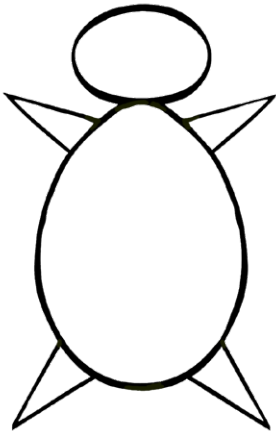


HOW TO

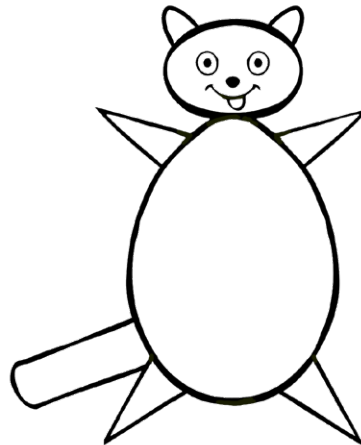
Draw a Raccoon

One way to draw nearly anything is to look for the simple shapes that make up the object and use lines to connect and fine-tune those shapes.

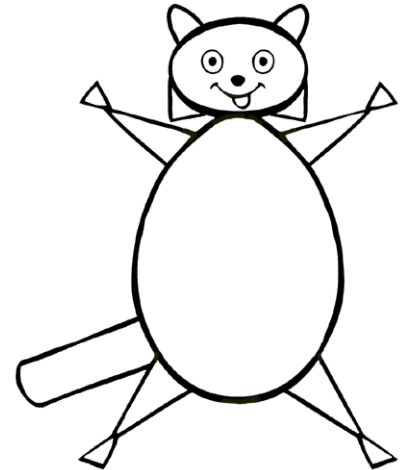
When you begin drawing your raccoon, use a pencil and sketch light, faint lines. If you mess up, it's easy to erase the lines or simply draw over the top of them. When your sketch is finished, you can darken the lines with a marker or crayon.



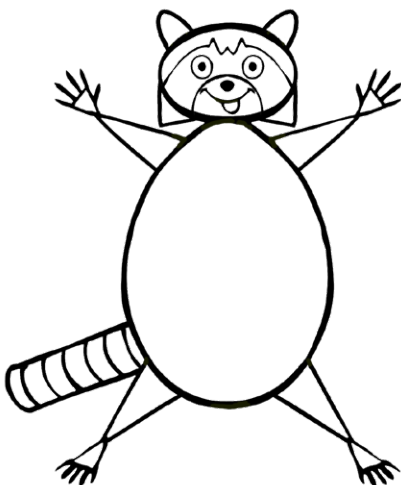
1: Draw an egg. This will be the raccoon's body. Draw a small oval on top of the egg. This will be the raccoon's head. Add four skinny triangles for arms and legs.



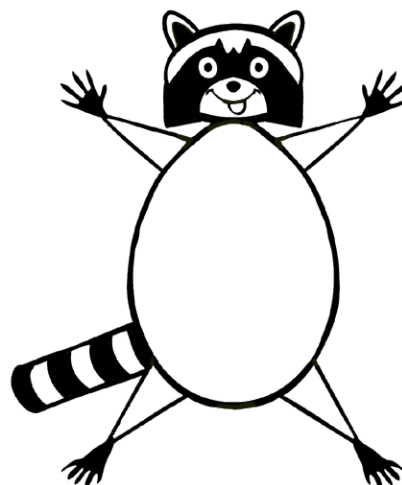
2: Draw a rectangle for a tail. Add two rounded triangles for ears. Add circles with dots in their centers for eyes. Add a black nose. Draw a smiling mouth.



3: Draw a small triangle at the end of each arm and leg. These will become paws. On each side of the head, draw a line straight down until it nearly touches the arm. From there, draw a line slightly up toward the raccoon's chin. These triangles will become cheeks.



4: Add stripes to the tail and five fingers to each paw. To make the raccoon's mask, draw a V between the eyes. Add two short diagonal lines to form pointy eyebrows. Draw curved lines to connect the eyebrows to the cheeks. Draw a half circle over the mouth and nose to complete the mask.



5: Add small rounded triangles inside the ears to make the inner ears. Color the inner ears, mask, paws, and tail stripes black.



