



CENTRAL COAST ZOO

ATASCADERO, CA

Unlock the Secrets of the Wild:
Learning and Conservation at Every Turn

***Learning
Activity
Book***



WORD SEARCH

FIND & CIRCLE THESE WORDS
(Up, Down or Diagonal):

<i>biodiversity</i>	<i>nature</i>
<i>animals</i>	<i>zoo</i>
<i>hotspots</i>	<i>protect</i>
<i>species</i>	<i>care</i>
<i>wildlife</i>	<i>creatures</i>
<i>conservation</i>	<i>wonderful</i>

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

Welcome



CENTRAL COAST ZOO
ATASCADERO, CA

The Central Coast Zoo is
a place of curiosity and learning.
While you visit, take time to explore every corner!

Whether you stay for an hour or
spend the whole day here,
there's always more to learn about our
animals and the secrets of their world.
You're not just visiting animals here—
you're getting to know who they are.

Learn what makes them special,
how they live, and why they need our help.
When we see an animal up close,
we start to care.

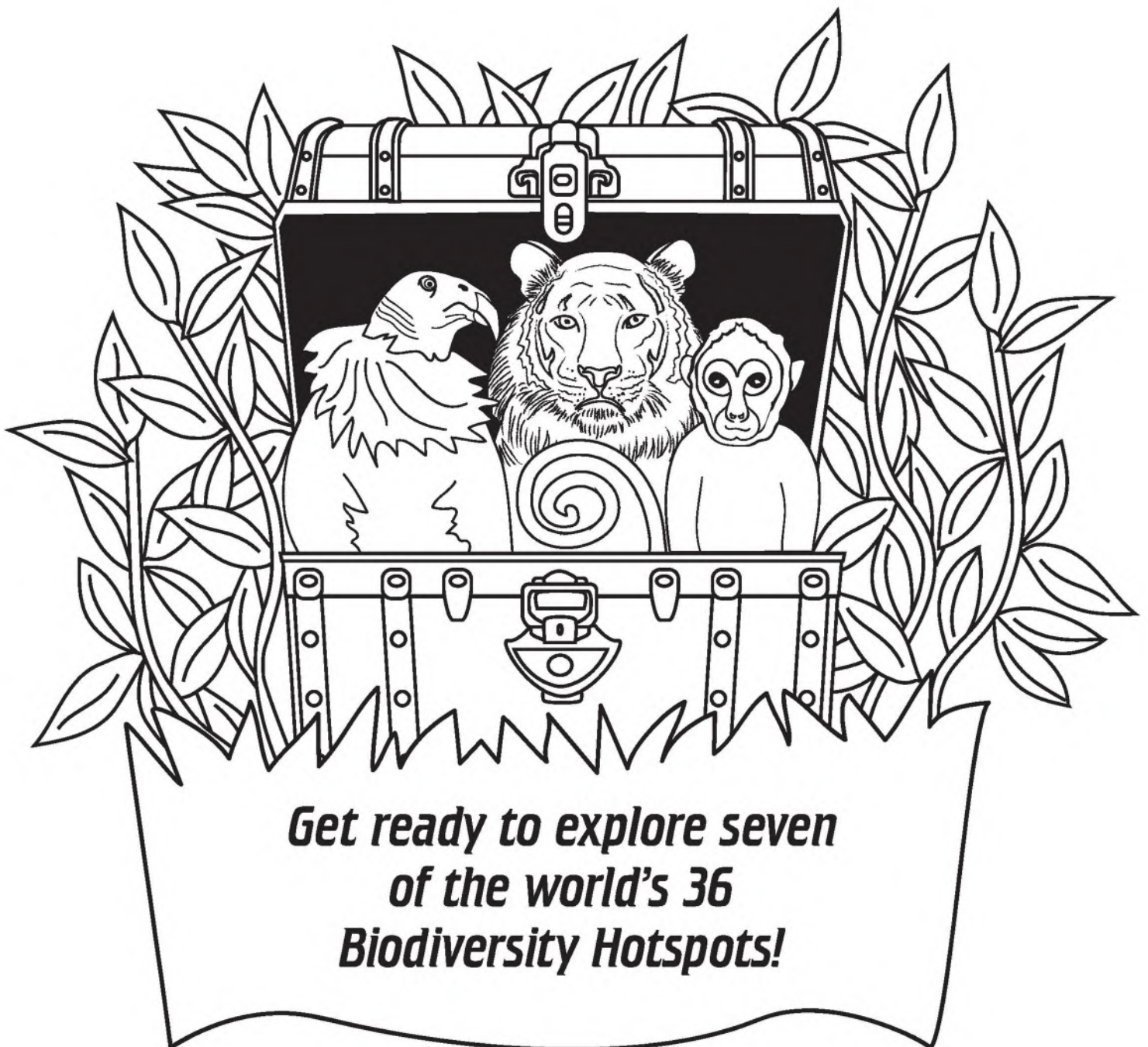
And caring is the
first step to conservation.

***When we practice conservation,
we make sure future
generations
can enjoy wildlife
just like we do today!***

Some places on Earth are like nature's treasure chests,
filled with more animals and plants than almost anywhere else.

