



The Critter Cityscape Board Game



Creature adventurers know that you don't have to travel to far-off exotic lands, like Chris and Martin do, to observe a wide variety of wild animals (although that's certainly fun to do every now and then). Critters are doing their thing right under our noses, even in the most unexpected places in our human environments. You just don't think they're exotic because they're in your own backyard!

MATERIALS

- large sheet of construction paper
- pencil
- white paper
- scissors
- tape
- crayons/markers

Observe what's happening, creature-wise, in your neighborhood and compare your observations with your friends. Did you spot any of the critters Chris and Martin came across in the "City Critters" episode of Kratts' Creatures? Did you observe some the Kratt bros didn't? Use your knowledge as background to create and play the Critter Cityscape Board Game.

Mark occasional stones as a "crittertunity" stone. (More on that below.)

4. Decide where the city critters most likely would be found on your map.
5. Instead of drawing them in at these locations, cut flaps at these spots

on your map (as shown below), carefully using one blade of a pair of scissors.



INSTRUCTIONS:

How to make the board:

1. Make two lists: one of city critters that live in your area and, the other, a list of their habitats.
2. On a large piece of construction paper, draw and color the human and natural environments of your city. Be sure to include the places from your list of city creature habitats.
3. Draw intersecting paths of stepping stones in and around your cityscape so that all areas can be reached.



6. On separate pieces of paper, draw your city critters. Make them small enough to fit behind the flaps you just cut.

7. Tape these drawings to the back of your city map so that the critters can be seen when the flaps are lifted.
8. Make up a board game using your personalized cityscape.



PLAYING THE GAME:

1. Decide on what the object of your game will be and write it on a separate sheet of paper. Possibilities could include: finding the most city critters, or finding animals from different categories, like two-legged, four-legged, etc.
2. Decide on rules like how one moves around the board and how one meets the objective of the game. You could throw a die or draw a number from a bag. Do you collect animals as you pass them or do you make a list of those you land next to?
3. Make up some "Crittertunity" cards to be used with the "Crittertunity" stepping stones. If a player lands on that stone, he/she must draw a card that reveals opportunities for gaining points or setbacks like losing your chance to spot the next animal you approach.

Keep looking when you're out-and-about your neighborhood. You'll be able to add new city critters to your Critter Cityscape Board Game, making it even more exciting, challenging and rewarding.



Pretty City Animals



Don't recycle those old magazines just yet! We're going to play Dr. Frankenstein Visits Kratt City. The mad scientist of old horror movies wasn't totally loony. He supposedly was a brilliant scientist who, unfortunately, went mad and created a monster. You're going to use a principle similar to his, but instead of a monster that terrifies the countryside, you're going to create a creature that can adapt itself to the city or suburbs.

MATERIALS

- magazine
- scissors
- crayons/markers

First, go through your magazines. You'll want to cut out as many photos of different animals as you can find. While you're collecting your raw materials, think about what it would take for a creature to survive today in an urban or suburban environment.

Use the space to the left to draw a location (but leave the box empty for the moment). Is it a building, sewer or subway? Take the cutout photos and use different parts from several to create your special original, a creature that would be able to make it in the scene you drew. What is the "creaturality" of your new composite? Does it have large nostrils to breath polluted city air? How many eyes? Does it have a heavy fur coat or is it hairless? What kind of body did you

give it — and why? And teeth? Tentacles? Be imaginative!

Paste together the parts of your creature in the square below your drawing of its environment. In your

Creature Notebook, explain why you chose to make your creature as you did and why you chose such a habitat. Then you must name your new creature! (Would your parents let you keep it as a pet?)

Based on your notes, write a story about your creature and send it with a photo of said creation to Chris and Martin at:

Earth Creatures
16 Spencer
Warren, NJ 07059



Don't Get Antsy— Get Results!



CHRIS & MARTIN KRATT

Thousands of ant species are widely distributed around the world. Chris and Martin have spotted the little creatures doing their thing in the tropics, deserts and forests, everywhere except frigid areas like the Arctic and the Antarctic. (No, Ant-arctica, the continent surrounding the South Pole, wasn't named after ants!)

