Valle de Oro

National Wildlife Refuge

Junior Ranger Activity Booklet

Welcome to Valle de Oro!

Welcome to Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). Valle de Oro is one of hundreds of National Wildlife Refuges in the United States. National Wildlife Refuges are protected areas for animals. They provide habitat: food, water, shelter, and space that animals need to be wild. They also provide places for wildlife to rest as they move, or migrate, from area to area.

Wildlife refuges are for people too! They give people like us places to learn about and enjoy nature. The land that is now Valle de Oro is the ancestral homeland of indigenous/native people including those from the Pueblo of Isleta. The land was also used as a dairy farm, where cows were raised to provide products like milk and cheese, and the fields were cultivated with alfalfa and grasses for livestock.

There is a lot of work being done at Valle de Oro, and in a few years the land will look very different. People working on the refuge have just begun projects to change the land from farm fields to ponds, marshes and meadows. These new habitats will be good for many kinds of animals including coyotes, porcupines, birds, amphibians, reptiles, and more! People are also building trails and a visitor center, so there will be lots of opportunities for you and your families to come and enjoy the land.
We hope you have fun and learn a lot today!

DIRECTIONS:

How to become a Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge Junior Ranger

- If you're 0~5-years-old, complete 3 activities
- 6~10-years-old, complete 5 activities
- 11~111-years-old, do all activities

If you're older than 111-years-old, you deserve a Junior Ranger badge just for being you

Once you have completed your mission give your booklet to a volunteer or Valle de Oro NWR ranger at the Welcome Center (Monday - Friday 8:30 - 4:00, Saturday 8:30 - 12:00).
We'll give you a badge and induct you into the Junior Rangers!

What Makes a Habitat?

Choose 4 things all living creatures need to survive:

