



ANMAIL

AGE RANGE Primary

TIME 40 minutes

This activity will provide an excellent starting point for further investigation into a variety of creatures that are specially adapted to cling onto trees and other plants.

CURRICULUM LINKS Art and Design, English, Mathematics, Science, Geography, Music, Computing.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The children will be involved in a range of activities and will be given the chance to investigate some of the creatures featured on this set of stamps. These include:

Activity

1. Using the animal facts found on the next page, discuss with the children the different ways these creatures move about. Get them to carry out further research on one or more of them.
2. Select one of the animals and create an information page using the 'My Animal' sheet provided. This should include facts and figures which can then be compared to produce a series of graphs, e.g. how fast do they move? You could also find images of your chosen animal and use these to create your own research file.
3. The class can then create a large forest wall display showing a variety of animals that use different ways to move around.

LOWER

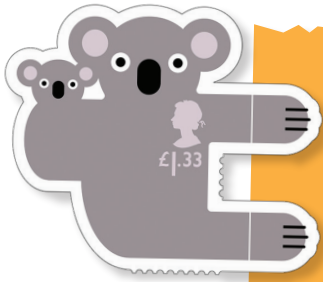
- Draw a picture of one of the animals featured on the stamps and then explain in one or two sentences how it moves about.

ADVANCED

- Using the internet and books, investigate how snakes move around. Ask the children to explain how it is possible for these creatures to move around without legs.
- Find out how many snakes are able to swim and which ones can climb trees.



ANIMAL FACTS



Koala

These marsupials are found in Australia and are known to spend most of their time asleep, often 18 hours a day! They like to eat eucalyptus leaves. Scientists believe that koalas cling onto the trees to keep cool. They use the trunks like ice cubes. They have very thin fur on their stomachs and therefore keep close to the tree so that they can lose as much heat as possible.

Bat

Bats tend to rest during the day and often seek shelter in barns, caves or trees. When they are resting they cling to cave ceilings and walls or on to wooden beams inside buildings using their hind feet. They fold their wings into their bodies when they are resting.



Woodpecker

Its body is designed so that it can cling to tree trunks. Their feet are more evenly balanced than most birds and they use their sharp claws to hold on. The tail feathers also help them with support.

Snake

Some snakes use a great deal of force when climbing trees, and scientists have found they usually curve themselves into an S shape and push their body outwards against the grooves of the bark. They grip the tree with the top of their body and then pull up the lower part. Not all snakes can climb. Snakes have very strong muscles which help them move.



Chimpanzee

They have larger hands and feet than humans and use both for walking and grasping. They are better adapted than humans at climbing trees. When moving from branch to branch they use both their arms and their legs.

Orangutan

They live most of the time in the tree canopy high up. They hold on by hooking their hands and feet onto branches. They do not jump from tree to tree but use their weight to bend the branches. They can travel up to four kilometres a day. The young hold on to their parents. Orangutans tend to live alone.



Further activities

- Choose a creature from the '*The Carnival of the Animals*' by Saint-Saëns and move around the room like your chosen animal, e.g. tortoise, elephant. Discuss why you think the music suits the animal.
- Write a newspaper report on a new creature found in a forest of South America and explain how it moves.
- Using building blocks, a construction kit or crafts of your choice, create your own mythical creature which moves in an unusual way. Write a story about your creature to go with it. What are the key characteristics of your creature?
- Produce a map showing where you might find some of these amazing animals which move and cling on in unusual ways.
- See if you can find a local zoo, aquarium or wildlife sanctuary where you could go and see some of the creatures featured on the stamps. If this isn't possible you might find someone who could come and talk about the ways in which different creatures move about.