The amazing common denominator among all these ant tribes is their social organization. Ants live in disciplined groups called colonies in which there are queens who rule the female workers and the males. After the young queens and males, both of whom have wings, fly from their home nest and mate, the males die and the young queens start new colonies. That's ant life for you! It works for them! The following activities will allow you to observe your local ants up close.

MATERIALS

- pad of paper or notebook
- pen/pencil
- sugar
- chalk
- candy

LET'S GET DOWN!

Look for ants in your area. Be sure to write down your observations in your Creature Notepad. OK, what size are your local ants? What color? Red? Brown? Black? List how many different kinds of ants you find. Note what they are carrying. Can you sketch one?

HOME, SWEET HOME

Follow the ants back to their colony. They enter through one or more anthills. Is the anthill soil different from the surrounding soil? Do different types of ants construct different styles of hills?

Are the ants wandering out from their colony or do they appear to have a purpose?

Take a few drops of honey or a few grams of sugar and sprinkle them in the ants' path. And put a few chunks of tuna fish on the path, too. Which food attracts the ants? See if you can find a type of ant that likes sugary food and a type of ant that likes oily foods.

ANTS MAKE SCENTS

Ants produce a scent that other ants smell and follow. Take a stick and — **WITHOUT HURTING THE ANTS** — draw a line in the soil across an ant trail. What happens next? Do the ants resume the original route? If they do,

how quickly does it take them to reorganize? If they don't, where do they go? Imagine what the ant scent smells like. Bubble gum? Salsa? Pepperoni pizza?

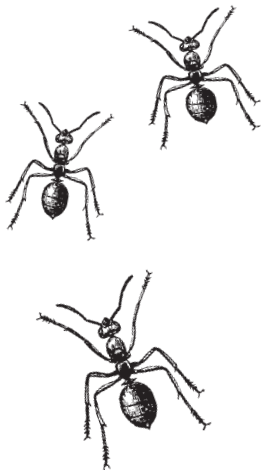
I DARE YOU!

Some people believe that ants will not cross over a chalk line. What do you think? Take two pieces of wet candy.

Place both on a sidewalk where ants are present. Draw a circle with chalk around one piece of candy. Leave the other exposed. What happens next? How quickly or how slowly do the ants react? Describe the results of your experiment in your notebook.

Send a copy of your observations to:

Earth Creatures
16 Spencer
Warren, NJ 07059



It's A-maze-ing!



CHRIS & MARTIN KRATT

What's so amazing is the adaptability of creatures! Urban development is threatening creature species all over the world. Forests are being hacked down, rivers carelessly polluted, the air we breath poisoned — yet some creatures have found ways to coexist with human primates.

MATERIALS

- pencil
- copy of the puzzle

In the “City Critters” episode of Kratt’s Creatures, Chris and Martin explored some of wildlife hot spots located, surprisingly, in the middle of a city. In this maze of skyscrapers, subway tunnels, school yards and parks, some resourceful creatures have fitted in and are actually doing great.

Check out the maze-puzzle. Can you fit in the names of some of the animals that Chris and Martin spotted during their Creature Club adventure? You’ll be a-maze-d!

Fill in this Creature Club Maze by placing words from the list into their appropriate spaces, one letter per space. It’s not as easy as it looks!

Several words have the same number of letters but you have to find the right place for them in the puzzle. The words can’t be substituted for each other, so look at the intersecting words for help.