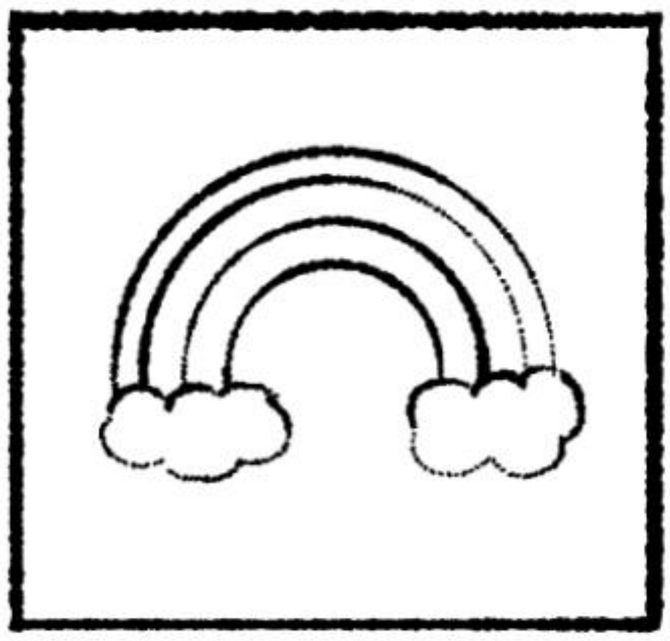
CELL PHONE

WATER

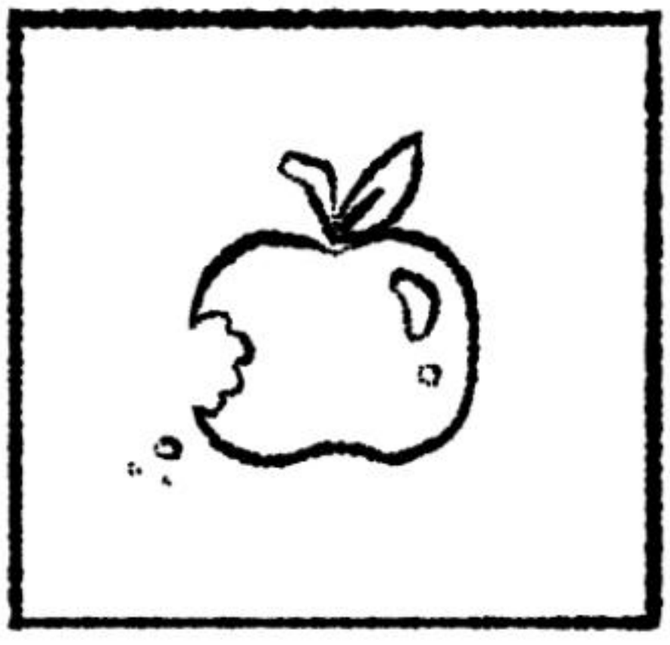
MOUNTAINS

RIVERS

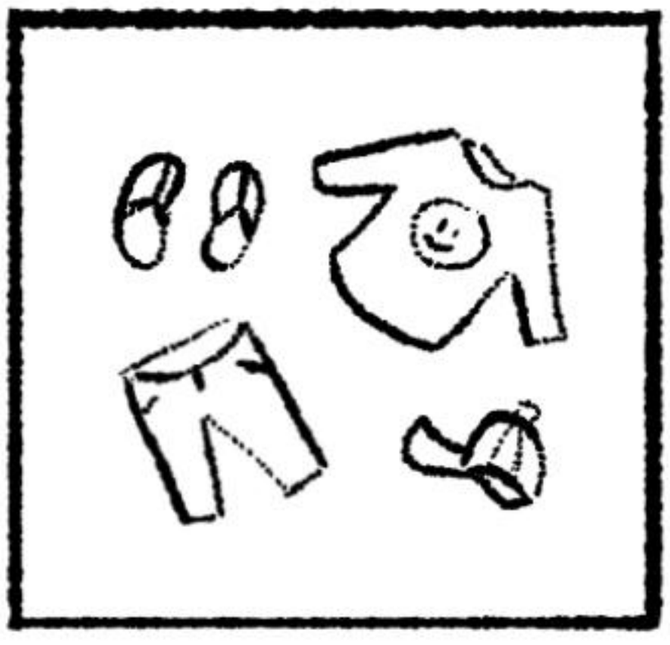
SHELTER/HOME



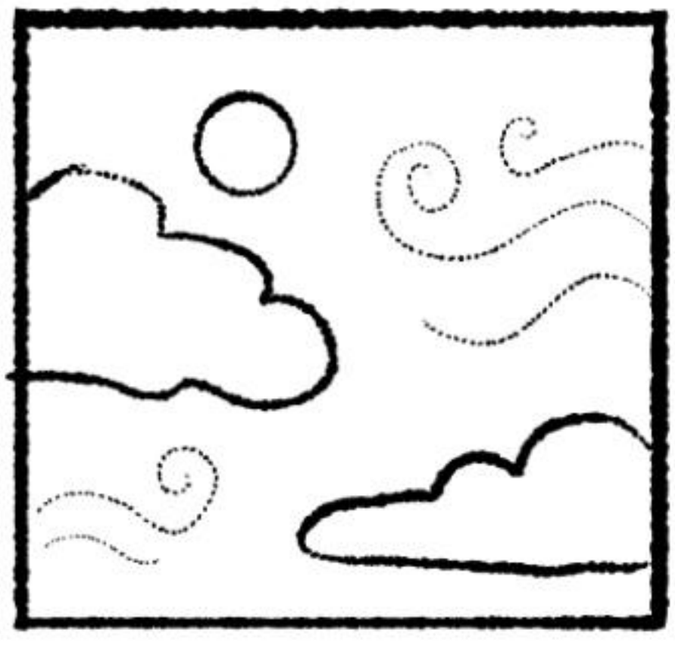
RAINBOWS



FOOD



CLOTHING



SPACE/AIR

Word Search

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

BIRDWATCHING
BOSQUE
COTTONWOOD
DESERT
FISHING
GRASS
HIKING
POLLINATOR
REFUGE
TRAIL
WATERFOWL
WILDLIFE
WILLOW

What Valle de Oro animal am I ... ?

-I am a large, slow rodent
-I eat twigs, roots, stems, berries, and bark
-My defense system is made of keratin
(like your nails and hair!)
-My name means "thorn pig"

-I'm an omnivorous (eating both animal
and plant foods) mammal found across the U.S.
-I'm at home in the forest... and the city!
-I sometimes wash my food in
rivers with my front paws
-I have a black "mask" and a ringed tail

