your favorites?
- The book, *Trunk Goes Thunk! A Woodland Tale of Opposites*, not only features forests and a variety of animals, but it also highlights many unique ways to use language. Words like "thunk," "whoosh," "burble," and "plunk" are fun to say, *and* they sound like what they mean. Those words are called *onomatopoeia*. Can you think of other words that sound like what they mean? Can you make up your own onomatopoeia word?
- Letters are the building blocks of words. When you combine letters in different ways, you make different words. And words are the building blocks for books. Can you find every letter of the alphabet in the book *Trunk Goes Thunk?* Are any letters missing? Can you think of words that begin with the missing letters that could fit with the theme of the book?

Suggested Activities ~

Finish the "Alphabet Trunk"

- We talked about letters as the building blocks of words and now it's your turn to build your own bridge to connect one side of the room with the other…using letters! Use flashcards with the letters of the alphabet or write each letter on a separate sheet of paper. Mix up the letters and give one letter to each learning participant. Now start a timer and race to see how quickly everyone can sort themselves into the correct order of the alphabet from one side of the room to the other. (If you are doing this activity outside of a group, you can mix up the letters and place them in order from one side of a room to another – and time yourself to see how fast you can do it.)

The Trunk-Thunk Word Chain Game

- The words "trunk" and "thunk" only have one letter that is different. Which letter is that? A word chain is a list of words that you can make by changing one letter at a time. Start by writing the word "Trunk" at the top of a small whiteboard. Write "Thunk" under it. Now change one letter – only one – to make a new word. When you have a new word, take turns changing one letter at a time (you can also make a word chain on your own – just keep changing one letter at a time on your own whiteboard.) See how long you can make your word chain!
-

Learning Opportunity #2: *Let's talk about word opposites*

- What did you learn about opposites from reading *Trunk Goes Thunk?* Did you learn anything new? Did you already know a few of the opposite pairs?

- Opposites are a useful way to describe the world around us. And scientists use them, along with exact measurements, to make observations about plants, animals, weather, stars, and much, much more. What kinds of measurements do you think a scientist would make? What kinds of tools would she use to measure something (for example, the temperature outside)? Do you think you might want to be a scientist one day?
- Many opposite words are also *prepositions*. For example, "over," "under", "out," and "in" are all prepositions that describe where one thing is in relation to another thing. How many of those words can you find in *Trunk Goes Thunk?* Can you think of other opposites that are prepositions?

Suggested Activities ~

Opposite Charades!

- See how many pairs of opposites you can get your team to guess using only your acting skills! This activity is best done with a group. Divide into two groups or play with one large group. Choose someone to go first and to act out a pair of opposites (for example, wet and dry), using NO words. That person's team (or the large group, if playing with one group) all tries to guess. Once someone guesses the correct opposite pair, they take the next turn and act out another opposite pair. Set a timer and see how many correct answers you can get before it goes off!

Opposite Word Search

- Included in the Educator Resource Guide is a word search worksheet featuring opposite words from the book, *Trunk Goes Thunk! A Woodland Tale of Opposites,* along with other, common opposite pairs. Which opposite words are found in the text? Which ones are new? Connecting back to the section about forest animals, which animals are on the pages with the opposite pairs you found?

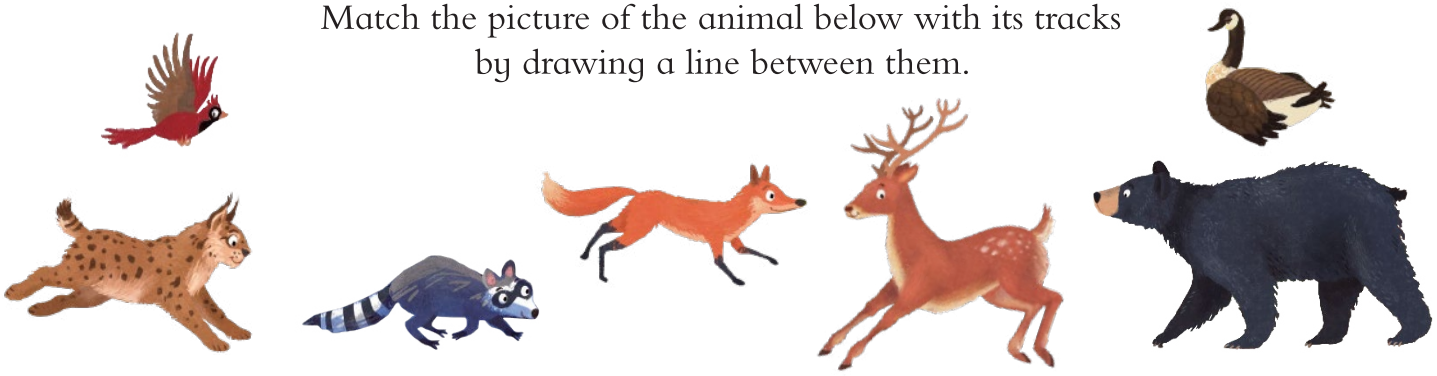
For additional information and fun resources on these topics:

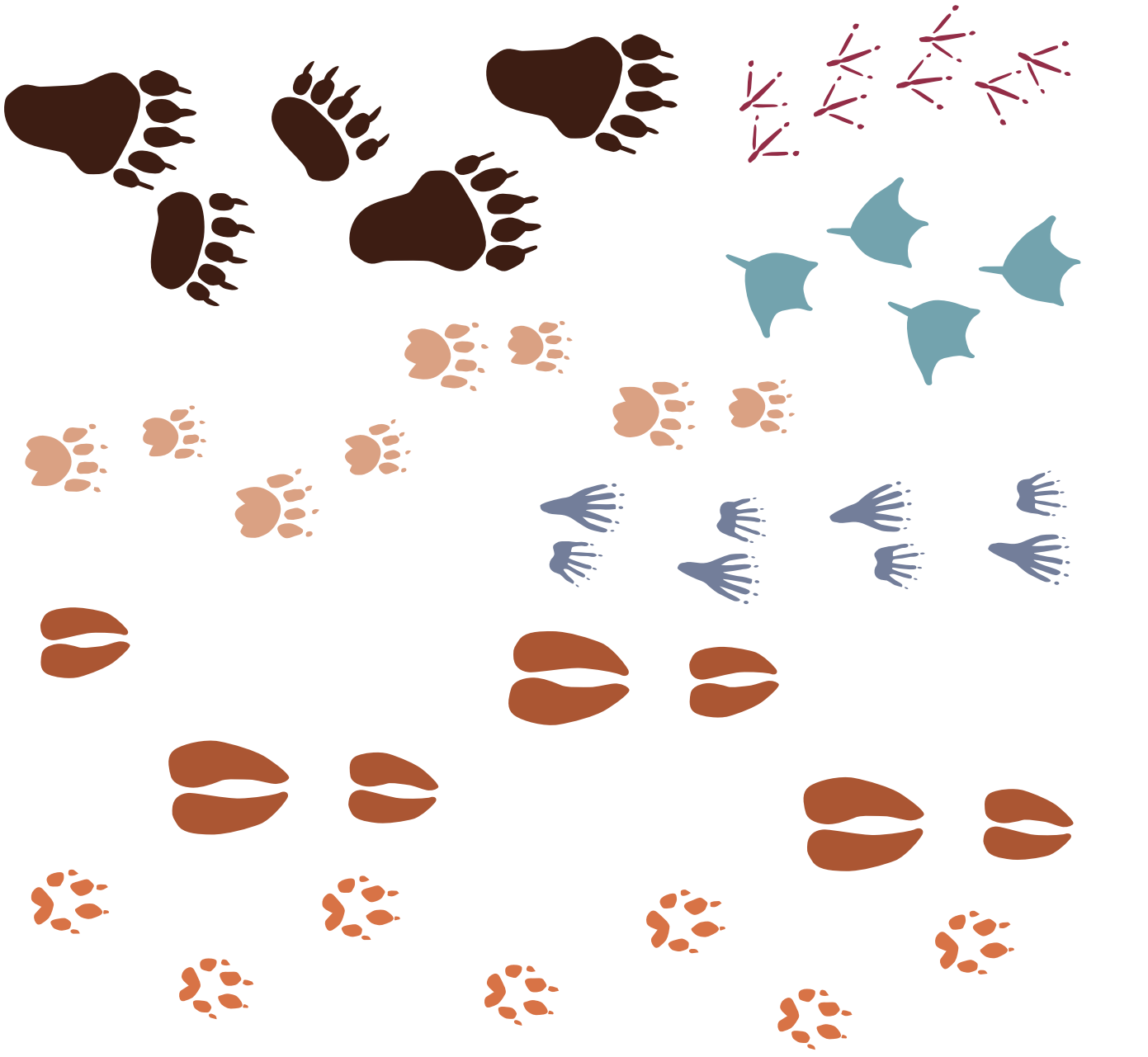
Websites About Forest Animals and Different Types of Forests:
www.ScienceTrek.org
www.Kids.NationalGeographic.com

Websites Opposites and Onomotopeaia:
www.OppositesGame.com
www.OppositeWordsForKids.com
www.ImaginationSoup.net
www.Twinkl.com

Match the Animal Tracks

Match the picture of the animal below with its tracks by drawing a line between them.





