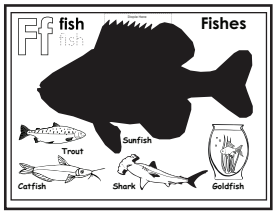
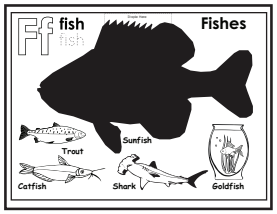
Backbone Bonanza

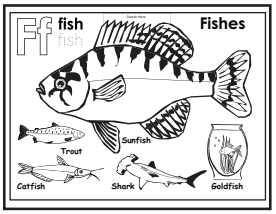
Directions: Make one copy of each **Vertebrate Card** (**Fishes**, **Amphibians**, **Reptiles**, **Birds**, and **Mammals**). Use a black marker to completely fill in the shape of the main figure on each sheet (as shown in 1. below). Then, for each child, make a copy on card stock of the filled-in **Vertebrate Cards** and the original cards (as shown in 2. below). Cut out the main figures (or allow children to cut them out) from the copy of the original. Each child should receive a **Vertebrate Card** with a black silhouette and a cut out animal shape (as shown in 3. below).

1.

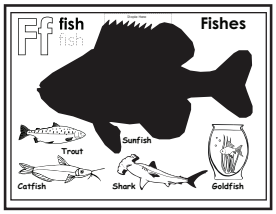


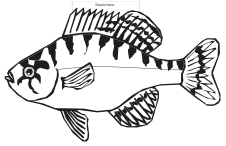
2.





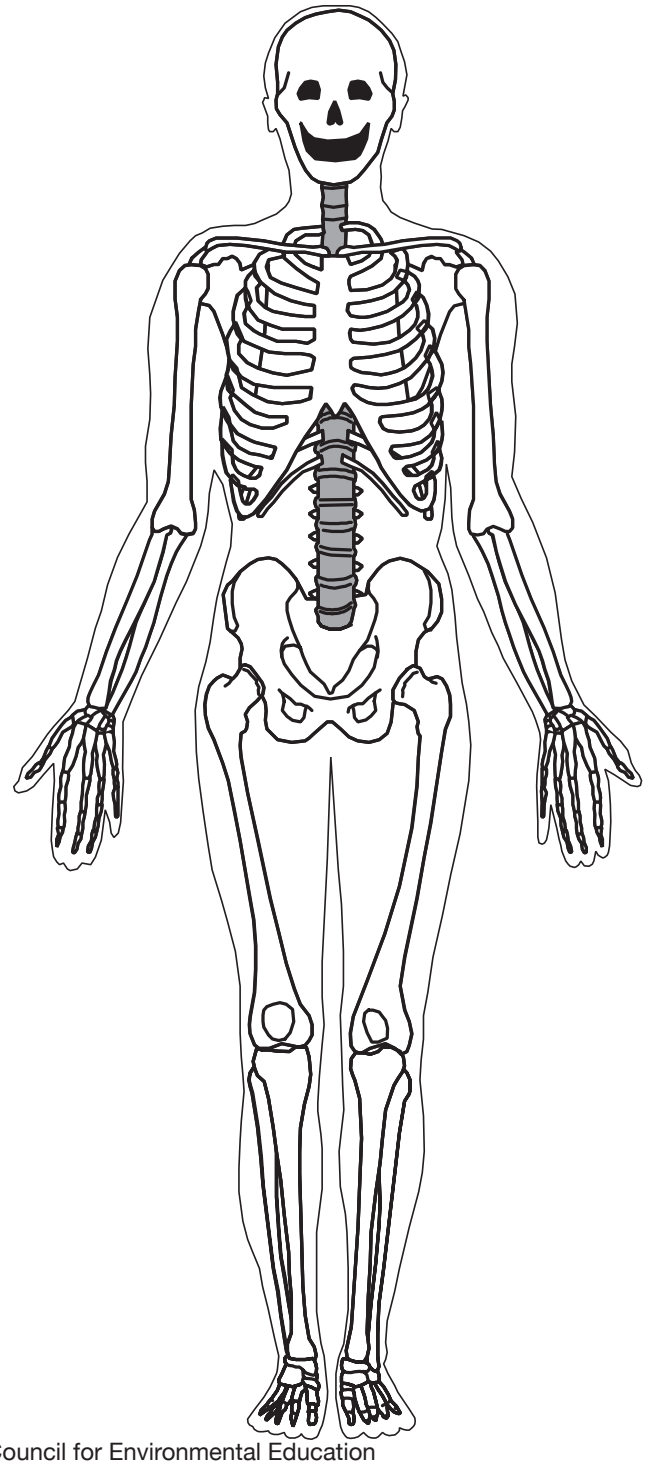
3.