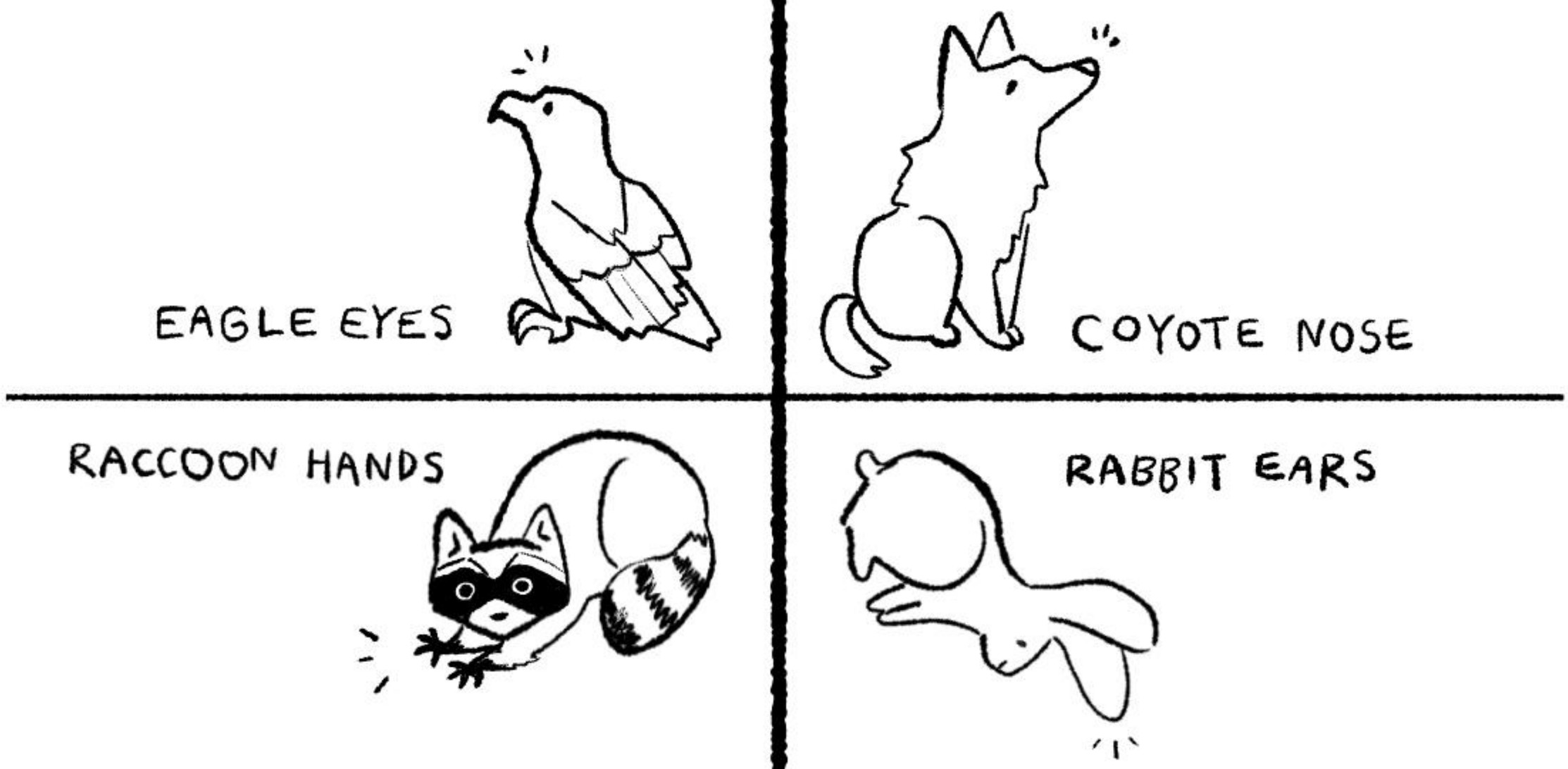
-I am able to fly, but spend most
of my time on the ground
-I belong to the cuckoo family (Cuculidae)
-I nest in cactuses and bushes
-I can run at a speed of about 20 mph
-I am New Mexico's state bird

-I am a mammal with a long, heavily furred tail
-I primarily eat insects, but may eat other animals
-Besides birds of prey, I have few natural predators
-I am infamous for my smell

DRAW ME!

Explore and Observe

Take 5 minutes and use your senses to make observations of the world around you!



Animal Report

Draw an animal you see at the refuge, including its habitat.

