

young  
**IKES**

A program of the Izaak  
Walton League of America

# ACTIVITY BOOK

Activities to educate and encourage future conservation leaders | Recommended Ages: 6 to 8



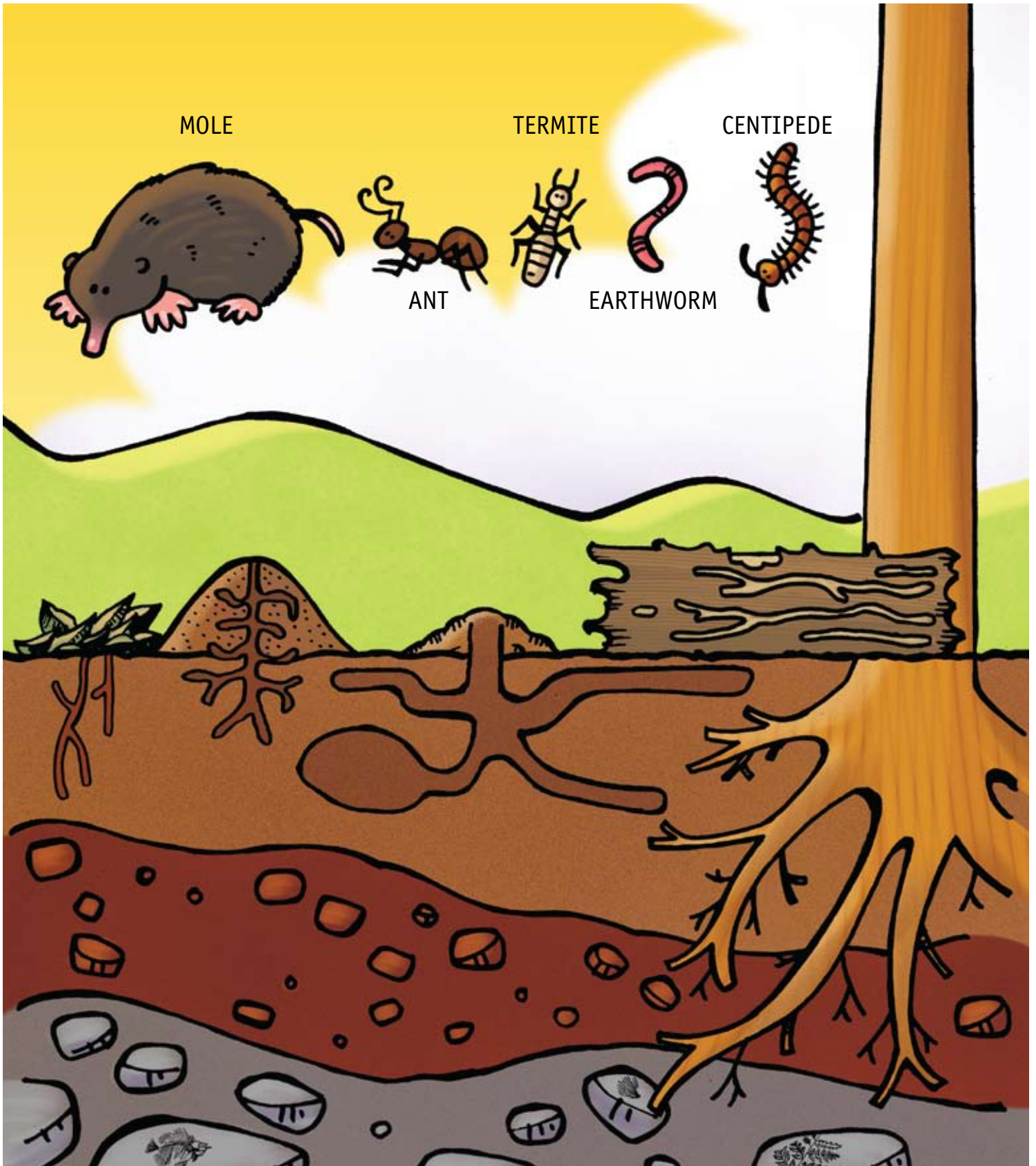
Find the hidden pictures. See back cover.



