

Annotation goes here

Animals in the book include:

It's so much more than a picture book . . . this book is specifically designed to be both a fun-to-read story and a launch pad for discussions and learning. We encourage adults to do the activities with the young children in their lives both at home and in the classroom. Free online resources and support at www.ArbordalePublishing.com include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):

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- Teaching Activities (to do at home or school):

- Reading Questions
- Math
- Language Arts
- Geography
- Science
- Coloring Pages

- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems

- English and Spanish Audiobooks

- Related Websites

- Aligned to State Standards, Common Core & NGSS

- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes

- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio are available for purchase online.

Thanks to

author bio

illustrator bio

Names are in bold

our titles are bold, italics

other titles are italics

Title Page

by Author
illustrated by illustrator

author

illustrator

Legs and feet come in many shapes, numbers and sizes. They are used to paddle, jump, cling, dig, warn others, catch food and even taste food! The way an animal's legs and feet look can tell you a lot about how it lives.

Like all insects, backswimmers have three pairs of legs, and each pair of legs has a different job. Backswimmers catch prey with their two front legs, hold the prey tight with their two middle legs, and row through the water with their two flat, hairy hind legs.

Caterpillars may look like they have a lot of legs, but only the first three pairs closest to their head are true legs. The others are called prolegs. True legs have several sections and often have a claw at the tip. Prolegs have tiny curved hooks (crochets) that act like suction cups. These hooks allow caterpillars to climb smooth surfaces like plant stems and leaves. The true legs on this cecropia caterpillar are green. The feet on its prolegs are blue – can you find them? When a caterpillar turns into a moth or a butterfly, it keeps its six true legs, but not its prolegs.

This insect is called a praying mantis because its two front legs are bent and held together which makes it look like the mantis is saying its prayers. Praying mantises are predators and eat other insects like crickets, grasshoppers and flies. They use their front legs to grasp their prey. The spines on these legs interlock when they grab an insect, making it almost impossible for the insect to escape.

Many insects, such as butterflies, houseflies and mosquitoes, and most spiders can taste with their feet! When an insect or spider lands on a flower, leaf, or animal, its feet taste it. The insect or spider knows whether or not they have landed on something that is good to eat or drink.

For Creative Minds

This For Creative Minds educational section contains activities to engage children in learning while making it fun at the same time. The activities build on the underlying subjects introduced in the story. While older children may be able to do these activities on their own, we encourage adults to work with the young children in their lives. Even if the adults have long forgotten or never learned this information, they can still work through the activities and be experts in their children's eyes! Exposure to these concepts at a young age helps to build a strong foundation for easier comprehension later in life. This section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial uses. Cross-curricular teaching activities for use at home or in the classroom, interactive quizzes, and more are available online. Go to www.ArbordalePublishing.com and click on the book's cover to explore all the links.

Fun Facts

- **OPOSSUM**

Opossums have a special "thumb" on each hind foot which touch each of the toes on the same foot. This opposable thumb helps an opossum grasp branches and climb. You and I have opposable thumbs on our hands. Can you touch the tips of your other fingers on the same hand with your thumb? Imagine how hard it would be to climb a tree, brush your teeth or eat a sandwich if you didn't have opposable thumbs.

- **PORCUPINE**

Porcupines eat bark and spend a lot of time in trees. Their feet help them climb up tree trunks and out onto limbs where they eat leaves and buds. The claws on a porcupine's foot are curved, and grip the bark of a tree very well. The pad on the bottom of each foot is very bumpy. These bumps help the foot hold onto the bark of a tree.

- **BEAVER**

A beaver's front feet and back feet are very different from each other. Its front feet are small and not webbed. Beavers use them to hold mud, sticks and stones, but they don't paddle with them when they are swimming. A beaver's hind feet are very large and have webbing between the toes. When a beaver is swimming, it paddles through the water with its hind feet and steers with its tail.

Each hind foot has two nails which are split. A beaver uses these special nails like a comb to get leaves, sticks, insects and snarls out of its fur. A beaver uses the nails on all four feet to spread oil on its coat to make it waterproof.

- **SPIDER**

All spiders spin silk, and their legs help guide the silk as they make things with it. Most spider legs end with two claws. With help from their legs some spiders weave silk webs, wrap prey, make egg sacs and create silk nurseries for their young. A spider's eight legs and feet help it capture food, weave silk, stalk prey and climb up plant stems.

Match Animal with Foot

- Millipede
- Barred owl
- Dogbane beetle
- Wood turtle
- Red fox
- Red Eft

Special Feet

- Most, but not all, animals have feet. Those animals that don't have feet, like snakes and earthworms, have strong muscles in their abdomen that grip the earth beneath their belly when they move.
- The toe flaps, or pectinations, of ruffed grouse that live in northern areas with long winters and deep snow are twice as long as those of grouse living further south.
- In just one minute, a mole can dig a tunnel as long as your two hands put together. It uses its front feet to dig with while its hind feet kick the loose dirt above the ground.
- A woodpecker spends a lot of time clinging to the bark of trees while it drills holes with its beak to reach insects or make nesting holes. Many birds have three toes pointing forward and one toe pointing backwards. Woodpeckers have two toes in front and two toes in back (zygodactyl feet), which gives them a much better grip on tree trunks and branches.
- Some mammals have scent glands on their feet and they leave a little scent of themselves with every step they take.
- A human foot has 26 bones, 33 joints and 20 muscles.
- There are approximately 250,000 sweat glands in a pair of human feet.

What Animal Legs Can Do

- Taste – photo: spider
- Use as weapon – photo: white-tailed deer
- Swim fast – photo: mallard duckling
- Catch meal – photo: dragonfly
- Climb trees/grip bark – photo: red squirrel

Author dedication—
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