Some things to think about:

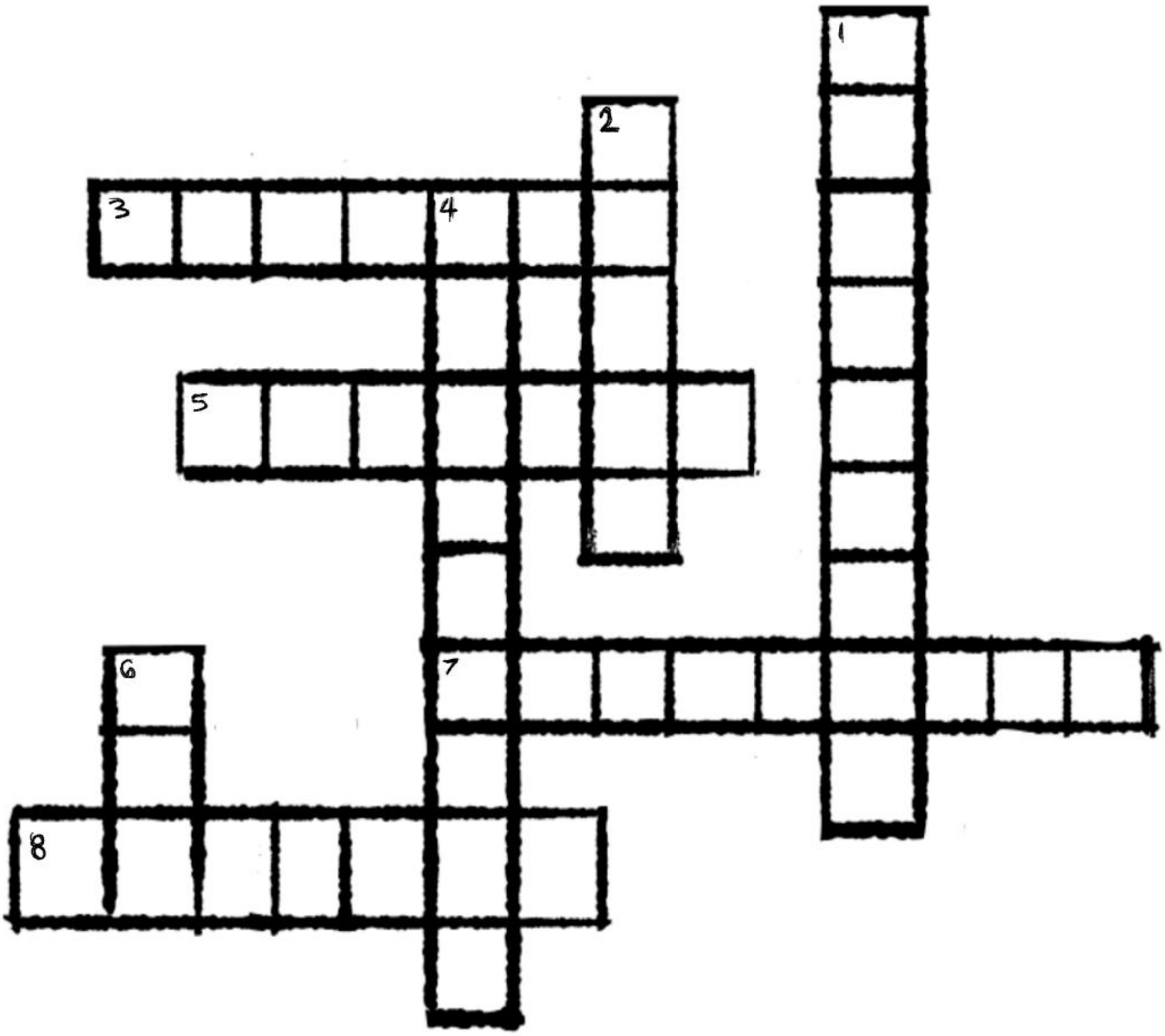
What kind of habitat does your animal live in?

What does it like to eat? When is it active (night, day, dawn/dusk)?

List three observations about the animal.

Find out something new and write it down!