Gather Materials: Gather materials to represent different animal coverings for the five types of vertebrates:

- glitter or sequin “scales” (for fish);
- shiny paint or paint mixed with glue (for amphibians);
- buttons or similar non-metallic “scales” (for reptiles);
- construction paper “feathers” or real ones from a craft store (for birds);
- and bits of yarn or fake fur (for mammals).



If desired, you may enlarge the skeleton figure at right to use during your discussion of vertebrate backbones and internal skeletons. The backbone is indicated in gray.

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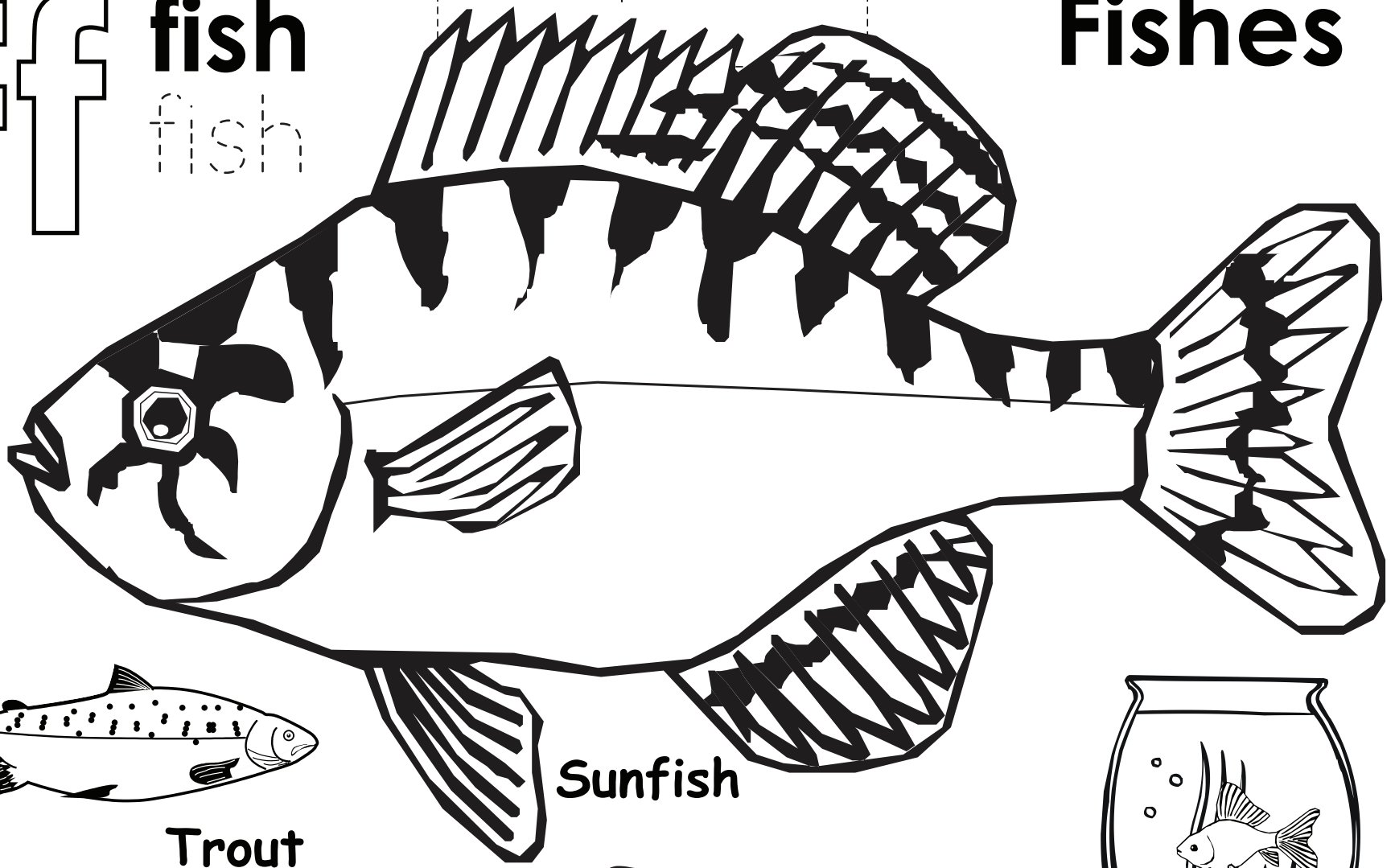
Ff

