

READING MAGAZINE

YEAR **3**

2008

What will we do now?



'Let's play outside,' said Jim.
'We can make a castle.'

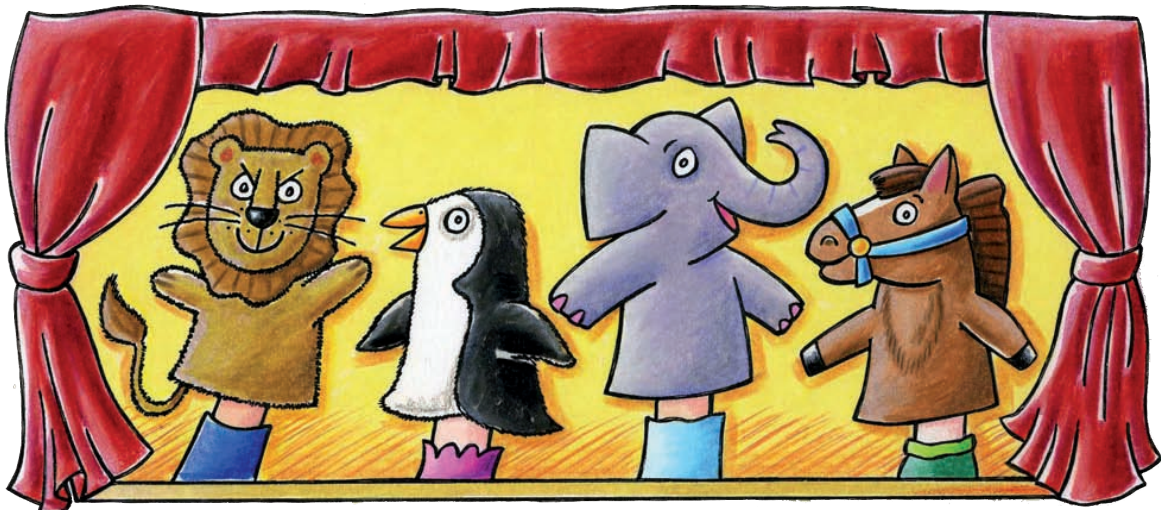
'No,' said Ella, 'we did that yesterday.
Let's go down to the creek.
We can go fishing.'



'No,' said Vincent, 'we did that last week.
Let's go to the park. We can play
on the spaceship.'

'No,' said Beth, 'we did that this morning. Let's stay inside.
We can have a puppet show.'

'Yes,' said Jim, 'we haven't done that before.'



Chimpanzees

Chimpanzees have learned how to use tools.

This chimp is hooking termites out of the ground with a stick. Termites are insects that chimps love to eat.



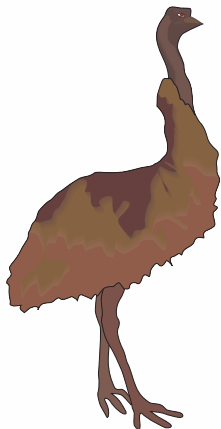
This thirsty chimpanzee is using a leaf to scoop up water.

Chimps get most of the water they need from juicy fruit.

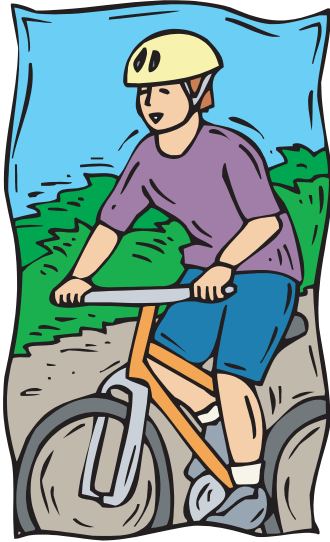


Why elephants and emus cannot fly

An Indian folktale tells of a time when elephants could fly. One day a flock of elephants landed in a tree. A branch fell on a man who was sitting under the tree thinking. He was cross. He used his powers of thought to take away the elephants' wings.



An Australian story tells about Emu, who once had beautiful, big, rainbow-coloured wings and could fly. Emu was always boasting, so Kookaburra set up a competition to trick Emu. Emu tried to fly to the sun to prove that his wings were the best. The sun burnt Emu's wings and he fell back to Earth. Ever since then, emus have had small brown wings and cannot fly.



Ride to School Day

Binkley School organised a Ride to School Day for Year 6 students. Many students rode bicycles to school on this day. The students wrote what they thought about riding to school.

Here is what some of them wrote.



I ride to school nearly every day because I like feeling the wind on my face.

Sandy



I don't like riding to school. This was only my second time. My parents told me I had to do it.

Jayden



I don't ride to school when the weather is bad. I was relieved that it did not rain on Ride to School Day.

Monika



I live too far away to ride to school every day. Ride to School Day was an important event, but I will not ride again for a while.

Tamara



I ride to school every day. I ride because it gets me to school faster and it keeps me fit. I don't need Ride to School days.