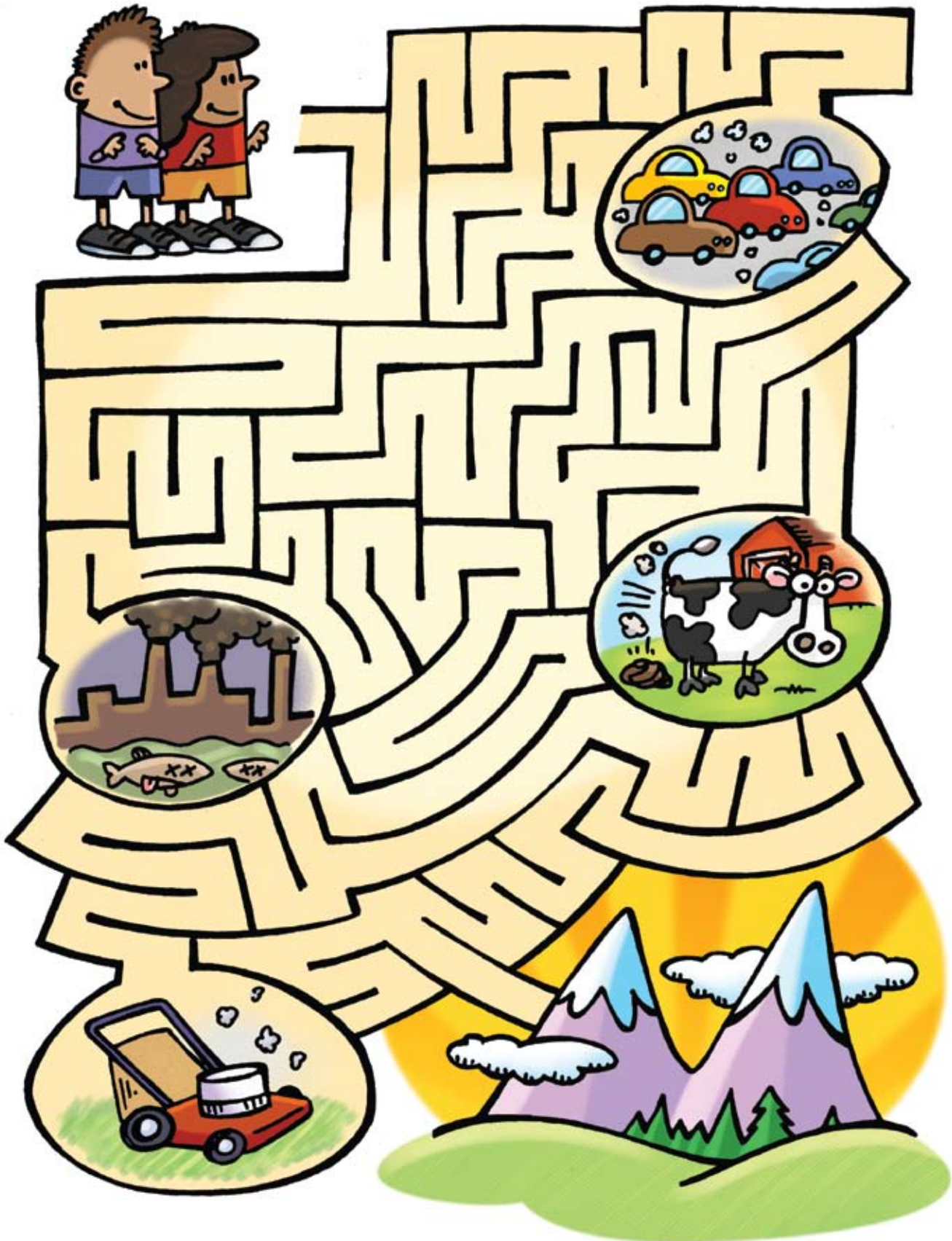
HELP PROTECT OUR SOIL, AIR, WOODS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE



The soil under your feet is filled with all sorts of living things.  
**Match each animal to the place it belongs.**



Clean air is healthy for people, trees, and wildlife.  
**Can you find your way past the pollutants?**





**Many animals rely on dead and dying trees.**  
Color the picture, then match the animal names to the creatures found in it.