fish

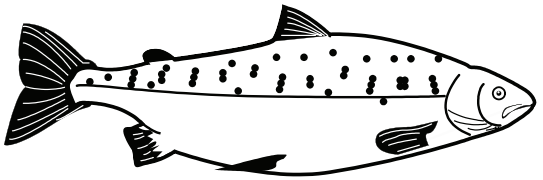
fish

Staple Here

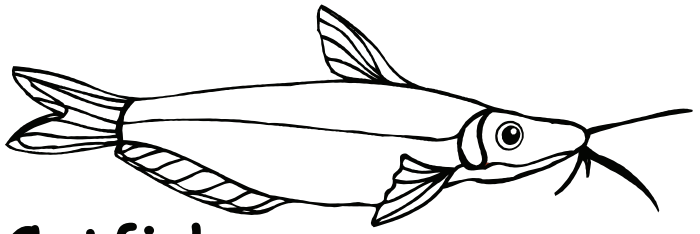
Fishes



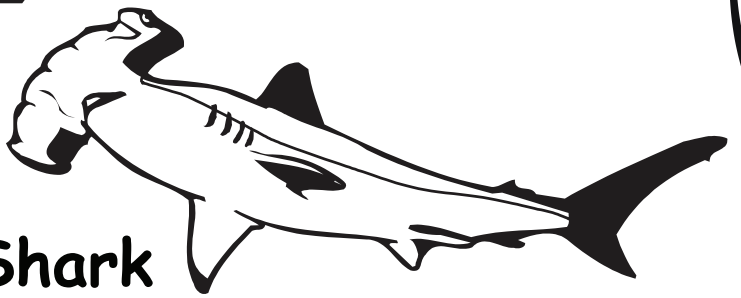
Sunfish



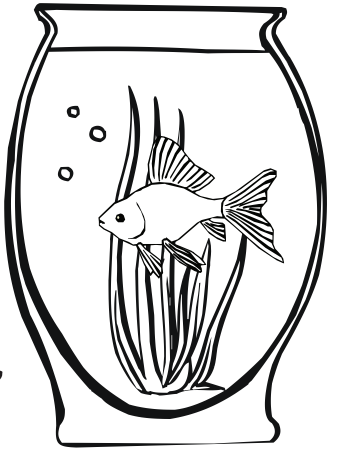
Trout



Catfish



Shark



Goldfish

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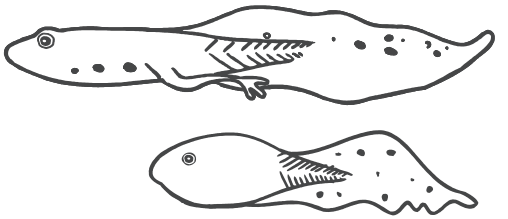
Aa

