



Animal Abilities Self-portrait

Animals have developed physical adaptations in order to have the best chance of survival in their native habitats. These adaptations lead to the body parts of some animals becoming specialized over time, giving them physical features that help them thrive but aren't found in all other animals in that environment!

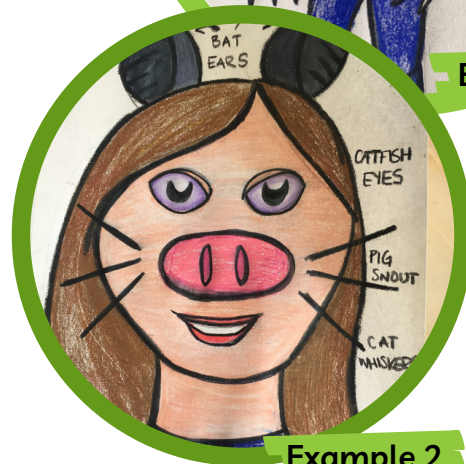
Materials: Activity sheet, pencil, animal body part examples, mirror (optional)

Directions:

- 1** Circle the animal body parts on the *Animal Body Parts* sheets or make a list of which animal features you want to swap out for your own. Think about what abilities you want to have when choosing your features. Do you want to be able to see at night? Or pinpoint where noises are coming from? Pick your new features wisely!
- 2** Next, decide if you want to do a full-body portrait or just the head, and draw an outline.
Tip: Draw everything in lightly, until you are happy with how it looks, then draw the lines a little darker. This makes it is easier to erase and get just right!
- 3** Start adding in your body parts! You can start with the animal features you are swapping out for your own, or with your human features, it's up to you.
Tip: Use a mirror to get your human features just right.
- 4** Now it's time to add the other body parts. If you started with the animal features, it's time to add your human body parts or vice versa.
- 5** Write a few sentences on why you chose the features you did. Do they give you abilities you always wanted to have? How do these new abilities reflect your personality? What would change in your life with these new abilities?
- 6** Share your super-human portrait with friends, family and the BC SPCA humane education team!



Example 1



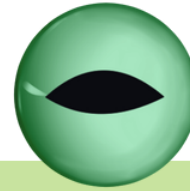
Example 2

Animal Body Parts

Eyes



Vertical Slit Pupils - found in small ambush predators that hunt close to the ground like cats, foxes and crocodiles. The slit pupil allows for more light to be let into the eye- allowing them to hunt in a variety of light conditions.



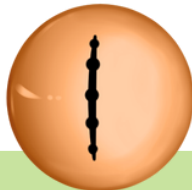
Horizontal Slit Pupils- found in prey-like animals like some frogs, toads, snakes and octopuses. The horizontal slit allows the animal to spot vertical motion by predators and allows in plenty of light for day and night foraging.



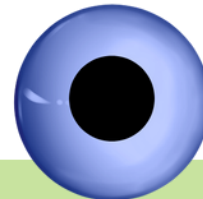
Horizontal, oblong-shaped pupils - found in prey animals such as sheep, goats and horses. These pupils provide a wide field of view, allowing animals to watch for predators. They also aid in a quick escape.



Crescent Pupils - found in stingrays, flatfish and some catfish. The shape enhances vision by decreasing the effects of distortion in the water and providing a wide field of view to look out for predators or prey.



Vertical Beaded Pupils - found in geckos and some fish. These pupils decrease to very thin vertical slits with multiple pinholes in bright light. The "beads" work together to help the gecko perceive distance and help with hunting in various environments.



Round Pupils - found in larger predators like wolves, dogs and big cats that mostly hunt in daylight. Round pupils means the field of view isn't very wide but as top predators their vision isn't required to help them flee attack.

Animal Body Parts

Ears



Cats' ears have more than 30 muscles and can rotate up to 180 degrees, allowing them to hear better than dogs. They're also a good indicator of mood.



Most species of owls have one ear placed more forward and one placed higher than the other. The difference in the placement of their ears allows them to pinpoint exactly where a sound is coming from.



Rabbit ears can rotate 270 degrees and independently of each other so they can pay attention to different sounds at once. Rabbits also use their ears to regulate their body temperature.



An elephant's ears give them amazing hearing and also help keep them cool. The large surface area and thinness of the ears helps regulate the mammal's body temperature.



