



Create a New Species for Ages 5-12

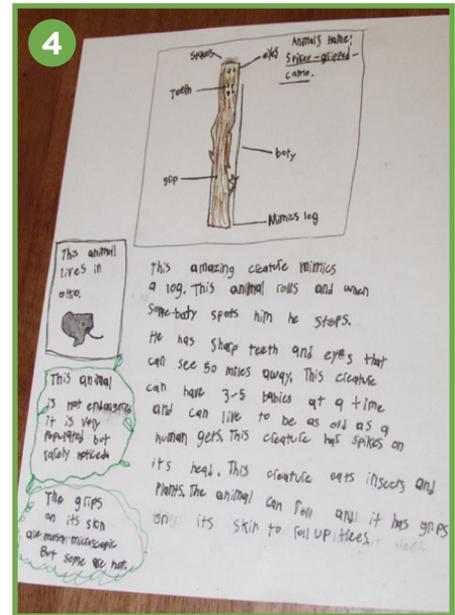
Expand your creativity & problem solving skills by creating a new species that lives in your neighborhood.

ITEMS YOU WILL NEED:

Natural materials (sticks, mud, grass) or upcycled materials (bottles, paper rolls, fabric)

OPTIONAL EXTRAS:

Glue, paper, and drawing tools



- 1. Collect body parts:** Search for items in your outdoor space that will help your species camouflage, catch food, or move around. Think about an animal you've seen and what features that animal has to help it stand out or blend in. Will this new species have big ears, claws or another special adaptation to help it survive?
- 2. Design and plan:** Decide which body parts are useful and where to place them to help your animal thrive. What does it eat? How does it move? How does it protect itself?
- 3. Assemble and modify:** Piece together these selected parts. You may decide that some items are too heavy or don't work well. That's okay! You can replace some heavy parts (sticks) with lighter parts (stems) or change how your animal moves. You decide what's important and what this animal needs.
- 4. Write a life history page:** Think about what you've seen in nature guide books and write your own version. Can you give your species a name, habitat, and role in the food chain? Highlight an interesting fact. For example, if it eats mail, lives in gutters, or flies sideways, people will want to know about that. Take a picture and share it on [Instagram](#) with us [@cincynature](#).

TO FURTHER EXTEND THIS ACTIVITY:

Have some fun dancing to this [song](#) about animal parts or learn about [mimicry](#) and [camouflage](#) from these fun videos by Scishow Kids to get some creature building inspiration!