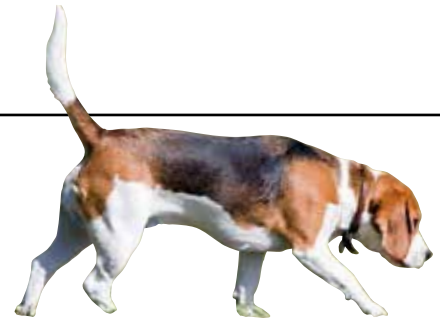


Name: _____

Talking About Tails

By Guy Belleranti



Tails help animals in many ways.

When a cat runs or jumps, its tail provides balance. A squirrel's tail provides balance when the squirrel climbs trees.

Giraffe tails are small for the animal's size. They do not provide much balance. But guess what? They make great bug swatters!

Spider monkeys have long tails. Their tails act like an extra hand. They can wrap

Fish, alligator, and beaver tails help the animals swim fast. They also help them steer.

Foxes and red pandas have bushy tails. These tails help the animals stay warm.

Rattlesnakes rattle their tails to say "stay away." White-tailed deer flash their tails when danger is near.

Last but not least is many people's



Preview

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2. Which two animals does the article say use their tails to keep warm?

_____ and _____.

3. Reread the second paragraph of the article.

When a cat runs or jumps, its tail provides balance. A squirrel's tail provides balance when the squirrel climbs trees.

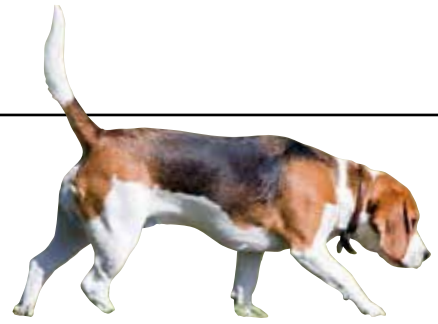
What is the best definition for the underlined word?

- a. the ability to be steady and not fall
- b. the ability to jump high
- c. the ability to run fast
- d. the ability to fly

4. Based on the article, which is the most likely reason you'd see a giraffe swinging its tail?

- a. It is happy.
- b. It is trying to get bugs away.
- c. It is alerting other giraffes of danger.
- d. It is trying to balance on its hind legs.

ANSWER KEY



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Rattlesnakes rattle their tails to say "stay away." White-tailed deer flash their tails when danger is near.

Last but not least is many people's favorite tail of all: the dog's. A pet dog's

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