BAT

BEETLE

OPOSSUM

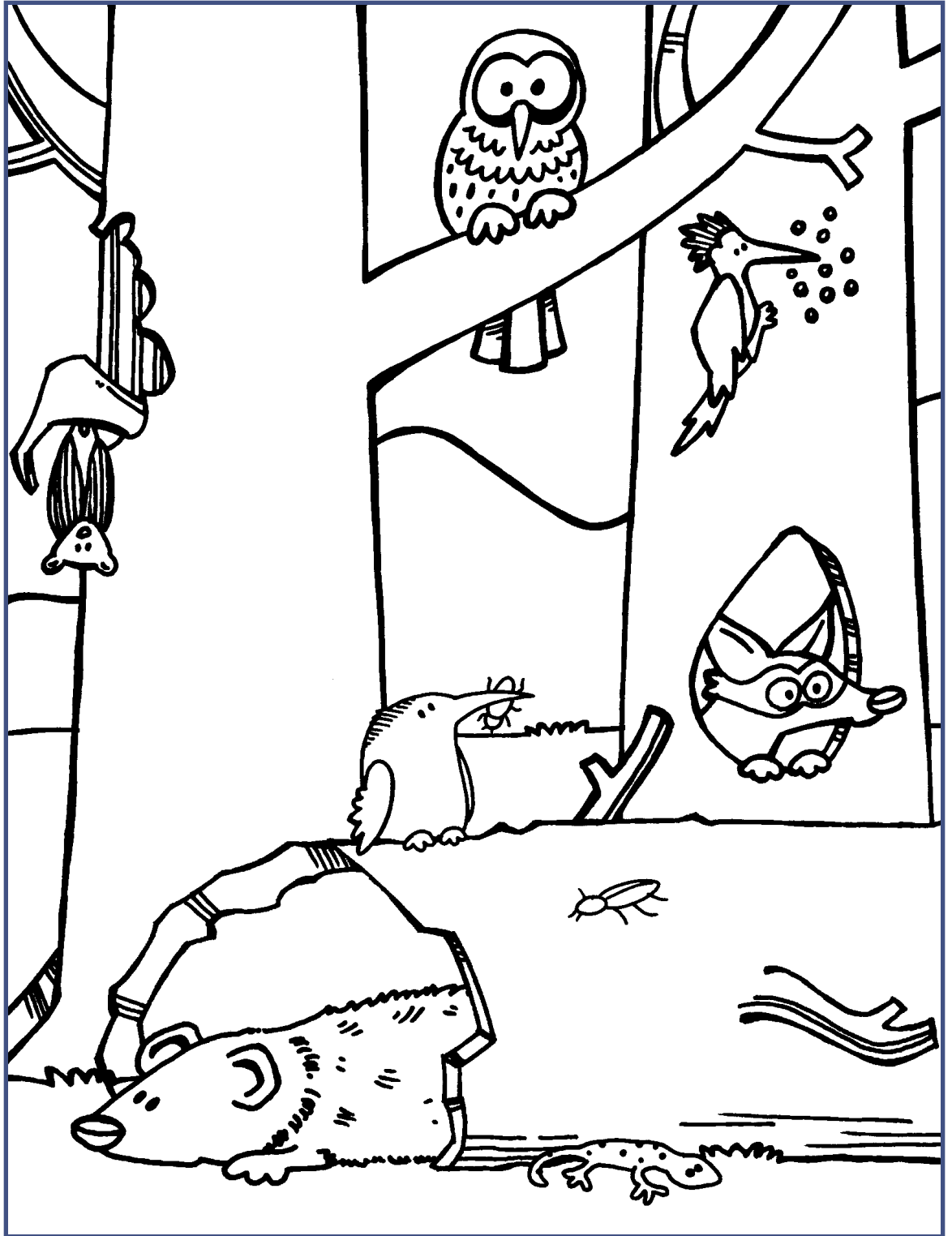
OWL

RACCOON

SALAMANDER

WOODPECKER

WREN



These trees provide many important benefits to wildlife, including a source of food and a place to rest or hide. After trees decay, their nutrients return to the soil to feed new plants.

Ponds are home to a variety of fish, mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, insects, and plants that live in and around the water.

## Can you identify them?

1 DOWN: WATER PLANT

2 DOWN: CHASED BY DOGFISH

3 DOWN: QUACK!

3 ACROSS: GREAT BLUE

4 ACROSS: SLOW MOVER

5 DOWN: TURTLE

6 ACROSS: EAGER

6 DOWN: LARGE MOUTH

7 ACROSS: GREAT BLUE HERON

8 DOWN: PLAYFUL FURRY

9 ACROSS: HISS!

9 ACROSS: FIRE-BREATHING BUG

### BONUS POINTS:

Which of these animals built something to help create the pond? \_\_\_\_\_

Where does this animal live? \_\_\_\_\_

CLUE: Use the five letters circled in the crossword puzzle to spell out this answer.

## What's for dinner?

Connect the dots to discover three hungry animals.



These North American animals are looking for their next meals. Every wild animal, either predator or prey, has its place in the food chain.



## ANSWERS

### COVER/PAGE 1 – OUTDOOR AMERICA

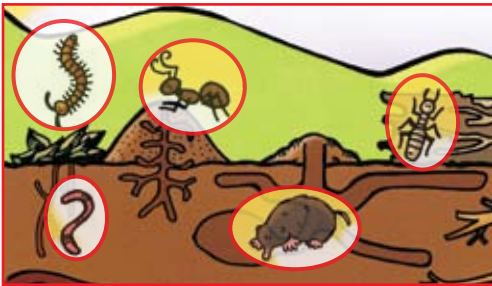


### PAGE 3 – AIR



### PAGE 2 – SOIL

Soil is filled with insects and animals that often interact with each other. Their activities can also benefit the soil.



