

# What in the Wild?

## RIF EXTENSION ACTIVITIES FOR EDUCATORS

STEAM-THEMED: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, ART, MATH

### SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ART, WRITING SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST

All living things have developed special ways of moving around, getting food, and protecting themselves from danger. These are called *adaptations*. Choose two animals from the book and research their adaptations. Make a poster comparing the two. Based on your findings, which animal do you think has a higher chance of survival?



### TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE RECREATING RODENTS

Watch this video about how one man has made a career out of collecting owl pellets: [dsc.discovery.com/tv-shows/dirty-jobs/videos/owl-vomit-collector.htm](http://dsc.discovery.com/tv-shows/dirty-jobs/videos/owl-vomit-collector.htm). Next, log on to [www.kidwings.com/owlpellets](http://www.kidwings.com/owlpellets) to dissect your own virtual owl pellet. You will identify the bones of a rodent and put it back together. Yum!

### ENGINEERING, SCIENCE WORM AND COZY

Materials: 2 liter bottle, gravel, sand, soil, banana peel, black paper, tape, cheesecloth (or a woman's stocking), rubber band, worms

Cut top off bottle. Fill bottom with gravel. Layer 2" of sand and 2" of soil until half full. Mist with water. Place pieces of banana peel on top. Continue with 2 more layers of sand and soil; mist again. Put 2-3 worms on top. Cover bottle with cheesecloth and secure with rubber band. Place black paper around the outside of bottle and secure with tape. After 2 days, remove paper and observe changes. How have the worms "moved in"? What's happened to the layers of sand and soil? Be sure to keep the soil moist and to release the worms when finished.

### ART, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, WRITING A STAR IS BORN

Visit [www.antlionpit.com/culture.html](http://www.antlionpit.com/culture.html) to see how the antlion has inspired movie makers. Can you think of any other movies with an imaginary creature inspired by a real-life animal? Write your own movie with a villain, hero, or monster inspired by one of the animals in the book. For an added challenge, act out your movie or film it for the class to see!

### MATH, SCIENCE MAKING MATH OUT OF A MOLE HILL

Use these facts to create four word problems using different mathematical operations. Show how you would solve each problem at least two different ways.

- ◆ Moles dig up to 100 feet of tunnel space per day.
- ◆ Moles dig at a rate of 18 feet per hour.
- ◆ Moles move through tunnels at a rate of 80 feet per minute.
- ◆ Moles can eat nearly 50 pounds of worms a year.

