

Hidden Animal Trails

HOST GUIDE - includes solutions | US Letter | v1.0.0

2-6 players, with an adult host | Suggested ages 7-10 | Plan 15-25 minutes

Keep this guide with the adult host. Let the group try before offering hint 1, then hint 2. Read the explanation only when the group is ready to check its work.

Support your group

An adult can copy each sentence in capitals with spaces removed, or read it slowly while a player follows the letters. Offer the first-letter hint before showing the full location.

Warm-up: listen for the join

Hint 1: Look near the beginning.

Hint 2: The last letter of MUSIC starts the animal.

Answer: CAT

MusiC AT contains CAT across the word boundary. Reading forward gives C-A-T with no skipped letter.

Round 1: two visitors

Hint 1: Both answers cross a space.

Hint 2: Look at RED OGRE and SLOW LIFT.

Answer: 1 DOG; 2 OWL

ReD OGRE hides DOG. SLOW Lift hides OWL. The meanings of ogre and lift are distractions; only the uninterrupted letters matter.

Round 2: inside or across?

Hint 1: An answer need not cross a space.

Hint 2: Try WHEN, CHEAP IGLOO, and ROBE ENDED.

Answer: 1 HEN; 2 PIG; 3 BEE

WHEN contains HEN inside one word. CheaP IGloo hides PIG. RoBE Ended hides BEE across the space. Both kinds of hiding are allowed.

Final: prove three trails

Hint 1: Two answers stay inside a word.

Hint 2: Inspect GIANT, THREE LEAVES and PAPER.

Answer: 1 ANT; 2 EEL; 3 APE

GiANT gives ANT; thrEE Leaves gives EEL; pAPeR gives APE. Checking the marked letters is the proof, even if a sentence suggests a different animal.

How to close the session

In the final trail, each player points to the exact start and end of an animal. End when all three trails can be read without skipping a letter.

If a result differs, return to the stated rule and compare the written steps. An answer revealed by the host is help, not an independently solved puzzle.

Mechanism reference: Project Gutenberg 49137, HIDDEN WORDS.. New session instructions and examples.

Age and time are planning estimates. No child playtest or physical print trial is claimed.