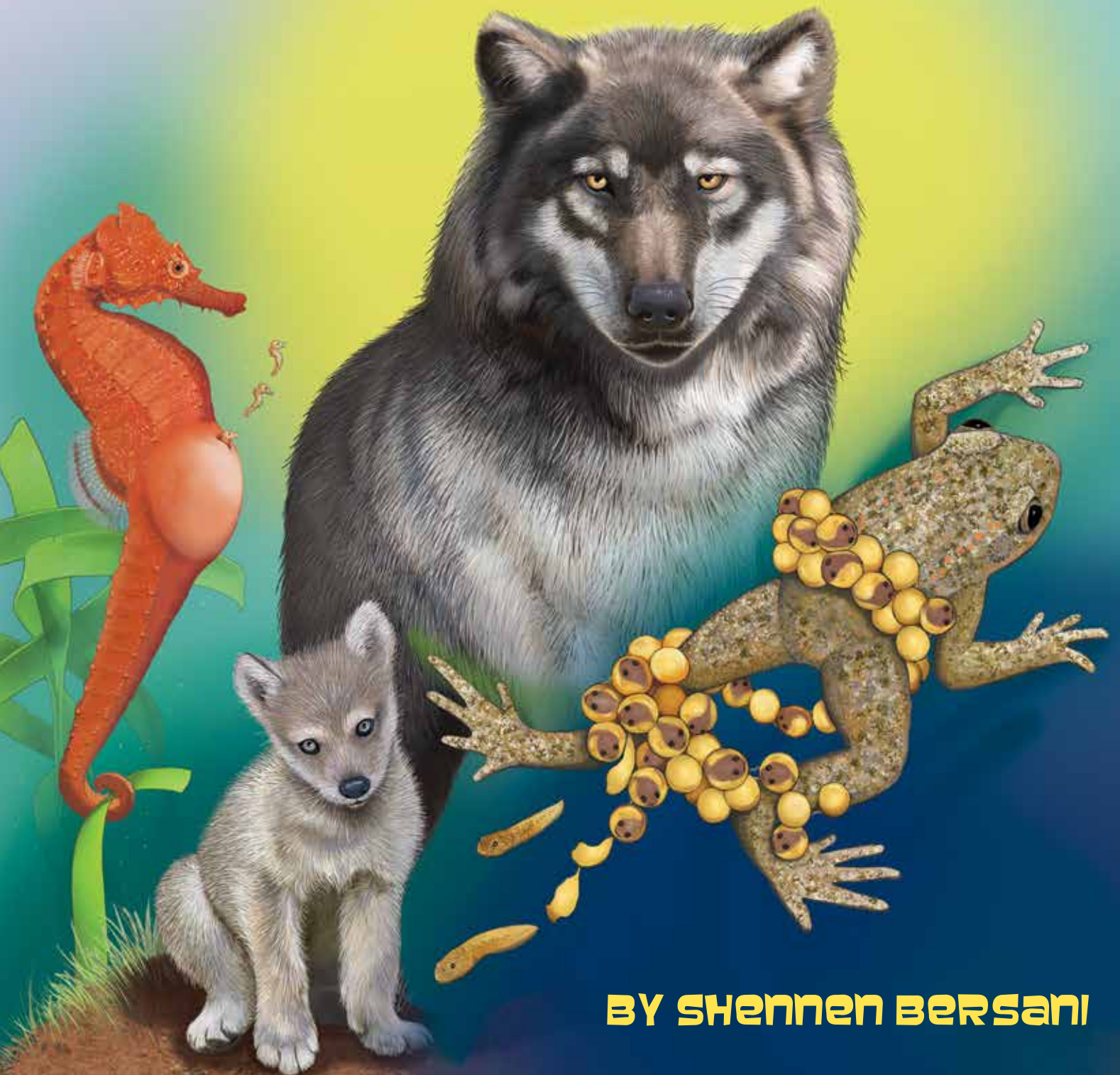


WILD FATHERS



BY SHENNEN BERSANI

WILD FATHERS

Just like human families, animal families come in all shapes and sizes. Many fathers in the wild have unusual and unselfish roles in the rearing of their offspring. While some animal fathers may never meet or know their offspring, there are some that protect and shelter their children. Others feed or teach their young. Let's learn more about each of these Wild Fathers and their important duties.