These special places are called **Biodiversity Hotspots**,
and they're home to rare and wonderful creatures
found nowhere else in the world.

These places need our help!
Every plant and animal (including us!) are part of a big,
important system that keeps nature healthy.
When we protect these habitats, we help the wildlife thrive.





California

FLORISTIC HOTSPOT

Where is it?

On the West Coast of the United States

What's it like?

Redwood forests, beaches, and deserts

California is home to more plants and animals than anywhere else in the United States!

The California Condor

is one of the rarest birds in the world. Their wings stretch to be nearly 10 feet across — that's wider than a car!

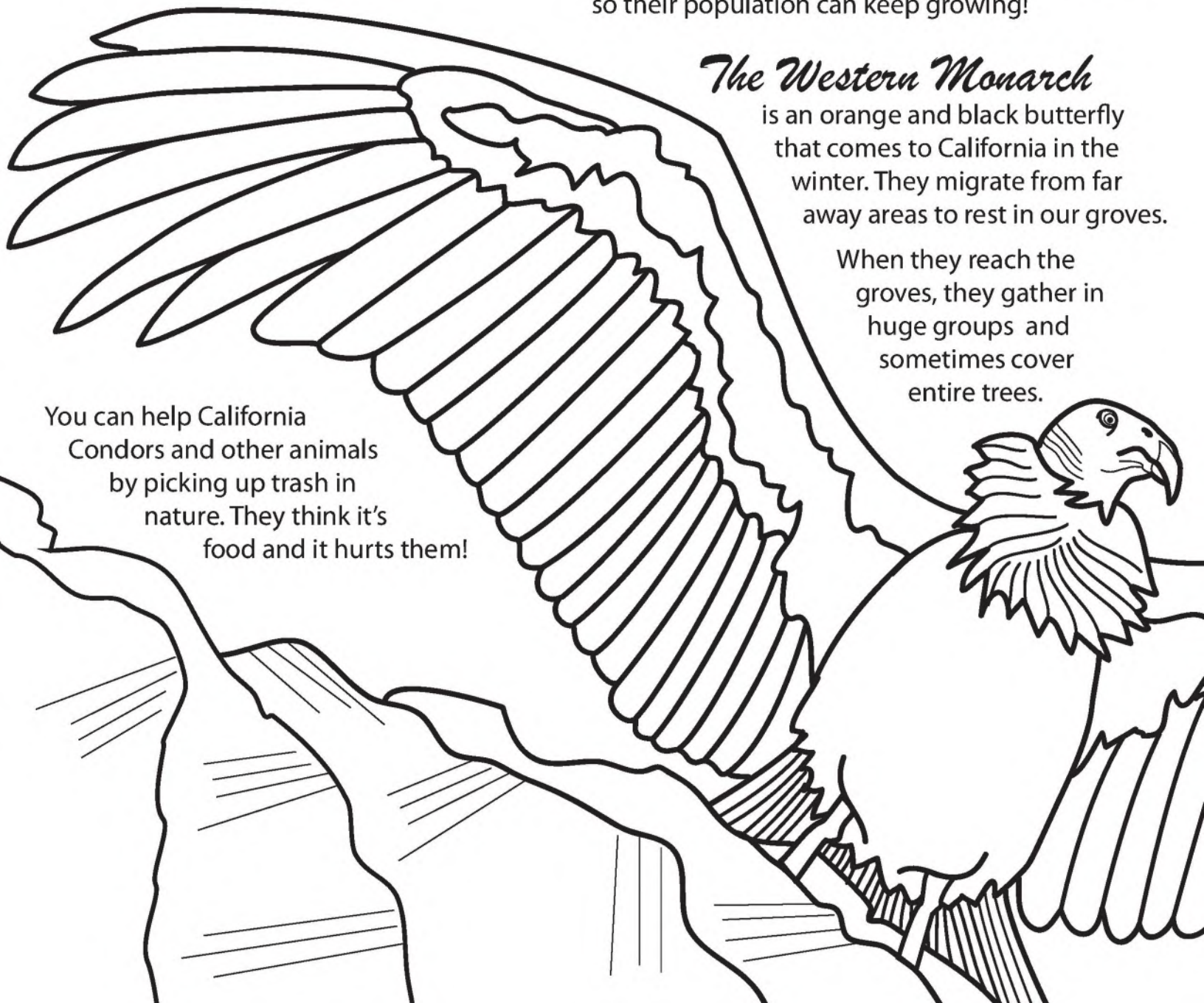
In the 1980s, there were only 27 condors left in the world. With the help of caring people, they were able to grow the population back to over 500. It's important we continue to support them so their population can keep growing!