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

3. A kind of plant grown for grazing animals to eat; has the letter "A" three times

5. A small raptor from the genus *Falco,* searches for prey by hovering in the air

7. The name of the river that flows west of Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

8. An area in which water covers the ground all or part of the time

DOWN

1. Animals that sleep during the day, and are active at night are _____

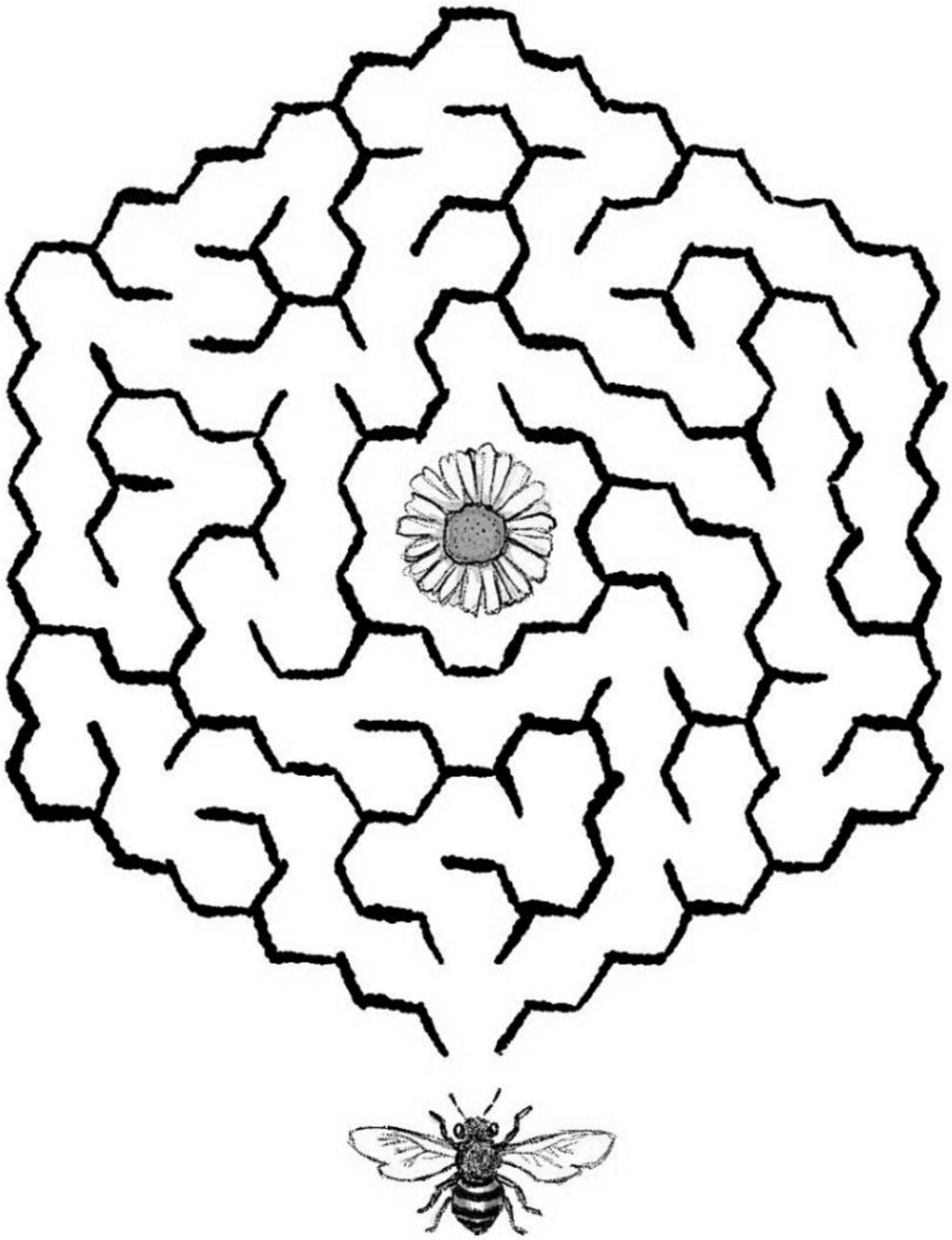
2. Animals need these four things to survive: space, food, shelter, and _____

4. Leaving trash where it doesn't belong is called _____

6. A small, striped insect which pollinates flowers

Pollinator Maze

A pollinator is an animal that moves pollen from flower to flower.
This allows plants to produce fruit and seeds. Some animals that help pollinate include hummingbirds, bats, beetles, bees, shrews, and butterflies.



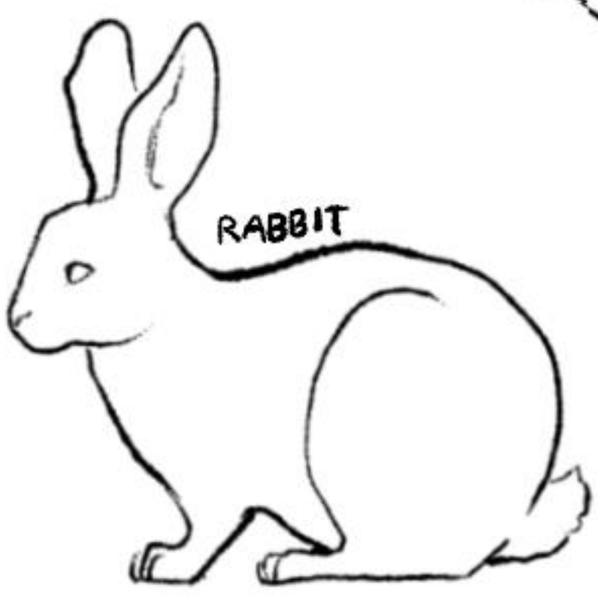
One of three bites of food depends on bees for pollination