Amphibians

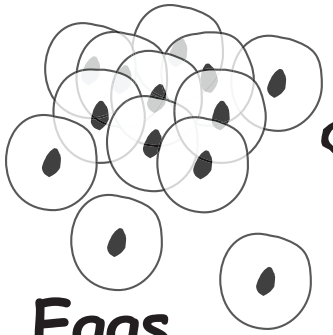
amphibian

amphibian

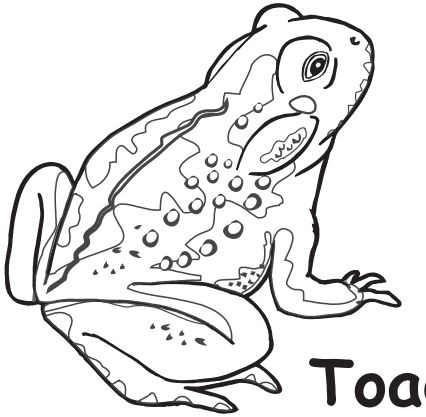
Staple Here



Tadpoles

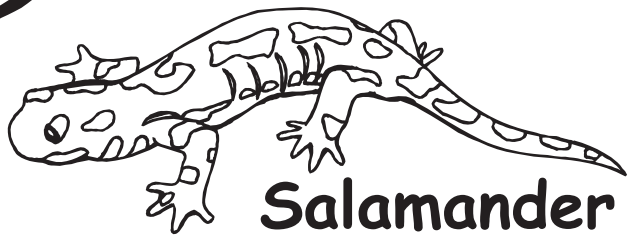


Eggs



Toad

Frog



Salamander

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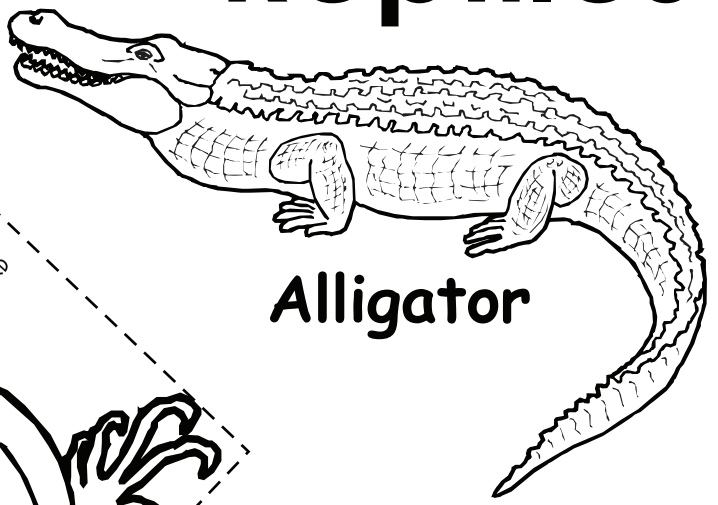
Rr