The animals in the book include bat-eared fox, flamingo, giant water bug, golden jackal, golden lion tamarin, gray wolf, hardhead catfish, hellbender salamander, midwife toad, rhea, seahorse, swan, and weedy dragon.

Arbordale Publishing offers so much more than a picture book. We open the door for children to explore the facts behind a story they love.

The *For Creative Minds* includes

- Animal Classification
- Animal Fathers—Matching
- Fun Facts—Matching

Arbordale's interactive ebooks read aloud in both English and Spanish with word-highlighting and adjustable audio speed. Available for purchase online.

Shennen Bersani is an award-winning author and illustrator with 2 million copies of her books cherished and read by children, parents, and teachers throughout the world. Her art delivers heartfelt emotion, the wonders of nature and science, and creates a unique joy for learning. Some of Shennen's illustrated works include *Yay for Big Brothers!*; *River Otter's Adventure*; *Night Creepers*; *Cheetah Dreams*; *Animal Partners*; *Astro: The Steller Sea Lion*; *Home in the Cave*; *Honey Girl: The Hawaiian Monk Seal*; *The Glaciers are Melting!*; *A Case of Sense*; *Once Upon an Elephant* (CBC Children's Choice Award); *Salamander Season*; *Sea Slime: It's Eeuwy, Gooey and Under the Sea*; *The Shape Family Babies*; and *Shark Baby* for Arbordale. In addition to *Wild Fathers*, she is also the author and illustrator of *Achoo! Why Pollen Counts*. Shennen has also illustrated many books for author Jerry Pallotta. She lives with her husband near Boston. To learn more about Wild Fathers, please visit Shennen's website: www.Wild-Fathers.com



Shennen Bersani

WILD FATHERS



BY SHENNEN BERSANI

Thank you, father Wolf, for protecting our pack.

Gray Wolf

Fearsome and protective of their pack, the father wolf not only guards his family, he hunts for them.



Thank you, father Tamarin, for peeling our bananas.

Golden lion tamarin

Fathers carry and care for their offspring. Using their long fingers and mouth, they peel bananas for their children.



Thank you, father Jackal, for feeding us your meal.

Golden jackal

After a hunt, the fathers throw up (regurgitate) their food to feed their children.



Thank you, father Fox, for teaching us how to hunt.

Bat-eared fox

Fathers teach the kits to sniff and hunt for their favorite food, insects.



For Creative Minds

This section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial use. Visit www.ArbordalePublishing.com to explore all the resources supporting this book.

Animal Classification

Just as we sort money or candy, scientists sort all living things into groups to help us understand and connect how things relate to each other. Scientists ask questions to help them sort or classify animals.

The first big sorting question is whether the animal has (or had at some point in its life) a backbone. If the answer is “yes,” the animal is a vertebrate. If the answer is “no,” the animal is an invertebrate.

Vertebrates are broken into five major Classes:

- Amphibian hatchlings are called larvae or tadpoles and live in water, using gills to breathe. As they grow, they develop their legs and lungs and move onto land. They have soft, moist skin and are cold-blooded.
- Bird chicks hatch from eggs. Birds are the only animals that have feathers. They use lungs to breathe and are warm-blooded.
- Fish young are either born alive or hatch from eggs. They use gills to get oxygen from the water. Most have moist scales covered with a thin slime. They are cold-blooded.
- Mammal babies drink milk from their mothers. They are the only animals that have hair or fur. Whiskers and quills are considered a type of hair. They use lungs to breathe and are warm-blooded.
- Most reptiles hatch from leathery eggs but some are born alive. They use lungs to get oxygen from the air, even if they live in water. They have dry scales or plates and are cold-blooded.

