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110 Fun Facts About God's Creation

Is It Animal, Vegetable,
or Mineral?



Bernadette McCarver Snyder



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Dedication

I dedicate this book to kids of all ages—
and to all the ladies in my prayer/share group
and to all the gab-n-gallivant WACYs
and to all who like to explore and discover all the things
God created and put into this world for us to enjoy,
to treasure—and to protect!

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Introduction

Once upon a time, long, long ago, someone, somewhere, decided that all things on the earth could fit into one of three different groups—animals, vegetables, or minerals.

Now this must have taken a lot of thinking, because it meant that the group known as *animals* would include large, small, big, or tall animals PLUS birds, fish, and even people! To remember this, you might think up a poem like

Lions, tigers, and bears,
Fish and fowl and birds of blue,
Furred or feathered, fins or feet,
And guess what?—people too!

Then when you come to the group known as *vegetables*, you will find this does not include just squash and carrots. It also includes fruit, flowers, and plants. So you might think

Green broccoli, spinach, and asparagus,
Pink peaches, purple pansies, and a white daisy,
Dandelions, houseplants, and trees too.
This mix-in-one group sure sounds crazy!

Now the last class—*minerals*—must include everything other than animals and vegetables! For instance, it includes jewels and rocks with strange names such as igneous, sedimentary, and metamorphic! So you might think of

Diamonds, rubies, and pearls,
Salt and sulfur, rock and rocket,
Marble statues and airplane parts,
Or a chunk of gravel in your pocket.

Dive into this book and discover all the treasures of God's creation.

Animals

(From Aardvark to Zebra—Plus People!)

Elephants and eagles,
Turtles and tarantulas,
Snips and snails and puppy dog tales.



1

How Is an Aardvark Like a Hot Rod Automobile?

Did you know that people who like to work on automobiles sometimes make a car out of spare parts from other cars? They use a hood from one car and maybe doors, bumpers, or seats from other cars. They sometimes even redo the motor to make it go really fast, and then they call this spare-parts car a hot rod.

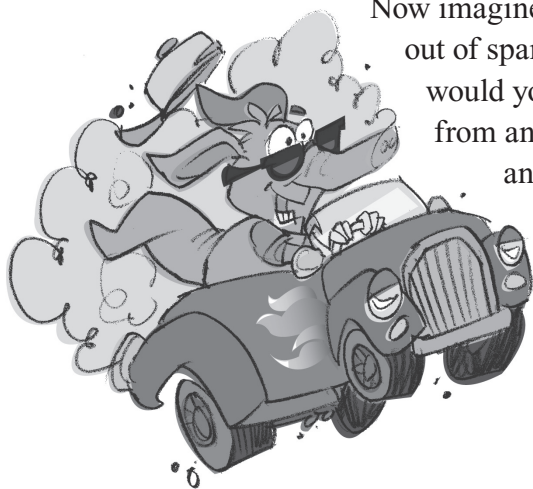
Well, that's the kind of an animal an aardvark is. It looks like God made it out of spare parts! It has a piglike snout of a nose, ears like a donkey, and a thick tail like a kangaroo! And guess what it likes to eat? It likes to tear into termite nests and slurp up the tiny termites with its long thin tongue. But God did NOT put a souped-up motor in it so it's not EXACTLY like a hot rod.

Did you ever make anything out of spare parts? Maybe you did. When you dressed today, did you put together some spare parts to wear—shoes, socks, shirt, pants, sweater, or jacket?

Did you ever help out in the kitchen and put together some spare parts—eggs, milk, sugar, flour—to make a cake or pancakes?

Now imagine you could make a new animal out of spare parts as God did. What would you use—head of a dog, trunk from an elephant, body of a camel, and puffy tail from a rabbit?

What would you call it? A delectarab? A gantelbit? It wouldn't be easy to find a name, would it? Maybe that's why God's spare-parts animal is called an aardvark!



2

Why Would a Frog Need a Parachute?

Have you ever played with or touched the kind of frog that lives by a pond or lake or maybe in your own backyard? Did you know there's another kind of frog, an Asian tree frog, that lives in trees and flies the way people can fly with a parachute? Now how can a frog do that? Well, God made this frog with very long toes, and in between each toe God put a fold of skin like the webs on a duck's feet. When this frog wants to move to a different tree, it leaps into the air, and its webbed feet fill with air as a parachute does—and it floats down to the tree next door!

God did not give YOU webbed feet, because he knew those toes would not fit into your favorite shoes. God knew the tree frog needed webbed feet but YOU don't. You need the kind of feet you have so you can walk, jump, run, or maybe ride a bike or skateboard. But just for today, why don't you pretend to be a tree frog, flying in the air, looking down at the jungle? Imagine you see a bird, a snake, a rock, a monkey, and lots of leaves and flowers. It's fun to pretend. Aren't you glad God gave you an imagination instead of parachute toes?



B

Do Fish Ever Go to School?

Well, yes, fish DO go to school! They don't carry schoolbooks or sit at a desk or use a computer the way you might do. But when you see a group of them swimming along together, this is known as a school" of fish. They often travel together because it's safer—the same way it's safer for a group of children to walk to school together instead of alone. One of the fish God made



is called the PENCIL fish. Wouldn't it be funny to see a school of pencils swimming together? Why don't you get out your pencil—or pen or computer—today, and make a list of all the fish God made? See how many you can find.

You may be surprised to learn how MANY kinds of fish God made—and each so different! Tiny goldfish, huge whales, kissing fish, butterfly fish, clown fish. Just like people—they're all different, all interesting, all made by God!

4

Beep! Beep! Did You Ever Watch a Roadrunner Cartoon?



In the cartoons, this funny-looking bird goes racing down the road, going “Beep! Beep!”—and getting into all kinds of trouble. Well, this is all make-believe, but God DID make a REAL bird called the roadrunner. And it acts a lot like the one in the cartoon. The roadrunner lives in the desert, so it goes speeding down a road or across the desert and then it will suddenly zoom to the right or veer to the left or just stop for a second and then race ahead again—like some of the cars in movie chase scenes!

Now you’ve probably seen a lot of birds that fly around the sky or quietly hop around your yard, so how can the roadrunner run so fast and then make such quick stops and turns? Why? Because God gave it a long black tail that it can use like a BRAKE when it wants to stop or like a RUDDER when it makes a sudden turn.

Although the roadrunner seems to always be running, it does stop to build a nest for its bird family. But where do you think it puts the nest? Well, it lives in the desert where there are a lot of cactus plants growing but not many trees, so the roadrunner makes a saucer-shaped nest and puts it in a cactus! If you've ever touched a cactus, you know it has sharp prickly thorns all over it, so it does not seem like the friendliest spot to build a home. But the roadrunner makes do with whatever is available in the place where God put it. And maybe the roadrunner is smart too, because the thorny cactus can protect the nest more than a tree could!

The next time you or your family must make do—with a cheaper car or vacation—or do WITHOUT something you really want but don't NEED, be smart like the roadrunner and be grateful for all the things you already HAVE.

Beep! Beep!

5

Can You Guess What These Three Animals Have in Common— Monkeys, Hogs, and Weasels?

Monkeys, hogs, and weasels have NAMES that can also be used as verbs—action words. Think about that the next time you hear someone say, “Don’t MONKEY around.” (They mean you should hurry up because you are taking too much time to clean your room or do a chore or help someone who needs your help.)

Or someone might tell you, “Don’t HOG the TV” or “Don’t WEASEL out of doing your homework.”

Of course, you would never do any of those three things, would you?