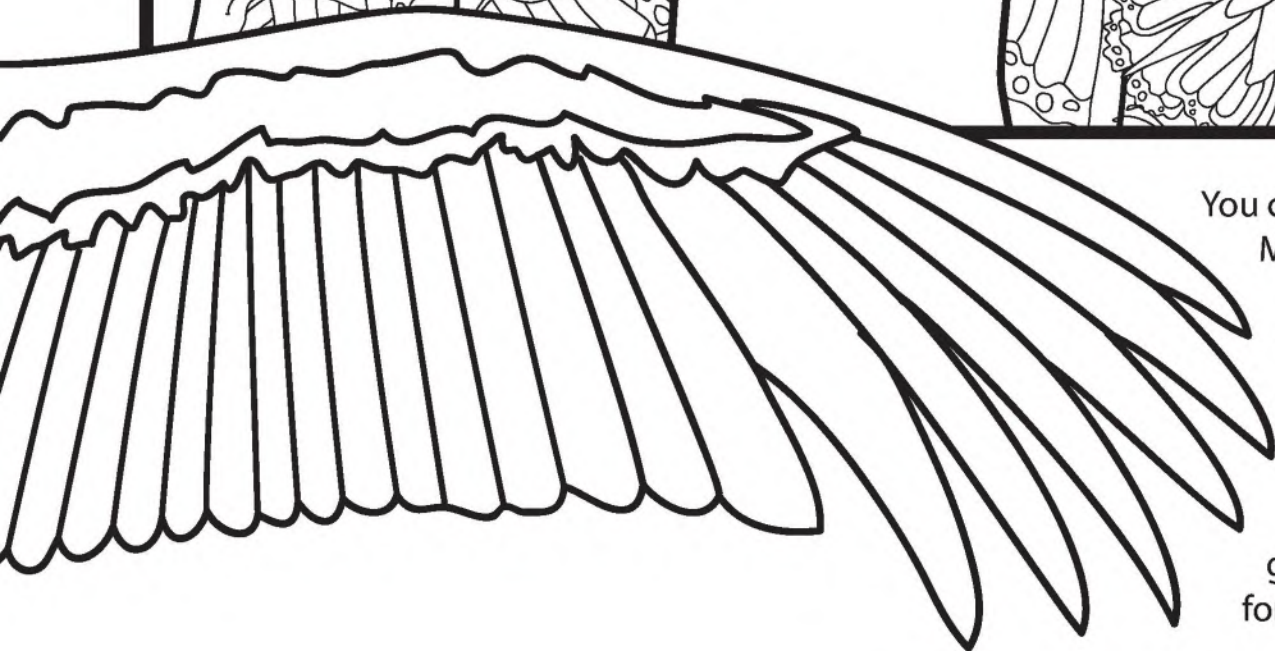
The Western Monarch

is an orange and black butterfly that comes to California in the winter. They migrate from far away areas to rest in our groves.

When they reach the groves, they gather in huge groups and sometimes cover entire trees.

You can help California Condors and other animals by picking up trash in nature. They think it's food and it hurts them!





You can help Western Monarchs by planting their favorite plants. They need food along their long journey, so spread seeds that will grow into meals for them.

INDO-BURMA

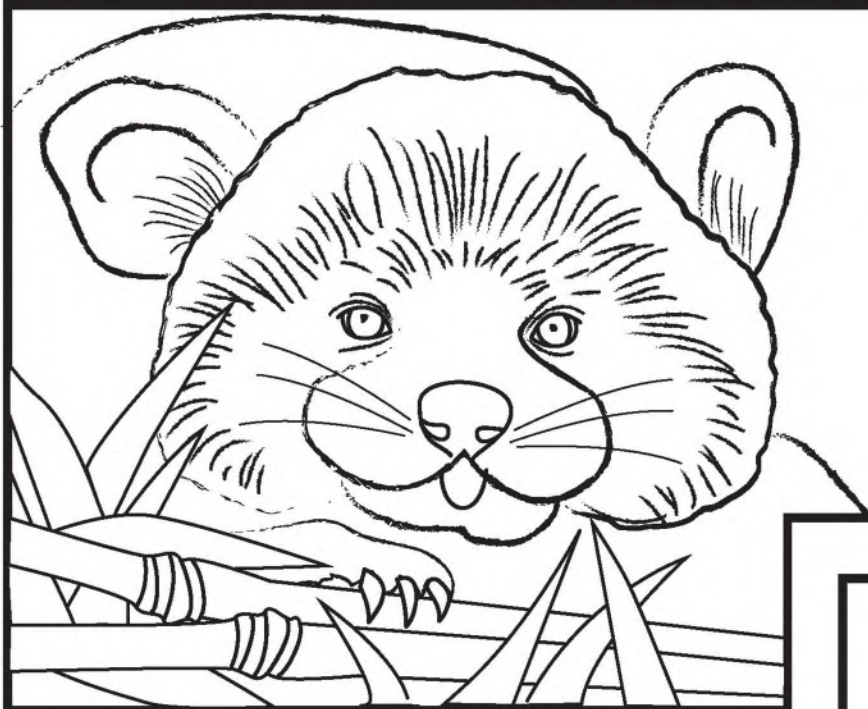
WHERE IS IT?

West Asia, across India, China, Myanmar,
Thailand, and Vietnam

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Mountain ranges, plateaus, and floodplains

MEET OUR RED PANDA



“Red pandas aren't related to the giant pandas! They're closer relatives to raccoons, weasels, and skunks.”