Bird Watch Bingo

Fill your bingo card with names and pictures of birds that live in your area. Mark them as you see them and shout out BINGO! when you get five in a row.

		FREE SPACE		

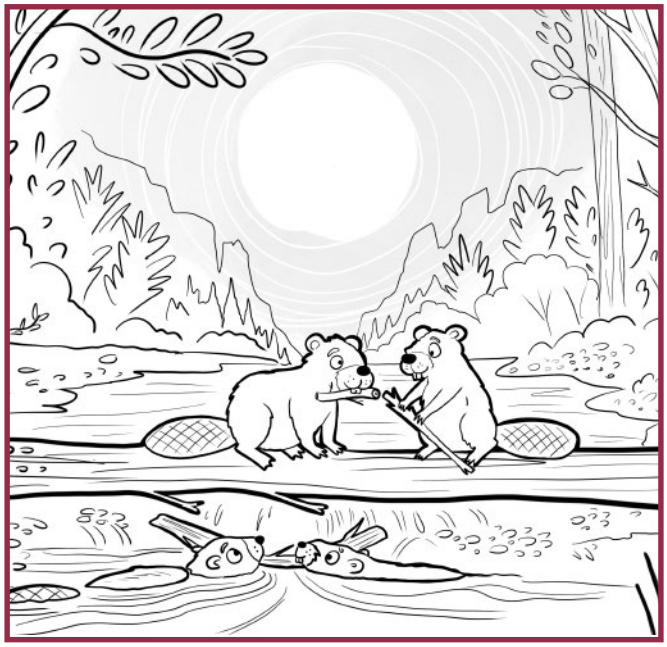
Color the Seasons

Winter

Spring

Summer

Fall



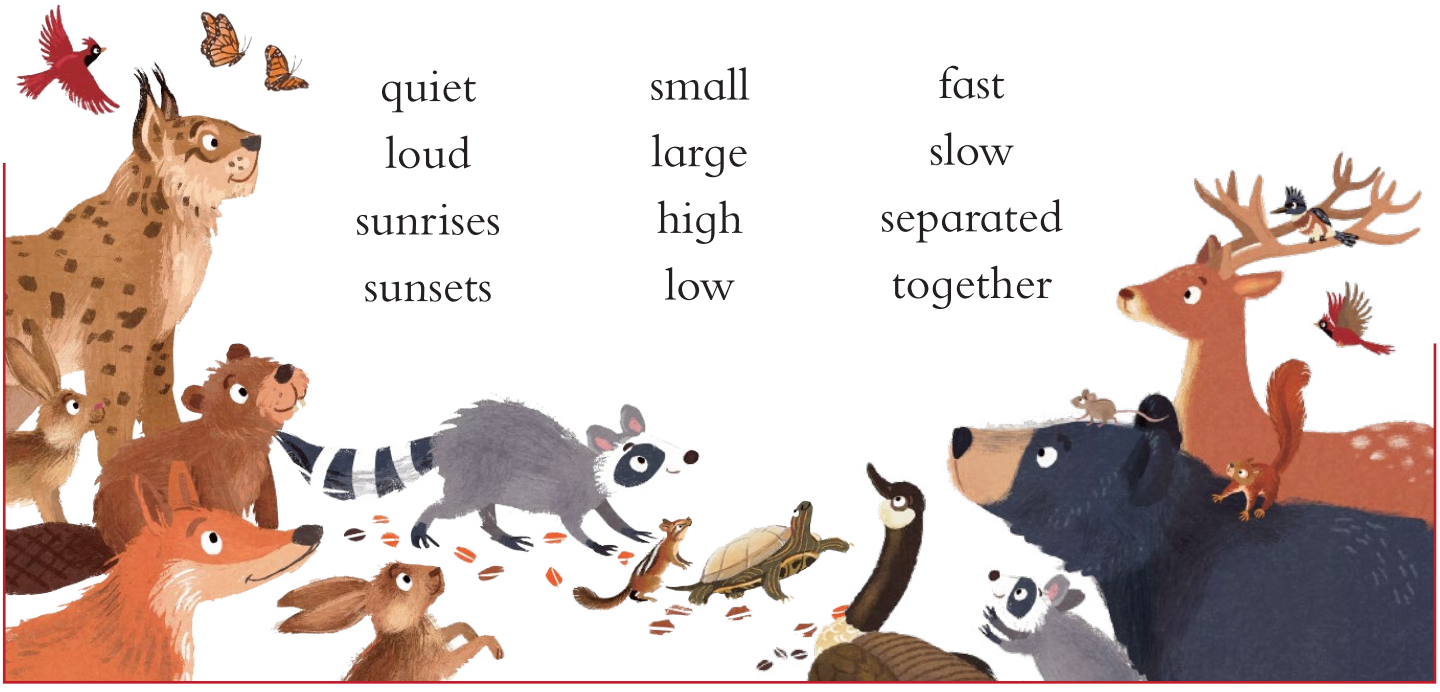
Opposites Word Search