**ANTS** eat lots of different foods. The food they store and eat adds nutrients to the soil, and the tunnels inside ant hills improve the ability of the soil to hold water.

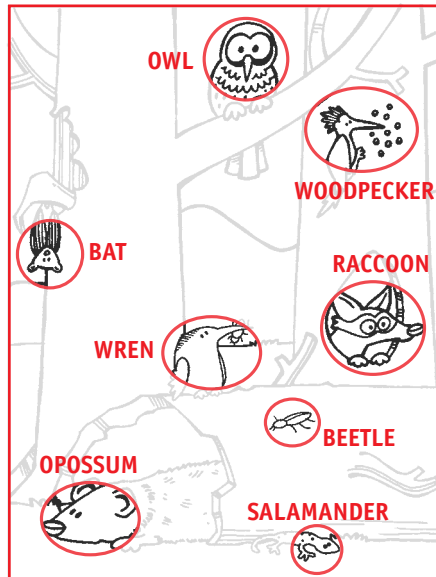
**CENTIPEDES** are often found under fallen leaves, and they help move leaf litter and soil while hunting for insects and other prey.

**EARTHWORMS** dig tunnels as they move through the soil. These tunnels help the ground hold water, like a sponge. Earthworms also pull leaves and animal manure down into the soil, either for food or to plug a burrow hole, which makes the soil more fertile.

**MOLES** burrow beneath the surface to eat earthworms and small insect larvae, creating holes in the soil that hold water after it rains.

**TERMITES** eat rotten wood such as stumps and fallen logs, breaking down dead trees so the nutrients can return to the soil.

### PAGE 4 – WOODS



**BATS** rest during the day under loosened, peeling tree bark.

**BEETLES** thrive in decaying wood found on the forest floor. They bore holes into the wood to lay eggs there, and they feed on fungi (like mushrooms) that grow on the wood.

**OPOSSUMS** (often pronounced “possums”) hide inside hollow tree limbs and logs to avoid predators.

**OWLS** and other birds of prey favor bare, weather-worn branches as hunting perches. (Leaves would block their view.)

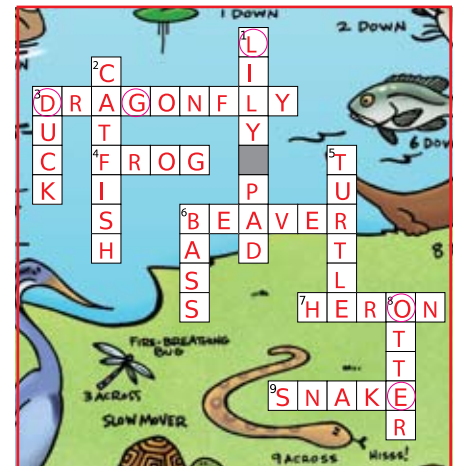
**RACCOONS** prefer to live in hollow tree cavities, far enough off the ground to avoid predators.

**SALAMANDERS**, when out of the water, will slip silently under moist, fallen leaves and rotting trees in search of food and other friendly amphibians.

**WOODPECKERS** bore for insects under the bark of dead or dying trees.

**WRENS** and many other birds hunt near the forest ground, including on fallen tree limbs, in search of beetles and other insects.

### PAGE 5 – WATERS



**BONUS POINTS: BEAVER/L O D G E**

### PAGE 6 – WILDLIFE

After connecting the dots, you should have found:

- An eagle carrying a fish in its claws
- A wolf stalking a deer
- A snake hunting for bird eggs



IZAAK WALTON LEAGUE OF AMERICA  
707 Conservation Lane | Gaithersburg, MD 20878-2983

# young IKES

A program of the Izaak  
Walton League of America

*Young Ikes Activity Book Compliments of:*

The Izaak Walton League of America is a national non-profit conservation organization whose members and supporters enjoy and protect America's outdoors. Founded in 1922, the League has more than 250 chapters in communities across the country. You can join a local chapter or support the national organization as a member-at-large.

As a member, you will have access to many volunteer opportunities and receive our quarterly magazine, *Outdoor America*, along with other member benefits. Memberships are available for individuals, families, students, and youth.

To learn more about the League and how to become a member, visit [www.iwla.org/member](http://www.iwla.org/member) or call 800-IKE-LINE (800-453-5463).

## On the front cover:

Find 12 things you might use while exploring outdoor America.

- Tent
- Binoculars
- Fishing rod
- Hiking boot
- Compass
- Water bottle
- Backpack
- Pocket knife
- Flashlight
- Camera
- Hat
- First aid kit



Illustrations by  
Peter Grosshauser

©2011 Izaak Walton  
League of America

Learn more at [www.iwla.org/YoungIkes](http://www.iwla.org/YoungIkes) | 800-IKE-LINE