A horse's ears can detect sound and determine where it is coming from, which is essential to the protection of the herd, as one horse will act as lookout for the group.



Bat ears can hear frequencies almost 10 times the upper limit of humans and allow them to navigate using echolocation.



Floppy or upright, dogs' ears can hear higher frequencies than humans.



Rats are particularly good at pinpointing the exact location of where a sound is coming from, due to their ears being so close together.

Animal Body Parts

Mouth and Nose

Avian Beaks



Small bill

Small beaks are an adaptation used to help an animal pick up and eat small items like seeds and insects.



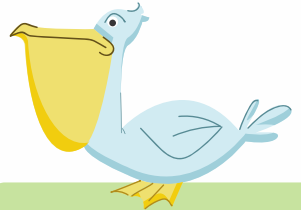
Hooked Beaks

Hooked beaks are an adaptation found in predatory birds designed for fatally biting prey and tearing flesh.



Needle-like Bill

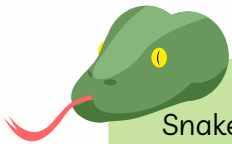
Thin needle-like bills are an adaptation found in birds to help an animal eat hard-to-reach food items like nectar or bugs in bark.



Large Beak

Large beaks are an adaptation used to help an animal eat larger items and can be found on both carnivores and herbivores.

Snouts



Reptilian

Snakes don't actually have noses like we do. They have nostrils for breathing but snakes actually smell with their tongues. When a snake sticks out its tongue, it's smelling its surroundings!



Canine

A dog's nose is estimated to be between 100,000 and 100 million times more sensitive than a human's.



Feline

Felines have 200 million scent receptors in their nasal cavities! But they don't have as many taste receptors as humans. It is smell - not flavor - that attracts them to food.



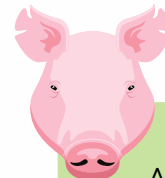
Elephantine

A fusion of the nose and upper lip, the trunk is a versatile tool used for breathing, smelling, touching, grasping and producing sound.



Equine

A horse's range of smell is better than that of humans. Horses use their sense of smell instead of their eyesight to identify other horses, people, predators and feedstuffs.



Porcine

A pig's snout is a useful and powerful tool for digging and manipulating objects. They also have an extremely well-developed sense of smell.

Animal Body Parts

Other Features:



Webbed Feet

Webbed feet help animals move through the water. They can help the animal swim faster to catch prey or escape a predator. They also help save energy swimming long distances so the animal can swim further.



Antlers/Horns

Antlers and horns have many uses, including defence from predators and fighting members of their own species (horn fighting) for territory, dominance or mating priority. Horns are usually present only in males but in some species, females may also have horns.



Wings

The main use for wings on most animals is flight. This flight can be for travel or used to attack prey. Some wings serve other purposes, like in penguins who use their wings as flippers to aid in swimming.



Hooves

Hooves help animals get around in rocky environments by protecting their feet and allowing for greater mobility.



Sharp Teeth

Mostly on carnivores, sharp teeth help an animal eat meat. Sharp teeth can also be used for defence. Baring a large set of sharp teeth can show power or fear.



Sharp Claws

Sharp claws can be used by herbivores for digging for berries, roots and herbs or burrowing for shelter. Carnivores use their claws for killing or tearing meat from their prey. Claws can help animals run faster, or can be used in defence.



Whiskers

Whiskers around the mouth help the animal feel its way through tight spots. They serve as "feelers," telling the animal whether or not it can fit into an area. They are also useful to sense prey.