“Do you see my little fangs? These pointy teeth help me stay safe in the wild!”



MEET OUR CHINESE MUNTJAC

SUNOALAND

WHERE IS IT?

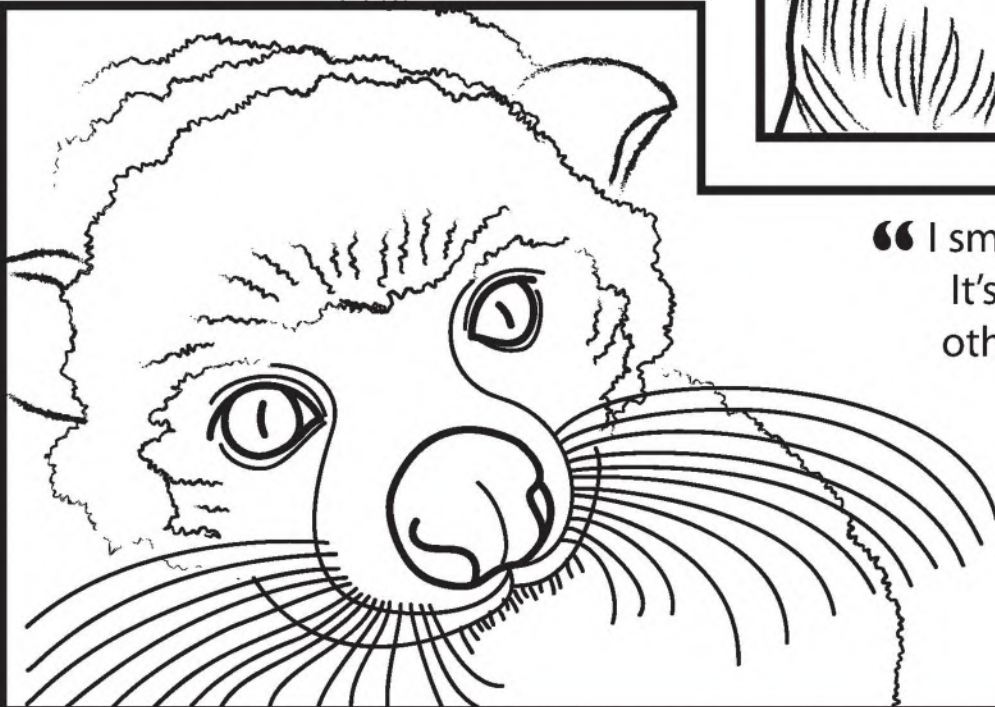
In Malaysia in Southeast Asia

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Islands with lush tropical rainforests, dry scrublands, coastal mangroves, and high-altitude plateaus.

MEET OUR MALAYAN TIGER

“ I’m known for being a night owl.
I like to hunt when it’s dark and have
amazing night vision to see through
the jungle! ”



“ I smell like buttered popcorn!
It’s how I communicate with
other binturongs in the wild. ”