6: Draw fur over the head, body, arms, legs, and tail. If you want your raccoon to wear a hat, draw a skinny oval between the ears. Draw a triangle on top of the oval, and a circle on top of the triangle, then add stripes.



Flashy Facts

Fireflies talk to each other with light. A male firefly's twinkling tush is like a neon sign. "Here I am," it blinks. "Do you like me?" Female fireflies hiding in the grass blink back when they spot a male they fancy.

More than 150 kinds of fireflies live in North America. Many species live in the same place, so males and females need a way to pick out their own kind in the dark. That's why each species has a unique blinking pattern. For example, male big dipper fireflies light up for a solid half second while flying in a J-shaped pattern. Another common firefly blinks on and off every second like a strobe light.

Some female fireflies copy the flash pattern of other females. When a male arrives hoping for love, the female liar-fly grabs him and eats him for supper. Sometimes, love hurts.



Crack the Code

Why did the firefly dump her boyfriend? The answer is hidden in this series of blinks. Use the key to crack the code.

This key is based on International Morse Code, which uses dots and dashes (short and long sounds or flashes of light) to communicate a message. Here, yellow circles represent dots and black circles represent dashes. Real fireflies don't use such a complex code.

A ● ●	N ● ●
B ● ● ● ●	O ● ● ●
C ● ● ● ● ● ●	P ● ● ● ● ●
D ● ● ● ● ●	Q ● ● ● ● ●
E ●	R ● ● ●
F ● ● ● ● ●	S ● ● ● ●
G ● ● ● ●	T ●
H ● ● ● ● ● ●	U ● ● ●
I ● ●	V ● ● ● ● ●
J ● ● ● ● ●	W ● ● ● ● ●
K ● ● ● ● ●	X ● ● ● ● ●
L ● ● ● ● ● ●	Y ● ● ● ● ●
M ● ● ● ●	Z ● ● ● ● ●

Garbled Warblers

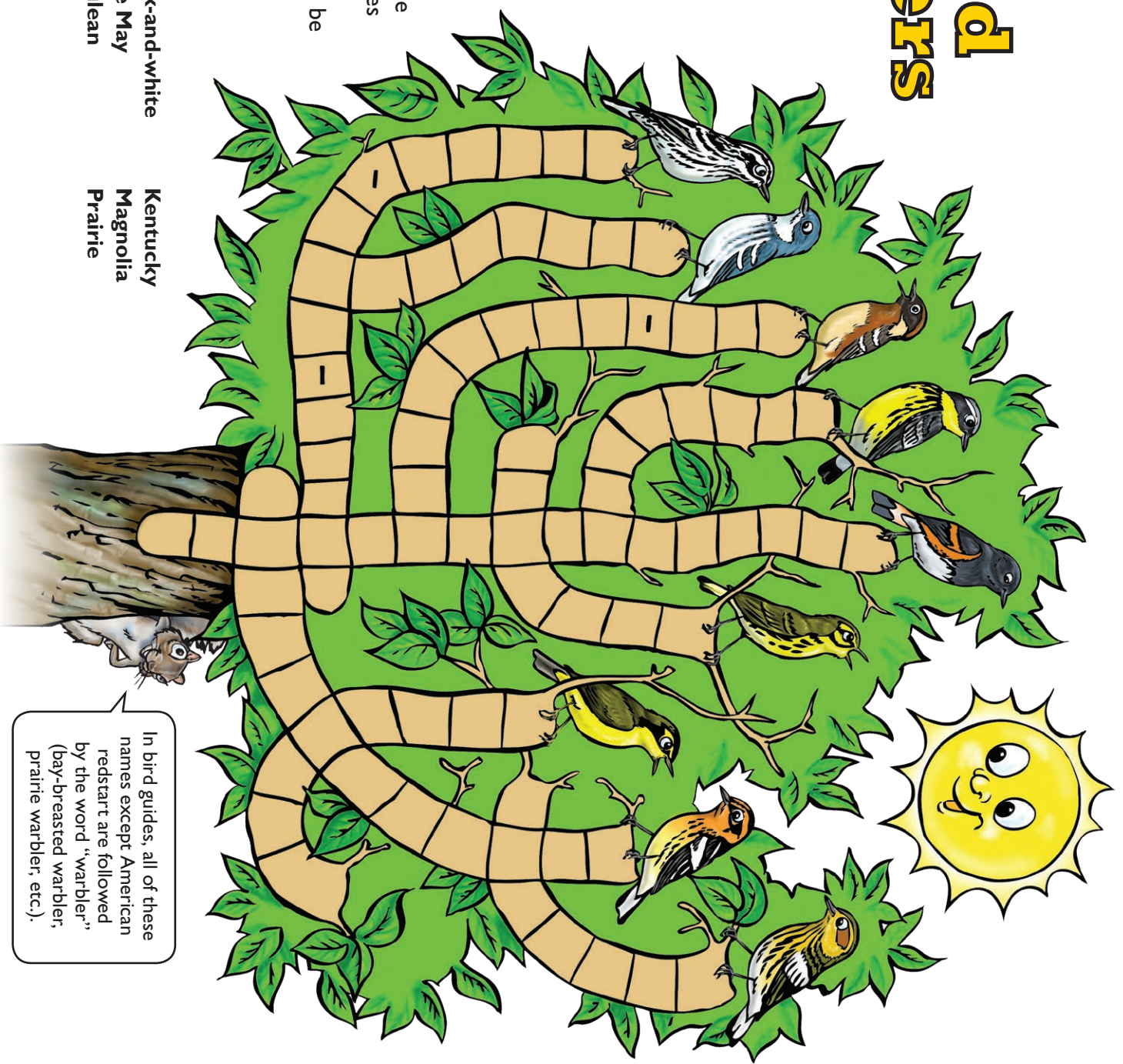
Nearly 40 kinds of warblers wander through Missouri in May. Some stay here to nest. Others grab a quick bite to eat and keep flying north. Woodlands throughout the state serve as “gas stations” where these colorful, insect-eating birds refuel for their long, nighttime flights.