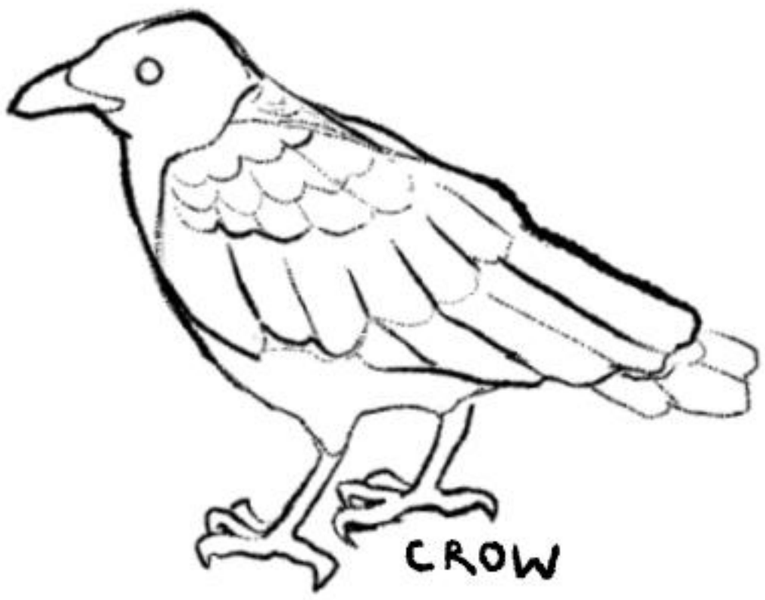
Without pollinators we wouldn't have chocolate

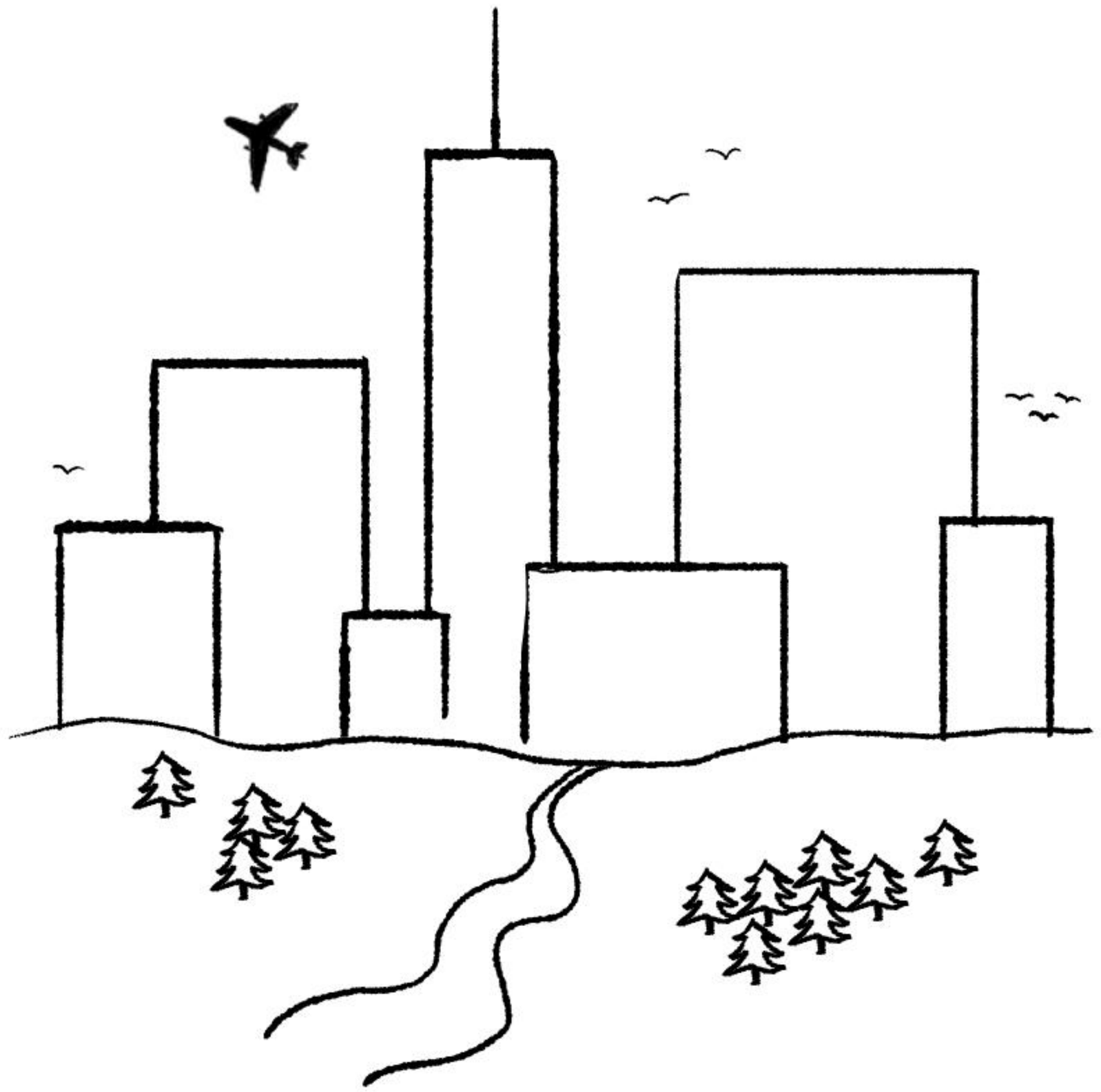
New Mexico has more than 500 species (types) of native bees