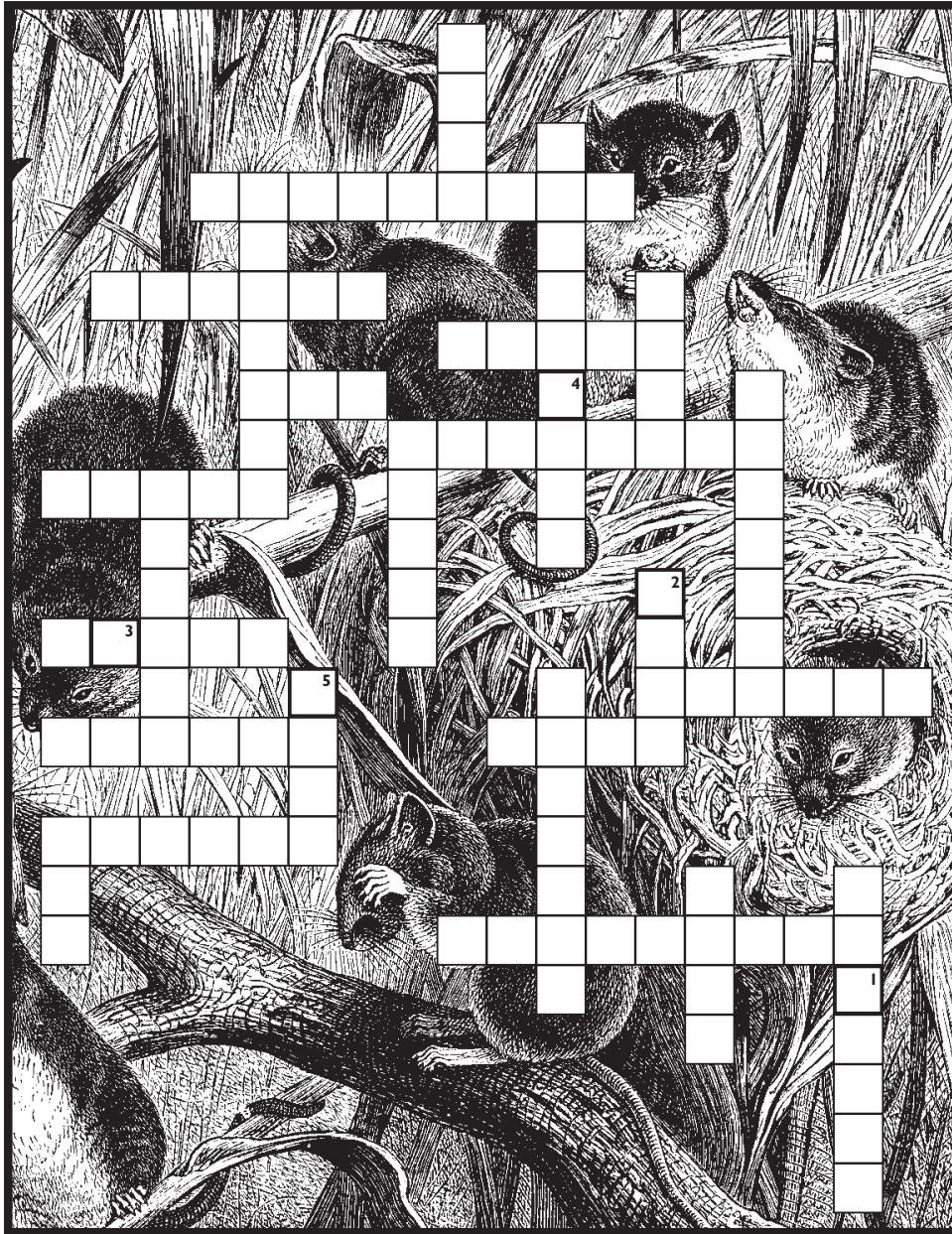


KRATT'S' SUPER HINTS:

- Start with the eight-letter word and work down to the bottom of the maze. Then go back and work above the eight-letter word.

- Cross words off the list as you fit them in.
- Use a pencil.





3-letter words	4-letter words	5-letter words	6-letter words	7-letter words	8-letter word	9-letter words
fox	bird	mouse	beaver	blue jay	squirrel	groundhog
owl	deer	raven	bobcat	mallard		peregrine
	duck	robin	coyote	seagull		porcupine
	frog	snake	falcon	raccoon		
	hawk		turtle			
	tern					

So you've finished the puzzle and you think you're out of the maze! Guess again! Well, don't guess: Arrange the letters from the bold face squares in numerical order. You'll find a hidden answer to the following question:

What do critters do best in a human-made environment?