Learn what a few of Missouri’s warblers look like by matching the bird’s name from the list below to the branch on which it is perched. The first letter of each name will be in the space directly below the bird. Spaces between words have been removed, so “Cape May” will be written “CapeMay.”

American redstart
Bay-breasted
Blackburnian

Black-and-white
Cape May
Cerulean

Kentucky
Magnolia
Prairie



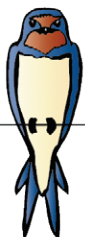
In bird guides, all of these names except American redstart are followed by the word “warbler” (bay-breasted warbler, prairie warbler, etc.).

SWALLOW SWARM

Hungry swallows swallow insects—and not much else. So, when bugs bug out in the fall, swallows split for Central and South America. Before they leave, the birds gather in ginormous flocks on power lines and near wetlands. This offers a great opportunity to see all six kinds of swallows that nest in Missouri. Practice your swallow ID on this puzzle, then grab some binoculars and get outside to see the real thing!



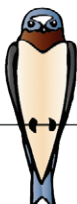
IT'S A SWALLOW BON VOYAGE PARTY! HOW MANY OF EACH KIND CAN YOU FIND IN THE FLOCK ABOVE? (HINT: THERE ARE 316 TOTAL.)



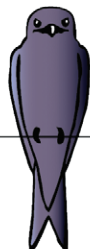
Barn Swallow



Bank Swallow



Cliff Swallow



Purple Martin



Rough-winged Swallow



Tree Swallow

Whose View?

Animals make their homes in all sorts of places. Can you match each critter to the view it sees when it looks out its "bedroom window?"



Golden crayfish: _____



Pileated woodpecker: _____



Muskrat: _____



Eastern mole: _____



Gray squirrel: _____



American robin: _____



Three-toed box turtle: _____



Little brown bat: _____



Eastern chipmunk: _____



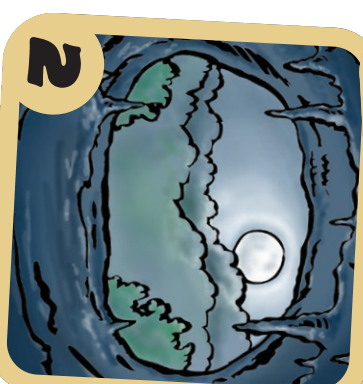
1



4



7



2



5



8



3



6



9

Golden crayfish: 3; Muskrat: 5; Gray squirrel: 6; Little brown bat: 2; Pileated woodpecker: 4; Eastern mole: 7; American robin: 8; Three-toed box turtle: 9; Eastern chipmunk: 1