Reptiles

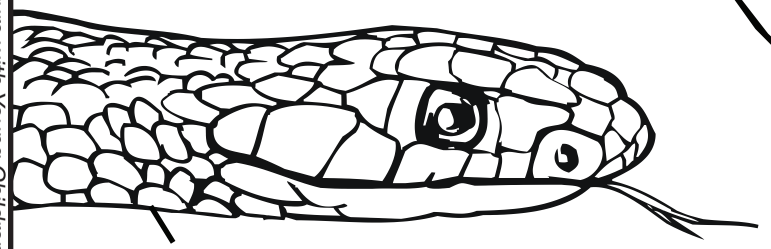
reptile

reptile

Staple Here



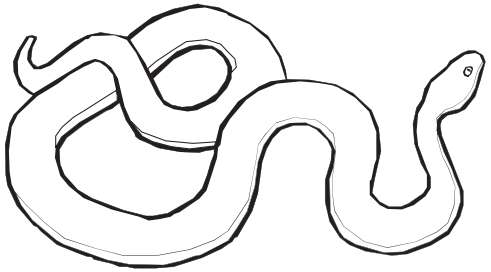
Alligator



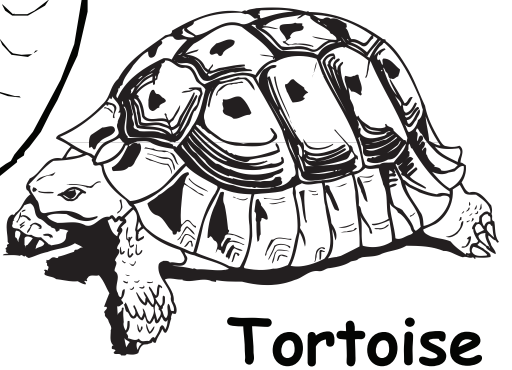
Snake Scales

Hatching

Lizard



Snake



Tortoise

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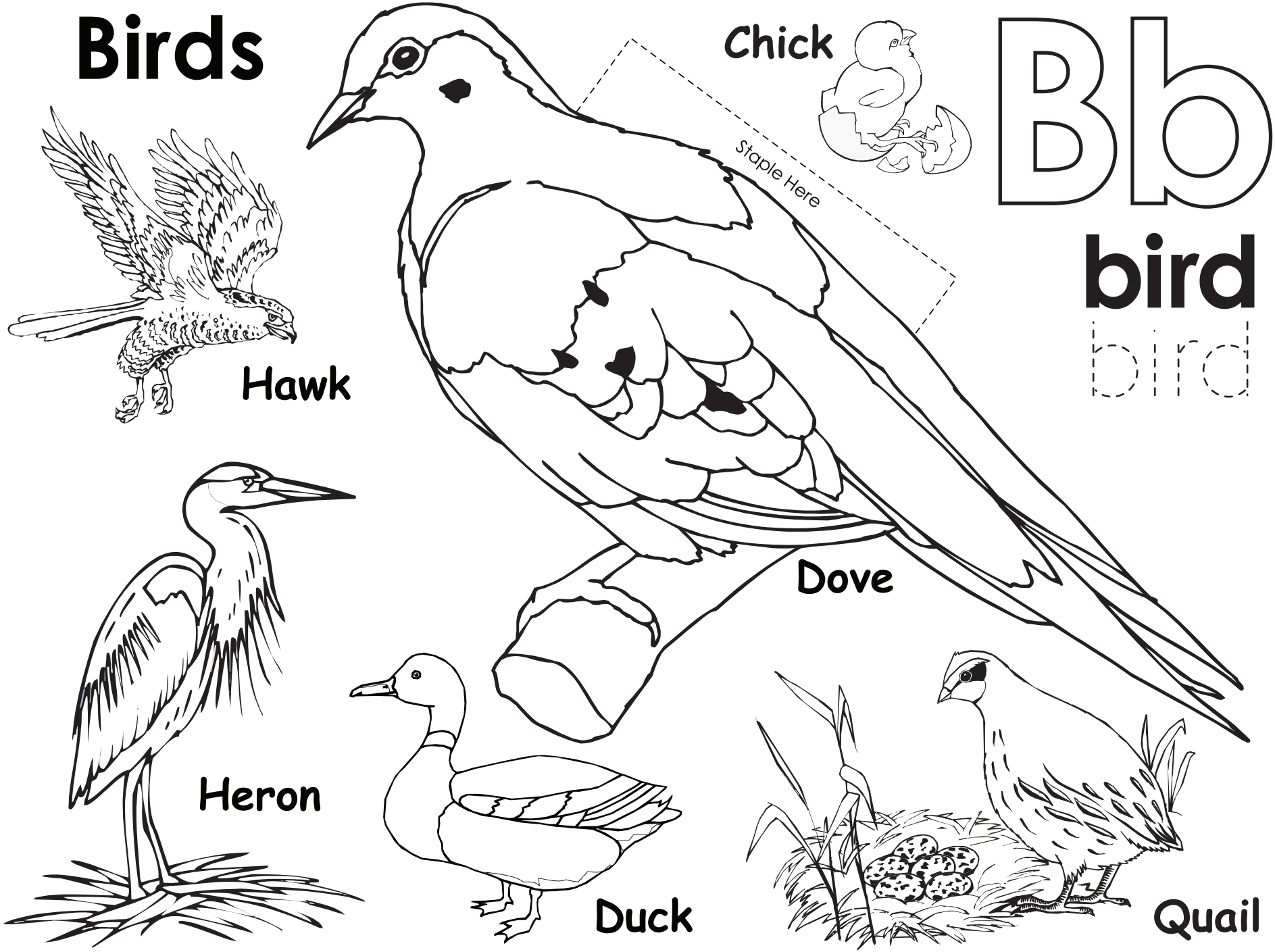
Birds