City Crittters Creature Adventure



CHRIS & MARTIN KRATT

As Chris and Martin will tell you, Africa is a great place to go on a creature adventure to remote jungles, rain forests and savannas to see and appreciate wildlife in its natural setting and get to know and understand them. More and more, humans are realizing that we all share this planet and that we must try a little harder to understand all creatures, great and small.

MATERIALS

- camera
- notepad
- pen
- paper
- drawing pencils

You don't have to journey to any of the other six continents (Africa, Asia, South America, Europe, Australia or Antarctica) to go on an exciting creature adventure. You can launch an adventure from your own neighborhood. Destination: your local zoo. And not for the reasons you might think! Sure, there are exotic creatures living in enclosures, but there are also interesting city crittters living outside of the enclosures.

Are you ready to trek? Assemble a group of friends. You should never go on a creature adventure alone and, besides, it's more fun to share your observations and discoveries. This will be a documentary adventure. Whether you photograph the city crittters or draw them, be sure to label your images.

You've arrived at the zoo. What do you see? (Remember, it's important that you do not disturb or touch any crittter!) Check out the area around trash cans. City crittters are pretty

smart about nabbing the leftover popcorn and other goodies that people toss away. Think of it as recycling! Now look in the enclosures for city crittters who might be dining with the zoo inhabitants — with or without their permission.



Now, the going gets tough! Look for crittter tracks in sand or mud. There might be tell-tale holes in the soil, or even burrows under the bushes. Be patient! Crittters don't survive by just hopping around the place. If there's a sprinkling system, look for slime trails on wet leaves or grass. You

might find a snail or slug. Spider webs could be suspended in tree branches or in bushes. (Did you read *Charlotte's Web*?)

If it's not disruptive, turn over a rock. Several kinds of creatures could live under it. Remember that you don't want to disturb any crittters — after all, this is their home — so, gently, return the rock to its original position. R-E-S-P-E-C-T!



