

Hidden Animal Trails

PLAYER SHEET - no solutions | US Letter | v1.0.0

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

Find animal names hidden inside ordinary sentences. Letters can run across a space, but they must stay in order with no gaps. This is a cooperative reading puzzle: one person reads, one marks the trail, and the others check that no letter was skipped.

Set up and play

One player sheet per team, pencils and an eraser. Print in black and white at 100% / actual size. No cutting, folding, props or account required. Keep the host guide separate.

1. For each sentence, find the single animal from its supplied bank. Ignore spaces and punctuation, but do not rearrange or skip letters.
2. Copy the animal, then underline its exact consecutive letters in the sentence. The animal may begin halfway through a word.
3. Keep the bank visible. These are spelling puzzles; you do not need animal facts or a dictionary.

Warm-up: listen for the join

Find an animal from CAT, DOG, OWL in: Music at noon filled the room.

Round 1: two visitors

Find one animal per sentence, using the bank DOG, OWL, CAT: (1) A red ogre waved from the page. (2) The slow lift carried our bags.

Round 2: inside or across?

Use HEN, PIG, BEE: (1) When we arrived, everyone smiled. (2) A cheap igloo model sat on the desk. (3) The robe ended below the knee.

Final: prove three trails

Use ANT, EEL, APE: (1) The giant smiled at us. (2) Three leaves fell gently. (3) A paper boat floated past. Find all three, then mark their exact letters.

Finish together

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.

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.