MEET OUR BINTURONG



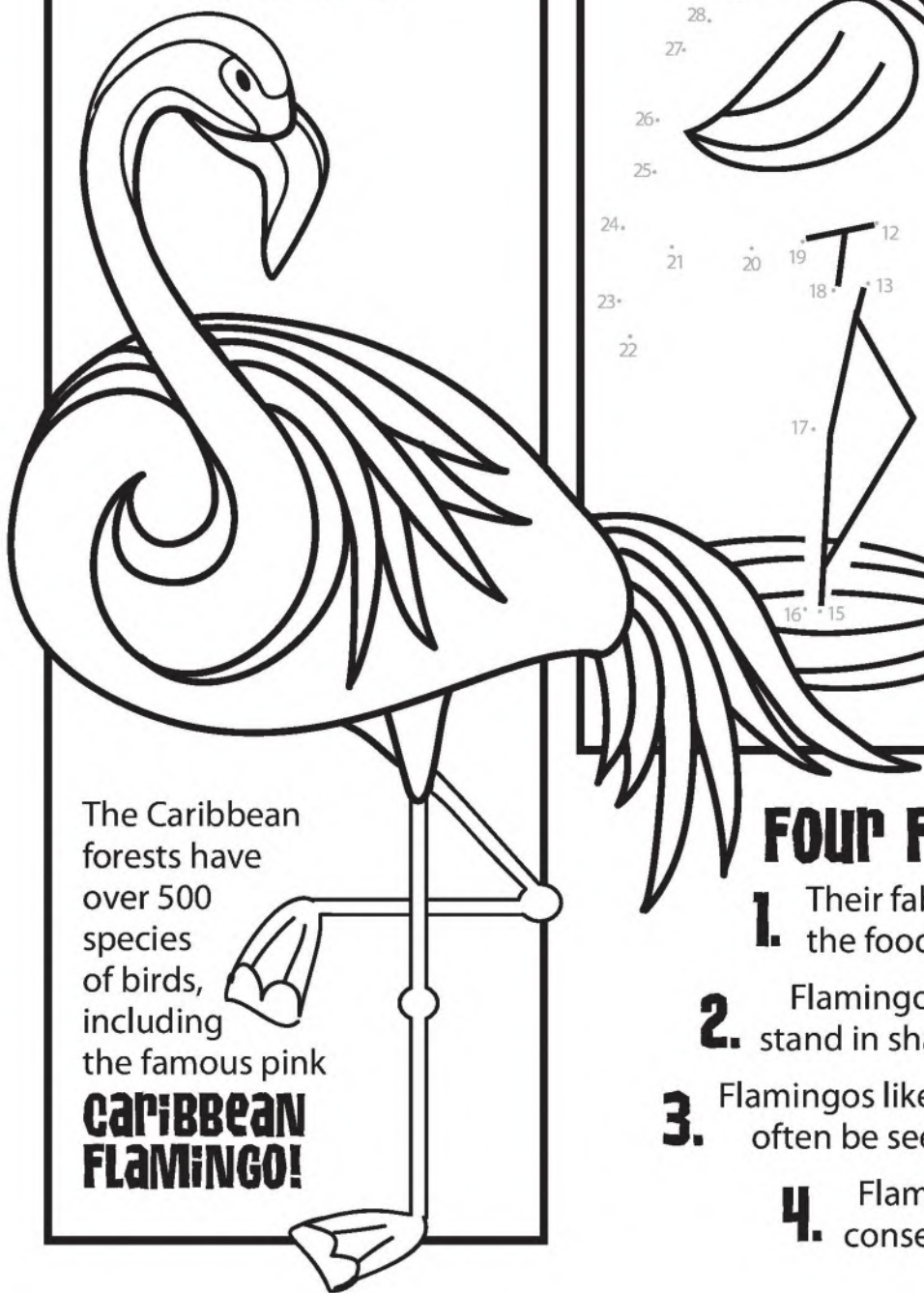
CARIBBEAN

Where is it?

Between North and South America, in the Caribbean Sea.

What's it Like?

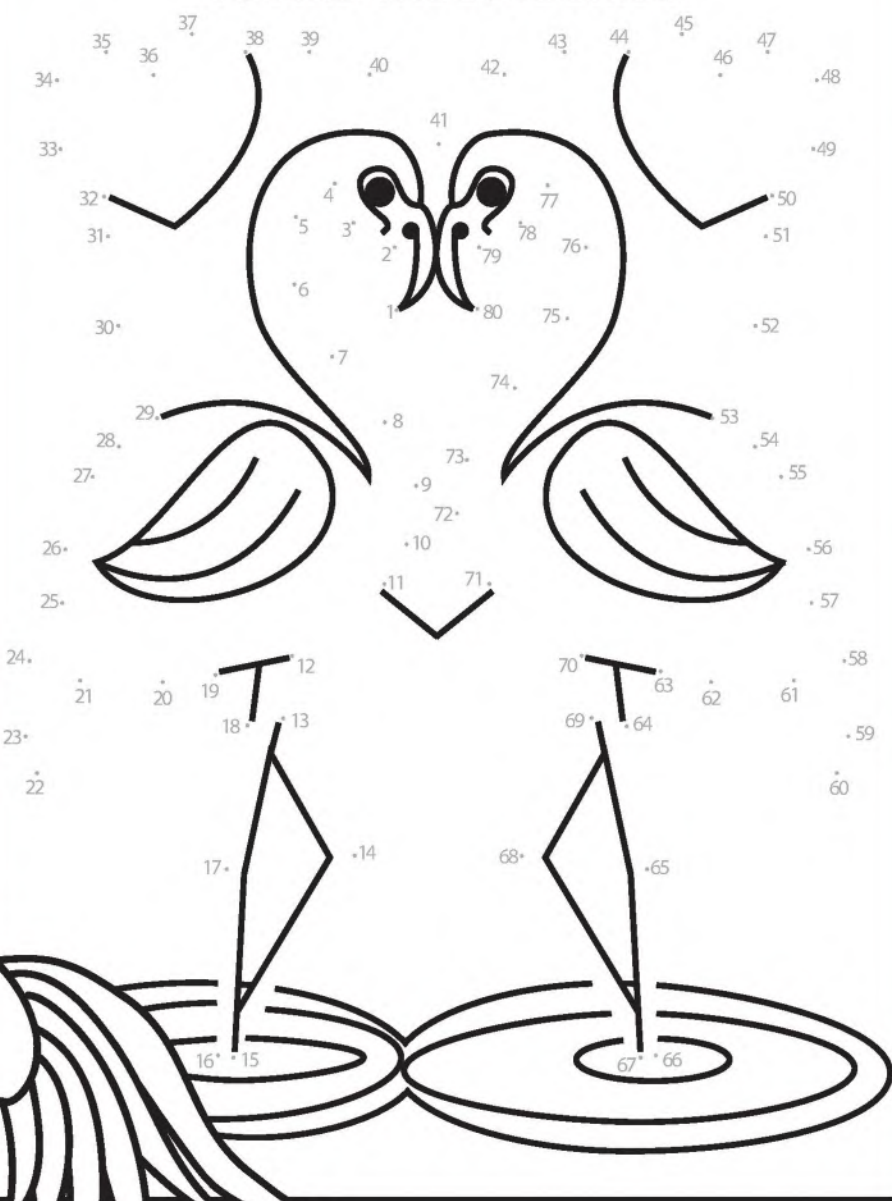
Crystal-clear oceans, island chains, and vibrant tropical islands.