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

quiet
loud
sunrises
sunsets

small
large
high
low

fast
slow
separated
together



Opposites Word Search

Answer Key

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

quiet
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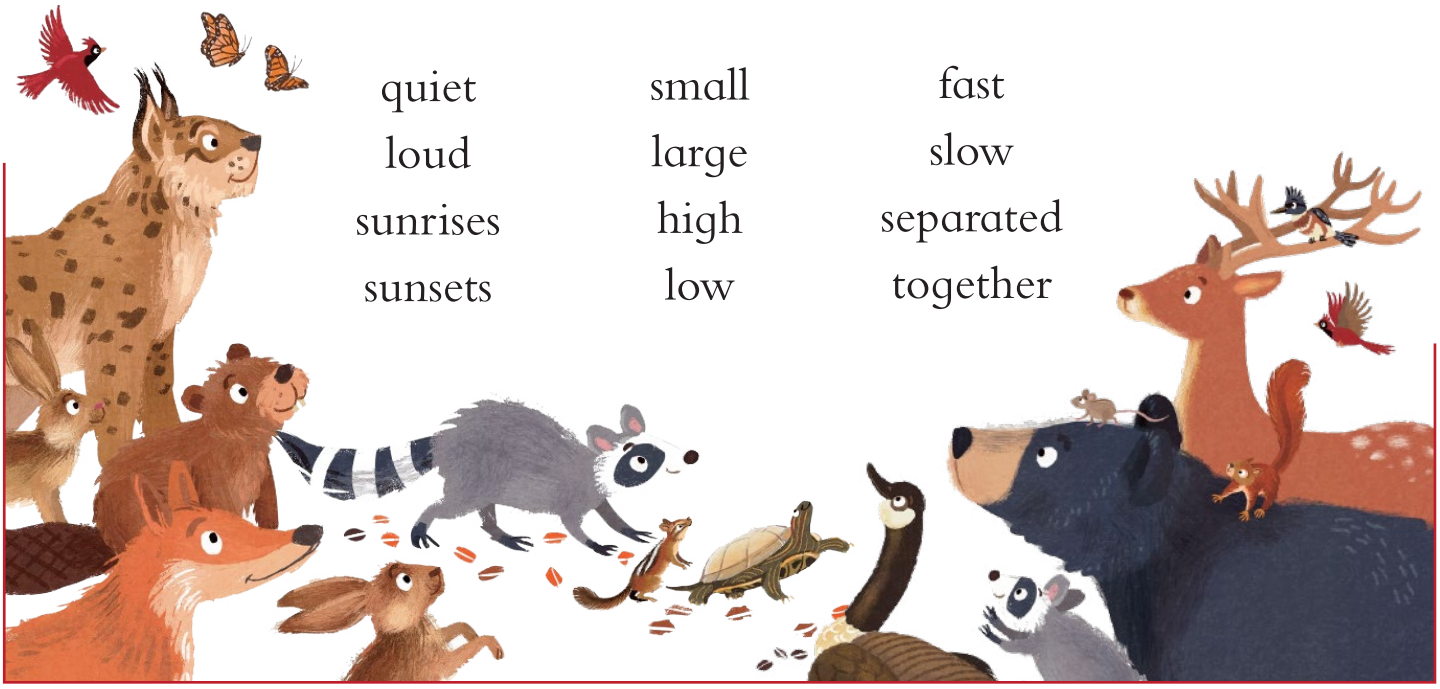
fast
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