Invertebrate animals are also broken down into large groups. One of the largest Classes of invertebrates is insects.

- Most insects hatch from eggs. All insects have three body parts: head, thorax, and abdomen. Some but not all insects have wings. They are cold-blooded.

Some questions scientists ask:














Does it have a backbone?

Does it have feathers, fur or scales?

Are the babies born alive or do they hatch from eggs?

Does the baby drink milk from its mother?

If it has a skeleton, is it inside (endoskeleton) or outside (exoskeleton) of the body?

Vertebrate				Invertebrate
Amphibian	Bird	Fish	Mammal	Insect
 hellbender salamander	 flamingo	 hardhead catfish	 bat-eared fox	 giant water bug
 midwife toad	 rhea	 seahorse	 golden jackal	
	 swan	 weedy sea dragon	 golden lion tamarin	
			 gray wolf	

Which group has the most animals?

To what animal class does a seahorse belong?

Does an insect have a backbone?

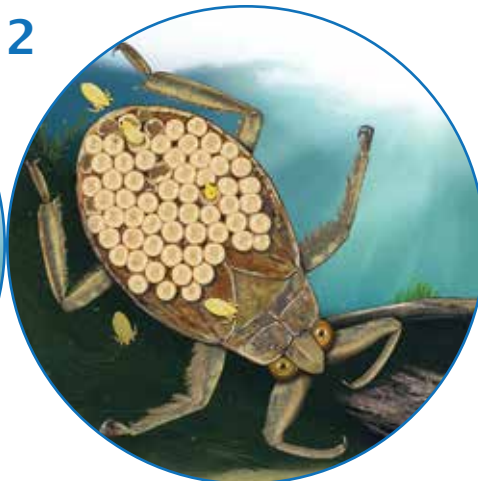
Is a midwife toad a reptile or an amphibian?

Animal Fathers—Matching

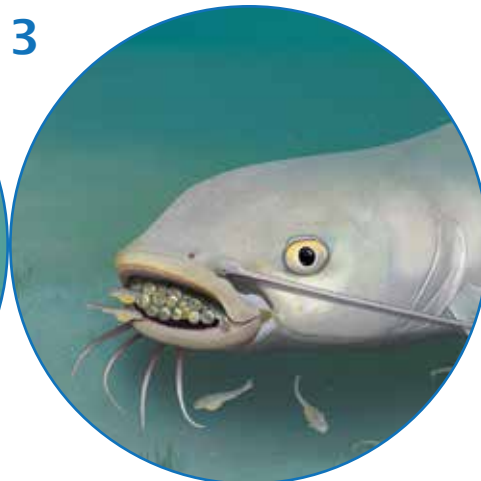
Use the information you read in the book to match the animal dad to how it helps to raise its young.



flamingo



giant water bug



hardhead catfish



midwife toad



rhea



seahorse

- A. This fish dad carries the eggs in his mouth and doesn't eat until the eggs hatch.
- B. This amphibian dad wraps the long egg strands around his waist and legs. When the eggs are ready, dad gets into the water so the tadpoles can emerge from their eggs.
- C. This bird dad builds a large nest. After moms have laid their eggs, they leave. Dad protects the eggs and raises the chicks.
- D. Both bird dad and mom make a special crop milk to feed their chick after it hatches.
- E. This fish dad carries the eggs inside a special pouch. The young emerge from the pouch.
- F. This insect dad carries the eggs on his wings and keeps them clean and free from algae.