The Caribbean forests have over 500 species of birds, including the famous pink

Caribbean Flamingo!

CONNECT THE DOTS TO FIND THE LOVE BIRDS



FOUR FUN FLAMINGO FACTS

1. Their fabulous pink color comes from the food they eat – algae and shrimp.
2. Flamingos have special feet so they can stand in shallow water without tipping over.
3. Flamingos like to hang out in big groups and can often be seen dancing together in the water.
4. Flamingos stand on one leg to conserve energy and stay warm.



MESOAMERICA

WHERE IS IT?

From Mexico through
Panama in Central America.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?

Tropical rainforests, volcanic
mountains, and barrier reefs.

MEXICAN SPIDER MONKEYS

are often rescued
from people's homes.
Some people think they
make great pets,
but they aren't healthy
in human homes.

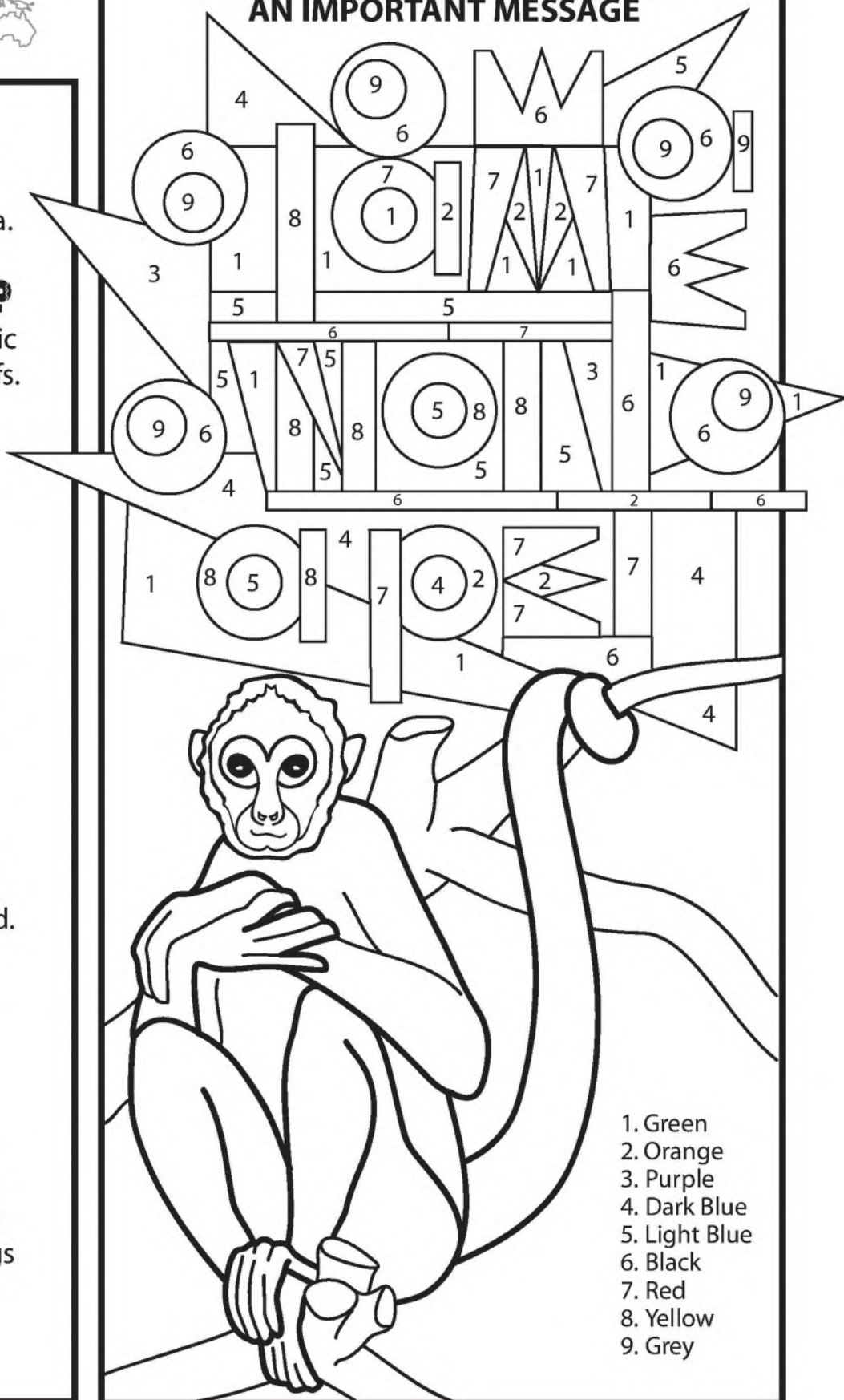
It's important to
know which animals are
happy as pets and which
ones should live in the wild.

Zoos can give these
monkeys a better place
to live, similar to
their natural habitat.