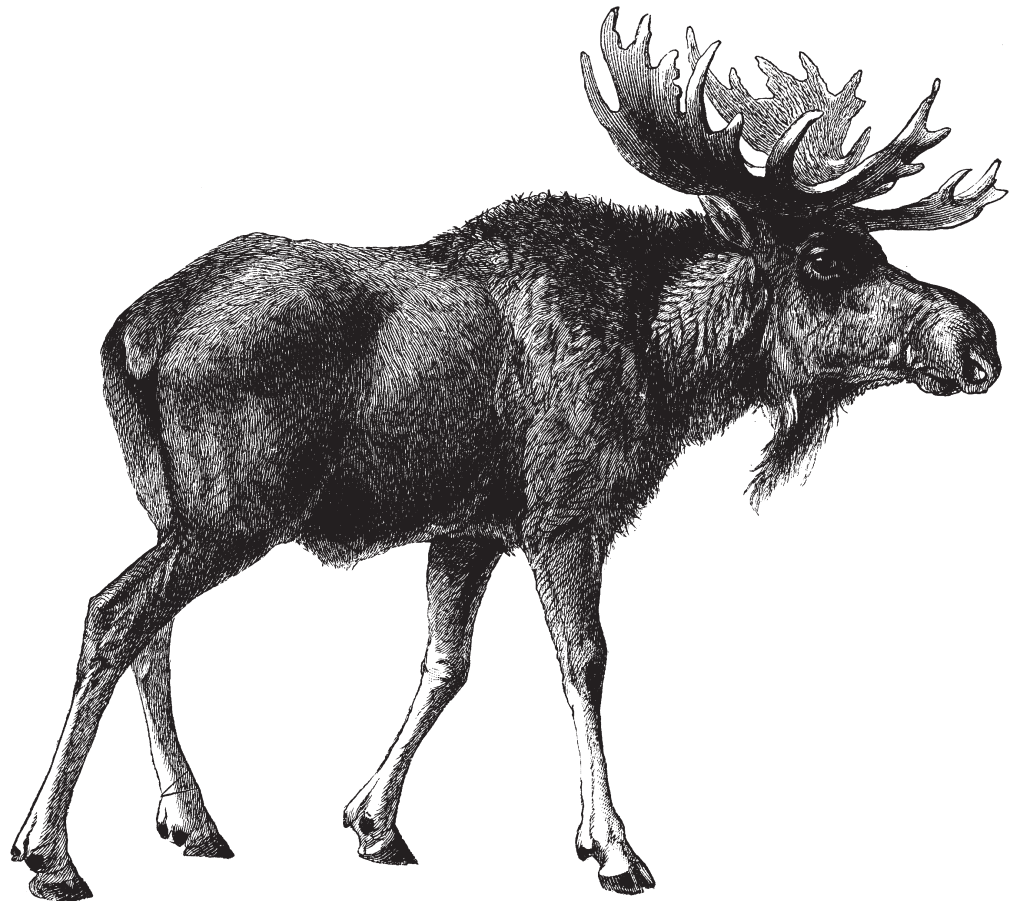


You're doing great. Look up in the sky — it's a bird, it's a plane — no, it really is a bird! Remember how Chris and Martin spotted peregrine falcons nesting atop of skyscrapers? What kind of birds do you see? Natives, like pigeons? Migrating, like geese? Or feral, descendants of pet birds, like parrots and parakeets that flew the coop?

Have you considered how amazing it is that these critters have adapted to city life despite all the urban difficulties they are faced with?

Once you have exhausted the possibilities, or if you have set a time limit for capturing as many images of city critters as you can, reassemble your creature adventure group. Compare your

lists, drawings and photographs. Who has the longest list? Who discovered critters in the most places? Who found insects, spiders, reptiles, birds and mammals? What was the most unusual city critter that was spotted? What was the most unlikely habitat? Have group members jump in with their questions for a lively round (picnic) table discussion. Is there another location in the area to which your creature adventure members would like to journey next?



Getting To Know You, Day By Day!



We know from Chris and Martin's explorations in "City Critters" that a city can be a great place for checking out the creature world. Since the creature world is constantly changing and adapting, there always are new neighbors to meet and old ones to re-appreciate.

So, let's get moving, KCC's (Kratts' Creature Clubbers)! We're off on a three-part adventure in our own neighborhood. This time, we're going to check out wild creatures, domesticated creatures and some that fall in between.

MATERIALS

- Creature notebook or journal
- Pen or pencil
- Drawing equipment

Human primates are social creatures, so gather a group (a pride? a swarm? a herd?) of KCC's and fan out. Set a time limit for each phase, and designate a spot to regroup. After each of the first two excursions, we'll play the Kratts' version of "Name That Creature!"

First, we'll focus on the wild ones. Explore your neighborhood, and make a list of ten creatures you come across. Be sure to note their habitats (that's where a creature finds the food, water, shelter and space it needs to survive). When the group reassembles, one explorer acts out the behavior of one of the wild creatures that he/she spotted. After the creature is identified, discuss the reasons why the creature behaves the way it does. What makes it wild? Has it adapted in some ways to city life? What about you? Do you act differently in the city than in the country? How?

But back to the wild creatures! What are the pluses and minuses of living in the city for these creatures? The person who named the creature then tries to stump the group with a creature from his or her list.

Now, onward to check out the domesticated creatures! These are the creatures that rely on us to provide the things wild creatures find on their own. Again, comb your neighborhood, list at least five in your notebook, and regroup. This time, portray the behavior of these creatures we sometimes call "pets."

Answer the same creature questions (as above) but think about why these creatures act differently from the wild creatures you observed. When do you think these creatures adapted to living with human primates? Did you ever wonder why? Do you have a pet or a domesticated animal? Why do you think some people keep wild creatures,



like lions cubs, ferrets and snakes, as pets? What do you think about it?

OK, we're off to the zoo for the third leg of this exploration. Take your journal and list the creatures you see. Include official creature residents of the zoo and unofficial creature residents who come and go at will, like pigeons and squirrels. In your next group discussion, review the features of a

zoo that make it a good home for the creatures you observed. What are some of the differences in habitats between the official and unofficial creature residents of the zoo?

Finally, remember Allison's comment at the end of the "City Critters" episode? She wondered if we (human primates) could adapt to the creature world, if we had to. Could you?