Answers: 1-D; 2-F; 3-A; 4-B; 5-C; 6-E

Fun Facts Matching

See if you can match the animal to the fun fact.



bat-eared fox



golden lion tamarin



gray wolf



hellbender salamander



swan



weedy sea dragon

- A. These amphibians are the largest salamanders in the Americas. Adults can range in size from 12 to 30 inches.
- B. Unlike their seahorse cousins, these fish do not have prehensile tails.
- C. Once these birds pair up, they'll stay together their whole lives.
- D. These monkeys are really small, usually measuring 6 to 10 inches (plus tail).
- E. These mammals howl to communicate with their pack.
- F. These mammals' big ears are great for hearing insects underground and for keeping them cool in the heat.

Answers: 1-F; 2-D; 3-E; 4-A; 5-C; 6-B

While doing the research for this book, I traveled to the Detroit Zoo (Detroit, MI) to see their rhea, ZooAmerica North American Wildlife Park (Hershey, PA) to see their wolves, the Stone Zoo (Stoneham, MA) to see their flamingos, and the Roger Williams Park Zoo (Providence, RI) to spend time with their golden lion tamarins and their bat-eared fox. My heartfelt thanks goes out to Allison Waltz-Hill, Pam Bechtold Snyder, and Joe Masi of the New England Aquarium for giving me a 'behind the scenes' look into the mysterious world of weedy sea dragons. To all the fathers out there, especially the wild ones. Looking at you, Lou. —SB

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Bersani, Shennen, author.

Title: Wild fathers / by Shennen Bersani.

Description: Mt. Pleasant, SC : Arbordale Publishing, LLC, [2024] |

Includes bibliographical references.

Identifiers: LCCN 2024013276 (print) | LCCN 2024013277 (ebook) | ISBN

9781638173274 (trade paperback) | ISBN 9781638173311 (interactive

dual-language, read along) | ISBN 9781638173359 (epub) | ISBN

9781638173397 (pdf)

Subjects: LCSH: Parental behavior in animals--Juvenile literature. | Animal

behavior--Juvenile literature. | Father and child--Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC QL762 .B477 2024 (print) | LCC QL762 (ebook) | DDC

591.56/3--dc23/eng/20240419

LC record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2024013276>

LC ebook record available at <https://lccn.loc.gov/2024013277>

Bibliography:

"7 Animal Dads That Go above and Beyond." www.conservation.org, www.conservation.org/blog/7-animal-dads-that-go-above-and-beyond/.

"All about Flamingos - Physical Characteristics | SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment." Seaworld.org, 2019, seaworld.org/animals/all-about/flamingos/characteristics/.

"Bat-Eared Fox | San Diego Zoo Animals & Plants." Animals.sandiegozoo.org, animals.sandiegozoo.org/animals/bat-eared-fox.

Bryner, Jeanna, and Stephanie Pappas 17 June 2011. "The Animal Kingdom's Most Devoted Dads." Livescience.com, www.livescience.com/14651-animal-kingdom-devoted-dads.html.

Crampton, Linda. "Darwin's Frog and Midwife Toad Facts, Lives, and Reproduction." [Owlcation](http://Owlcation.com), owlcation.com/stem/Strange-Amphibians-Darwins-Frogs-and-Midwife-Toads.

"Dedicated Animal Dads That Care for Their Young - Field Museum." www.fieldmuseum.org, www.fieldmuseum.org/blog/dedicated-animal-dads-care-their-young.

"Giant Water Bug (U.S. National Park Service)." www.nps.gov, www.nps.gov/articles/giant-water-bug.htm.

"Golden Lion Tamarin." Smithsonian's National Zoo, 6 July 2018, nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/golden-lion-tamarin.

"Gray Wolf." Smithsonian's National Zoo, 25 Apr. 2016, nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/gray-wolf.

"Guide to Giant Water Bugs 2022 (Lethocerus Americanus)." Pond Informer, 27 Sept. 2020, pondinformer.com/giant-water-bug-lethocerus-americanus/.

"Gulf Coast Research Laboratory | the University of Southern Mississippi." www.usm.edu, gcr1.usm.edu/public/fish/hardhead.catfish.php.