There are over 200,000 species of pollinators worldwide

Print Matching







Thank you for visiting an

Urban Wildlife Refuge!

Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge is an Urban Wildlife Refuge, meaning we're a few minutes away from downtown Albuquerque. We're your backyard! Come again.

BONUS ACTIVITY:

Being an Urban Wildlife Refuge means that we're close to the city, cars, trains, and planes.

How many trains do you hear? _____

How many planes do you hear? _____

Answer Key

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Word Search

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

BIRDWATCHING
BOSQUE
COTTONWOOD
DESERT
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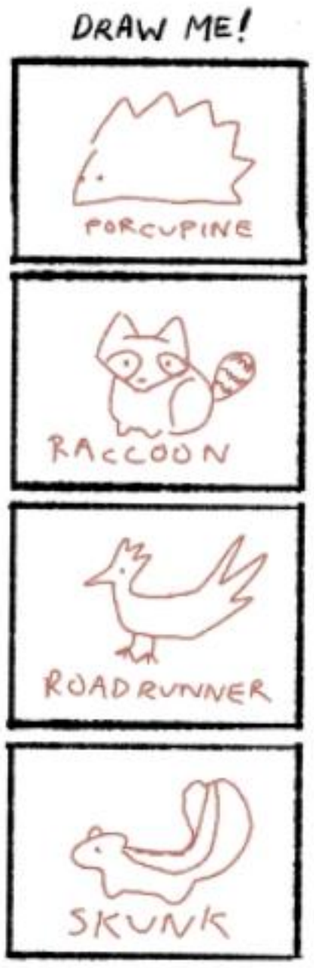

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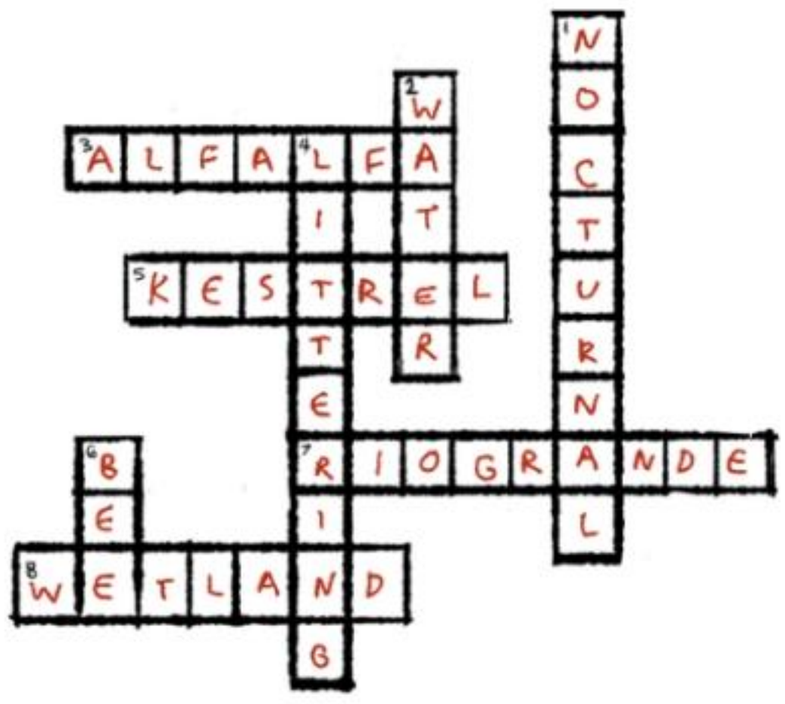