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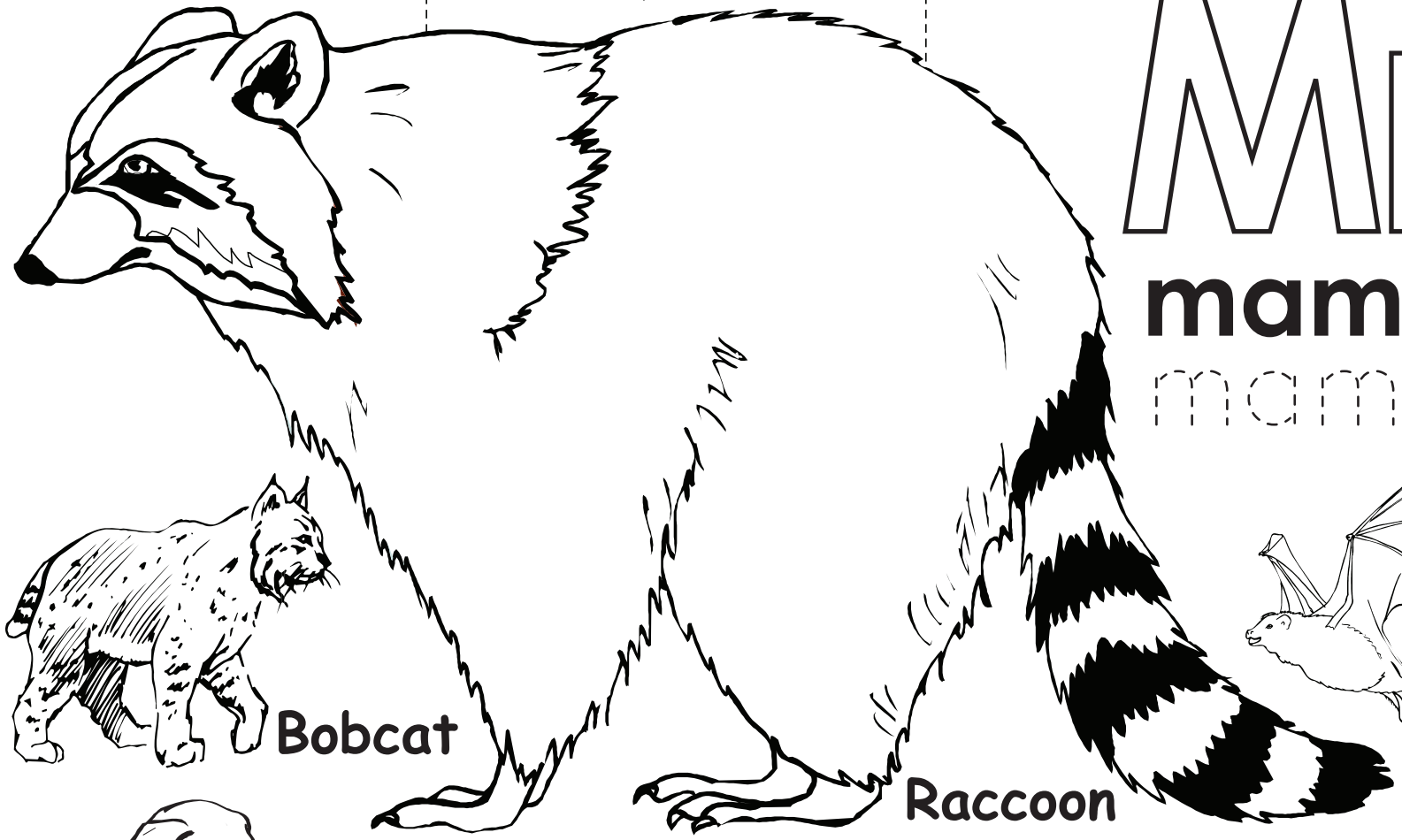
Mm

mammals

mammals



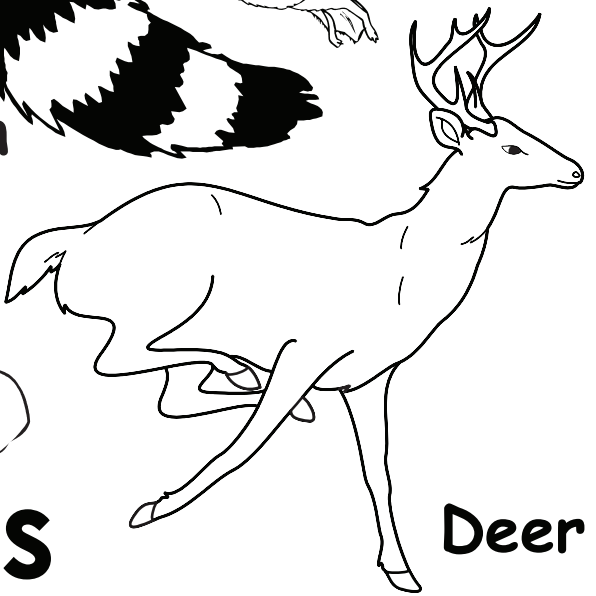
Raccoon

Bobcat

Bat

Dog Nursing Puppies

Rabbit



Deer

Mammals

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