Andrew

Amphibians

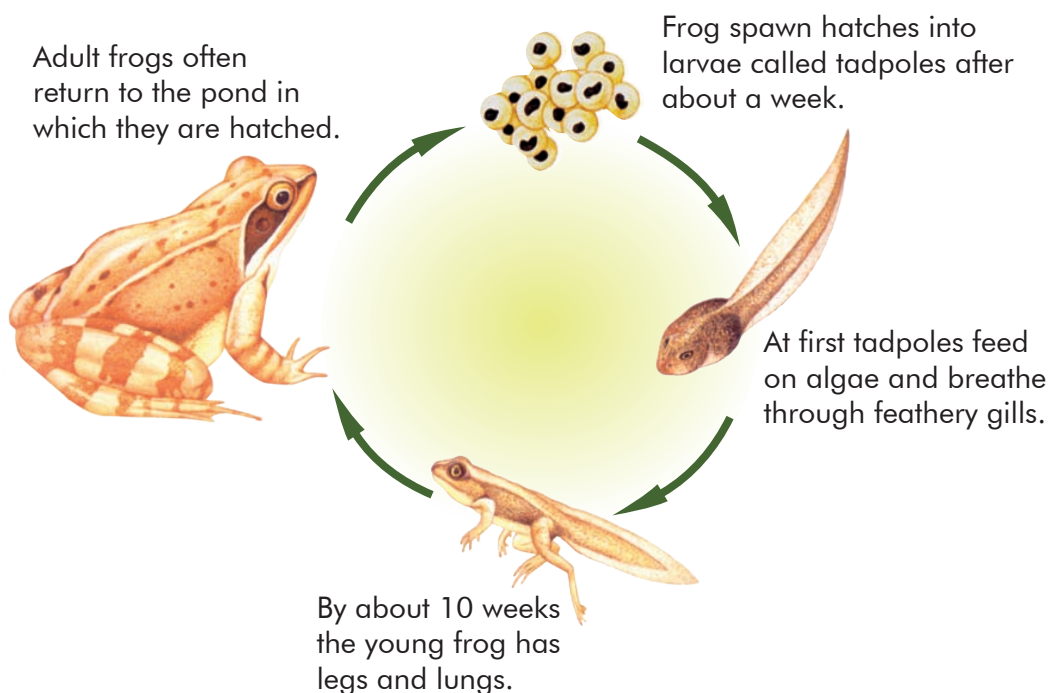
There are 4400 living species of amphibians. Frogs, toads, newts and salamanders are all amphibians. Many live mainly on land, but most spend at least some of their lives in water.

The largest amphibian, the Chinese giant salamander, is 1.8 m long.

Frogs and salamanders are able to breathe through their damp skins to a certain extent, both in the water and on the land, but toads rely largely on their lungs and cannot remain underwater for long. Toads and frogs are similar in many ways, although toads usually have rougher, drier skins and may waddle rather than hop as frogs do.

Some toads produce spawn in strings like necklaces, rather than the mass of eggs laid by frogs.

Most amphibians lay their eggs in water. Frogs' eggs are called spawn. The eggs are protected from predators by a thick layer of jelly. A tadpole develops inside each egg. When it hatches, it is able to swim using its long tail, and it breathes through gills. As a tadpole grows, first hind legs then forelegs begin to form. Lungs develop, and the young frog is able to begin to breathe with its head above water. Gradually, the tail shortens until the young frog resembles its adult parents.



The story of Opo

Opononi, New Zealand, was a quiet little town by the sea. Most of the men worked as fishermen. In the summer of 1955, they noticed that a strange sea animal was following their boats. At first the men thought it must be a shark. But the animal came closer and closer to the boats. Before long everyone could see it was a dolphin. One of the fishermen named her Opo – after the town.

At first Opo was shy, as many wild dolphins are. But she was curious, too. Every day she swam closer to the boats. Finally one of the fishermen reached out as far as he could with his oar. He scratched Opo with it.

She reared back in the water. But the oar must have felt good, for soon Opo came closer than ever before. Then she rolled over. The men had to laugh. Opo was plainly saying, “Scratch my belly this time.”

A scientist came to look at Opo. He said Opo was a young dolphin who had probably lost her mother. That was why she was swimming alone. Opo might have been an orphan, but she soon found a new family. The whole town of Opononi adopted the friendly dolphin.



Tim

On Monday, Tim dressed for school.

First he put on his shorts.

Then he put on his shirt.

Next he put on his socks.

Last he put on his shoes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Chimpanzees

Kendall, Patricia, adapted text from *In the Wild – Chimpanzees*, Hodder Children's Books, 2002. Images: © NHPA / Steven Robinson (top); Tom McHugh / Science Photo Library (bottom).

Why elephants and emus cannot fly

Kennett, David, adapted text and illustrations from *Solo Wildlife: Elephant*, Scholastic, 2001. Text and illustrations copyright © Scholastic Australia, 2001. First published by Omnibus Books, an imprint of Scholastic Australia. Reproduced by permission of Scholastic Australia Pty Limited. Cover design by Lyn Mitchell.

Amphibians

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The story of Opo

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