FUN FACT

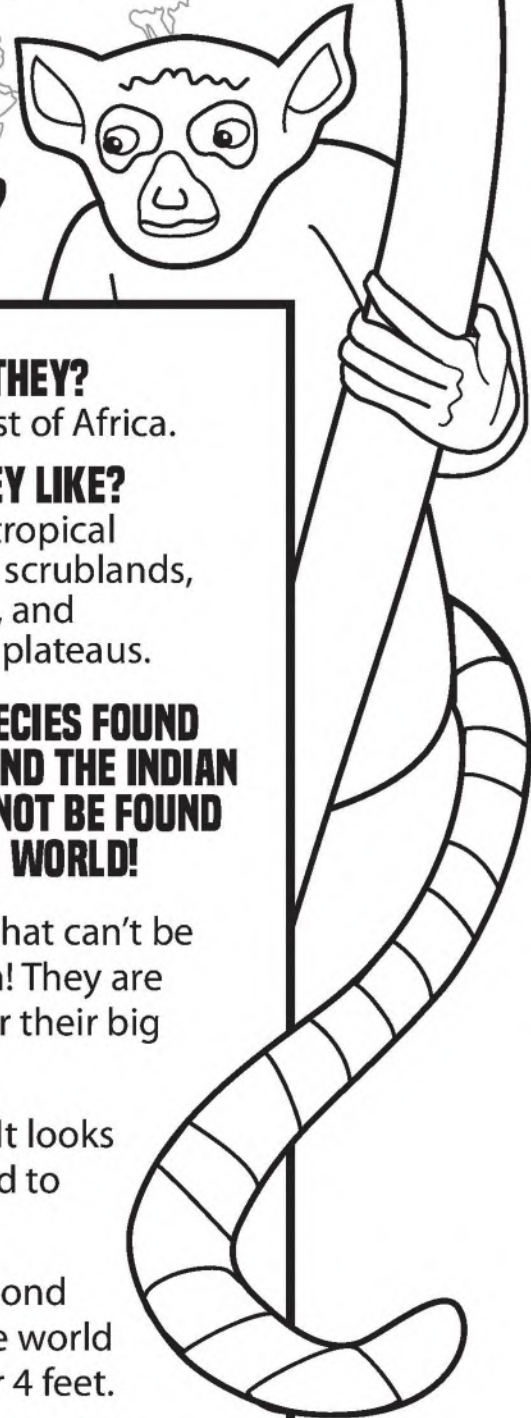
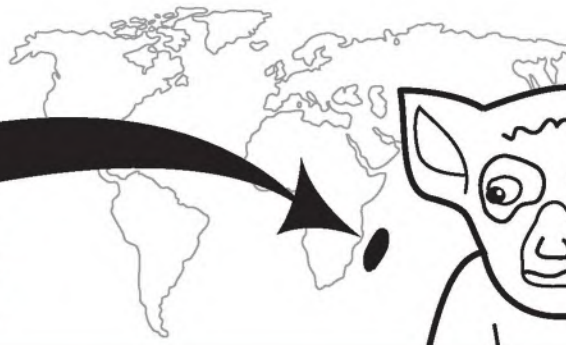
Mexican spider monkeys
have prehensile tails—this
means they can grab things
with their tail like we can
with our hands!

COLOR BY NUMBER TO DISCOVER AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE



1. Green
2. Orange
3. Purple
4. Dark Blue
5. Light Blue
6. Black
7. Red
8. Yellow
9. Grey

MADAGASCAR & THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS



WHERE ARE THEY?

Off the east coast of Africa.

WHAT ARE THEY LIKE?

Islands with tropical rainforests, dry scrublands, mangroves, and high-altitude plateaus.