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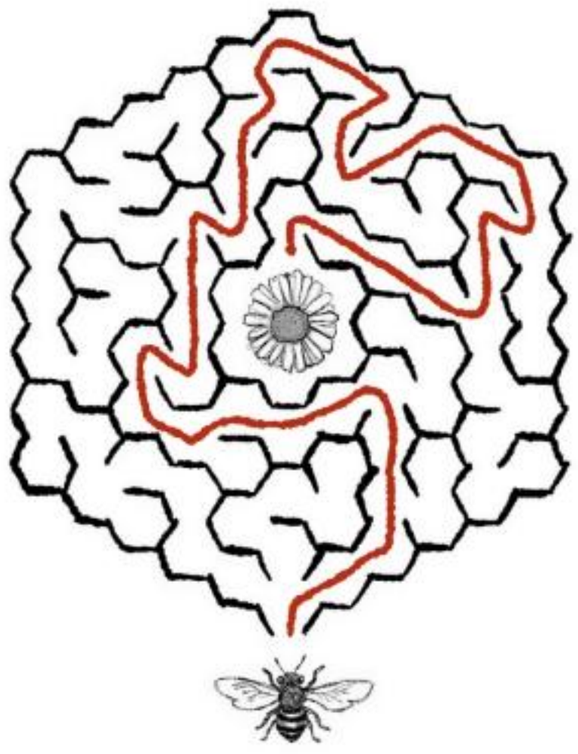

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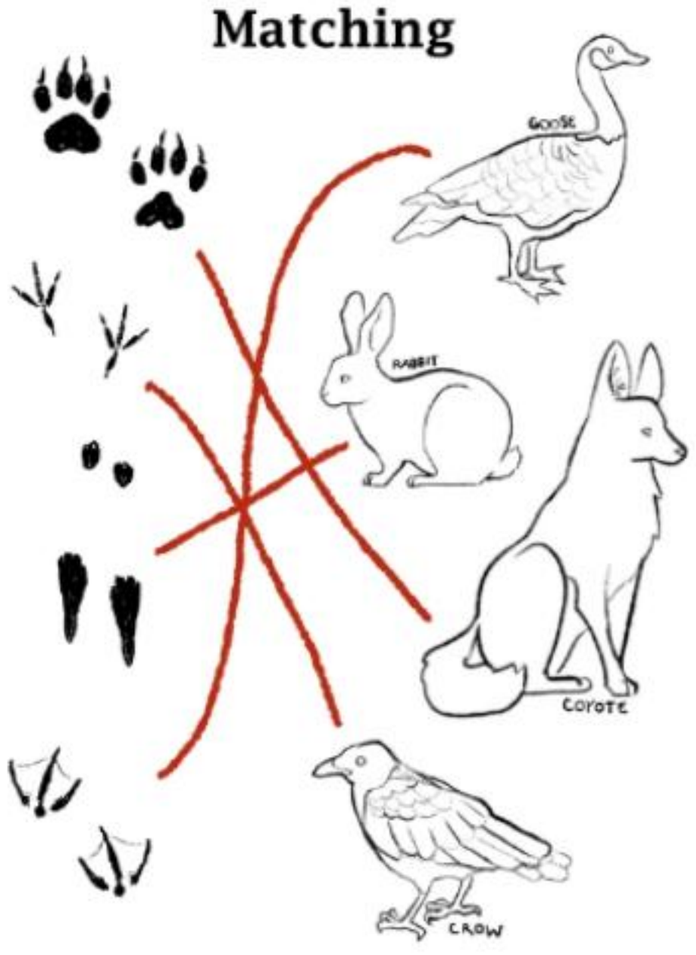
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