Vocabulary

Avian: relating to birds

Canine: relating to or resembling a dog or dogs

Carnivore: an animal that gets food from killing and eating other animals

Elephantine: of, resembling or characteristic of an elephant or elephants

Equine: relating to or affecting horses or other members of the horse family

Feline: relating to or affecting cats or other members of the cat family

Herbivore: an animal that gets its energy from eating only plants

Omnivore: a kind of animal that eats either other animals or plants

Porcine: of, affecting, or resembling a pig or pigs

Predator: an animal that hunts, catches and eats other animals

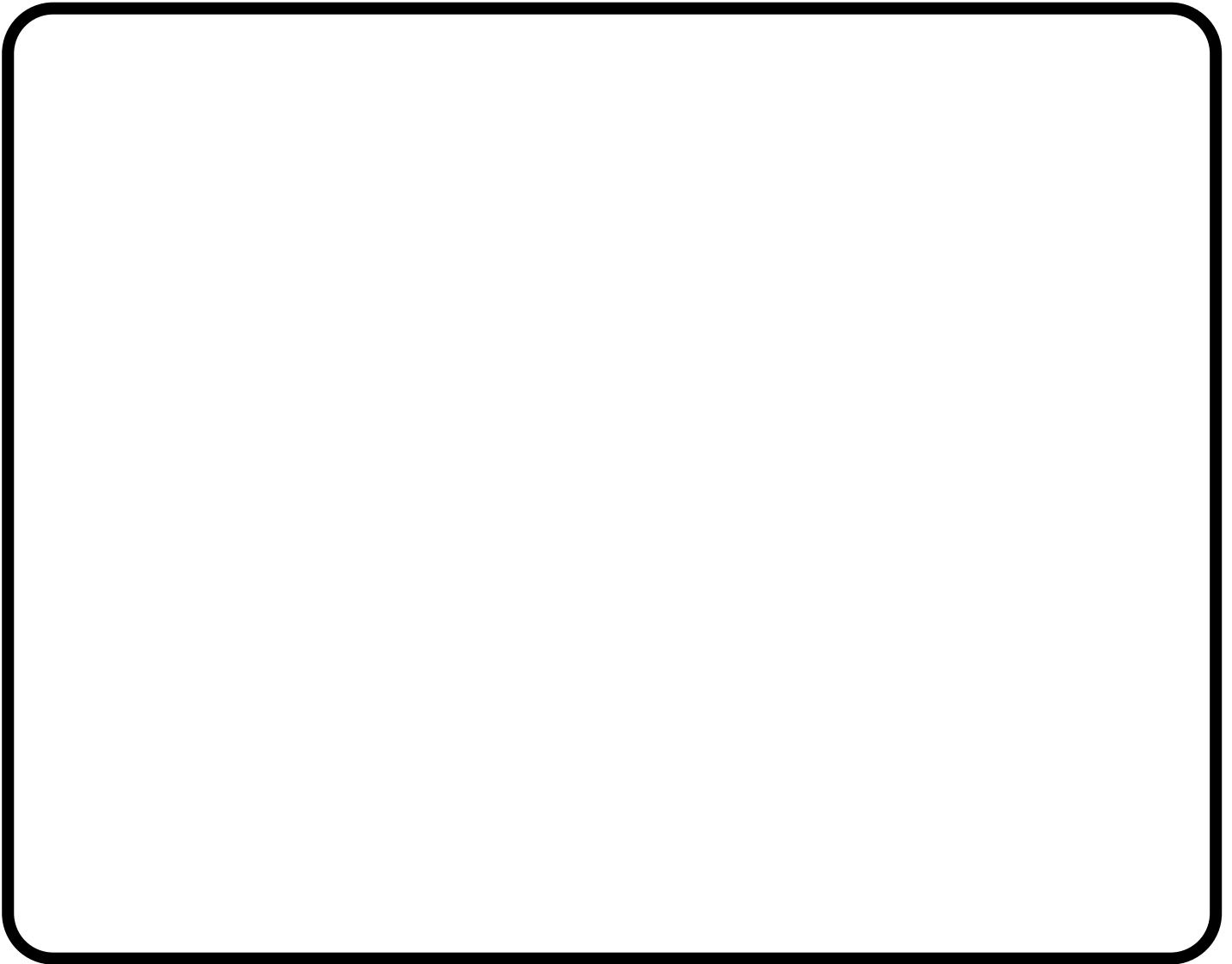
Prey: an animal that is hunted or killed by another animal for food

Snout: the projecting nose and mouth of an animal, especially a mammal

Reptilian: relating to or characteristic of reptiles

Animal Abilities Self-Portrait

Now that you've picked your special animal features, draw your portrait below!

A large, empty rounded rectangle with a thick black border, intended for drawing a self-portrait of an animal.

Write a description for your self-portrait like you'd see in an art gallery. This is a great place to explain which body parts you chose and why or tell a little about yourself!