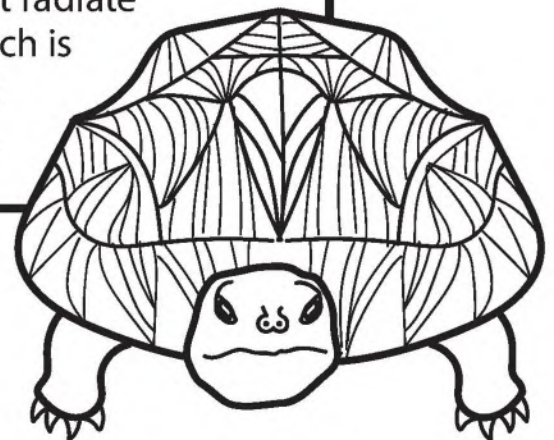
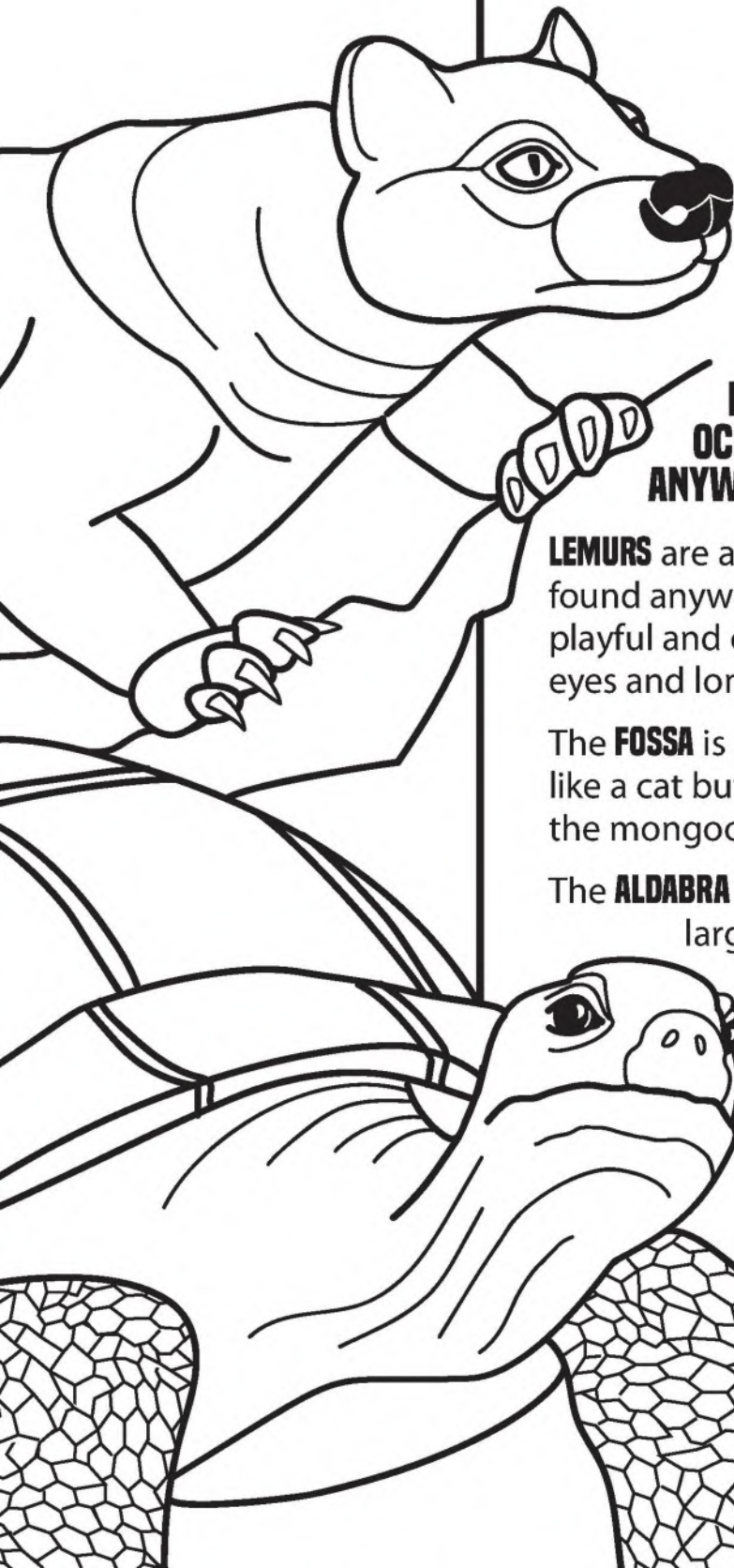
80% OF THE SPECIES FOUND IN MADAGASCAR AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS CANNOT BE FOUND ANYWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD!

LEMURS are a type of monkey that can't be found anywhere else on Earth! They are playful and curious, known for their big eyes and long fluffy tails.

The **FOSSA** is a fierce predator. It looks like a cat but is actually related to the mongoose species.

The **ALDABRA TORTOISE** is the second largest tortoise in the world and can be over 4 feet.

The **RADIATED TORTOISE** has beautiful patterns on its shell that radiate like stars, which is where it got its name.



CERRADO



WHERE IS IT?
Brazil, in South America.

WHAT'S IT LIKE?
Grassland with twisted trees,
tall grasses, and
winding rivers.

The **CERRADO** is home to
animals like **HYACINTH MACAWS**,
TOCO TOUCANS, **COMMON MARMOSETS**,
and the speedy
red-legged **SERIEMA**.

The **GIANT ANTEATER** roams
in search of tasty ants, while
the **PREHENSILE-TAILED PORCUPINE**
climbs trees with its strong tail!

*Have you ever seen the animals around
Atascadero that Charles Paddock used to rescue?*

Skunks **Opossum** **Squirrels**
Rabbits **Deer** **Raccoons** **Owls**

*If you do see them, keep your distance—
they're wild, and only trained experts should approach!*

Charles Paddock's Legacy

The Central Coast Zoo was started in 1955 by a county park ranger named Charles Paddock. Mr. Paddock hand-nursed wild animals that were hurt to help them get healthy. At one point, he had over 125 wild birds and mammals that he cared for!



Over the years, the zoo has grown and improved into an AZA-accredited zoo with over 100 animals. This designation means that the zoo is evaluated every 5 years by recognized experts in the zoo field and is measured against the established standards and best practices of the zoo profession, placing the Central Coast Zoo in the top 10% of zoos in the country.



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