Harness, Jill. "12 Impressively Active Animal Fathers." Neatorama, 17 June 2010, www.neatorama.com/2010/06/17/12-impressively-active-animal-fathers/.

"Hellbender Salamander." The Nature Conservancy, www.nature.org/en-us/get-involved/how-to-help/animals-we-protect/hellbender-salamander/.

"Hellbender." Smithsonian's National Zoo, 25 Apr. 2016, nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/hellbender.

"Interesting Facts about Jackals | Just Fun Facts." Justfunfacts.com, justfunfacts.com/interesting-facts-about-jackals/.

"It's Not Blood! These Flamingos Are Feeding Their Baby [VIDEO]." www.timesnownews.com, 20 Feb. 2020, www.timesnownews.com/the-buzz/article/its-not-blood-these-flamingos-are-feeding-their-baby-video/555956.

Magazine, Smithsonian, and Katherine J. Wu. "This Is Your Brain on Fatherhood." Smithsonian Magazine, www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/neurochemistry-fatherhood-180969635/.

McCullar, Emily. "All Hail Hardhead Catfish Dads, Which Protect Eggs by Carrying Them in Their Mouths." Texas Monthly, 14 June 2023, www.texasmonthly.com/travel/hardhead-catfish-make-great-dads/.

"Midwife Toad | Breeding Habits, Reproduction & Ecology | Britannica." www.britannica.com, www.britannica.com/animal/midwife-toad.

"Mute Swan Overview, All about Birds, Cornell Lab of Ornithology." www.allaboutbirds.org, www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Mute_Swan/overview.

Oswego, SUNY, and University of Houston. "Nature's 10 Best Animal Dads." Treehugger, www.treehugger.com/natures-best-animal-dads-4869297.

"Rare Birth at SeaWorld; Father Weedy Sea Dragon Gives Birth." WESH, 26 July 2012, www.wesh.com/article/rare-birth-at-seaworld-father-weedy-sea-dragon-gives-birth/4417387.

"Rheas | Beauty of Birds." Beautyofbirds.com, 2019, www.beautyofbirds.com/rheas.html.

"Seahorse Facts for Kids | National Geographic Kids." National Geographic Kids, 26 Apr. 2017, www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/animals/sea-life/seahorse-facts/.

Stoinski, T.S., and B.B. Beck. "Changes in Locomotor and Foraging Skills in Captive-Born, Reintroduced Golden Lion Tamarins (Leontopithecus Rosalia Rosalia)." American Journal of Primatology, vol. 62, no. 1, Jan. 2004, pp. 1-13, <https://doi.org/10.1002/ajp.20002>.

"Swan Breeding Profile: Pairing, Incubation, Nesting / Raising of Young | Beauty of Birds." www.beautyofbirds.com, www.beautyofbirds.com/swanbreeding.html.

"Tamarin (Golden Lion)." Young People's Trust for the Environment, 10 Sept. 2014, ypte.org.uk/factsheets/tamarin-golden-lion/breeding.

"The 9 Best Dads of the Animal Kingdom." Good Nature Travel, 16 June 2017, www.nathab.com/blog/the-9-best-dads-in-the-animal-kingdom/.

"The Best Dads in the Animal Kingdom." Fatherly, 23 Mar. 2018, www.fatherly.com/love-money/the-best-dads-in-the-animal-kingdom/.

"Weedy Seadragon." The Dallas World Aquarium, dwazoo.com/animal/weedy-seadragon/.

Lexile Level: AD750L

Text Copyright 2024 © by Shennen Bersani

The "For Creative Minds" educational section may be copied by the owner for personal use or by educators using copies in classroom settings.

Printed in the US
This product conforms to CPSIA 2008

Arbordale Publishing, LLC
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464
www.ArbordalePublishing.com



If you enjoy this book, look for other
Arbordale books that may be of interest:



This book is also available in Spanish:



Includes 4 pages of
learning activities
ArbordalePublishing.com