



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Amazing Animal Antics

*An activity of "Wildlife photos to make you laugh"*

In the June issue of *What's Up*, the centerspread is a photo essay full of humour. Read "Wildlife photos to make you laugh" (page 12–13, *What's Up* June 2022). As you can see, the photographers have used images to communicate what struck them as funny.

### PART A: USING IMAGES

1. Select one of the photos on page 12–13. Write a sentence describing what you think happened before and after the photo was taken.

*Animal(s) in my selected photo:* \_\_\_\_\_

I think this probably happened before the photo was taken: \_\_\_\_\_

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I think this probably happened after the photo was taken: \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Present your before-and-after story as a two-frame comic with speech bubbles.

<i>Before</i>	<i>After</i>

**PART B: USING WORDS**

We can also use words to share our observations of animals. A good example is the book *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell, a famous naturalist and conservationist.

1. Read the following two extracts from *My Family and Other Animals*.

**Description 1:** some wildlife in an olive grove

“A tiny green grasshopper with a long, melancholy face sat twitching his hind legs nervously. A fragile snail sat on a moss sprig, meditating and waiting for the evening dew. A plump scarlet mite, the size of a matchhead struggled like a tubby huntsman through the forest of moss. It was a microscopic world, full of fascinating life. As I watched the mite making his slow progress, I noticed a curious thing. Here and there on the green plush surface of the moss were scattered faint circular marks, each the size of a shilling. So faint were they that it was only from certain angles they were noticeable at all. They reminded me of a full moon seen behind thick clouds, a faint circle that seemed to shift and change. I wondered idly what could have made them.”

**Description 2:** a young pigeon

“I obtained another pet from the Rose-beetle man. This time it was a pigeon. He was still very young and had to be force-fed on bread-and-milk and soaked corn. He was the most revolting bird to look at, with his feathers pushing through the wrinkled scarlet skin, mixed with the horrible yellow down that covers baby pigeons and makes them look as though they have been peroxidizing their hair.

Owing to his repulsive and obese appearance, Larry suggested we call him Quasimodo and, liking the name without realising the implications, I agreed. For a long time after he could feed himself and when all his feathers had grown, Quasimodo retained a sprig of yellow down on his head which gave him the appearance of a rather pompous judge wearing a wig several sizes too small. Owing to his unorthodox upbringing, and the fact that he had no parents to teach him the facts of life, Quasimodo became convinced that he was not a bird at all, and refused to fly. Instead, he walked everywhere. If he wanted to get on to a table, or a chair, he stood below it, ducking his head and cooing in a rich contralto until someone lifted him up.”

2. Respond to the extracts. What do you like about these descriptions? How did Gerald Durrell make his animals come alive to readers?

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3. Now it is your turn. Spend some time observing a real-life animal. It could be your pet, a bird outside, a stray cat, or even ants. Write a descriptive paragraph to highlight the interesting behaviour of this animal.

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GOOD NEWS: *My Family and Other Animals* by Gerald Durrell is available at several NLB community libraries.