



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Guessing Game: Animal Idioms

An activity of "A 'white elephant' wins a seat in Columbia's parliament"

Read "A 'white elephant' wins a seat in Columbia's parliament" (page 10, *What's Up* September 2026). The article tells how Luis Carlos became the "White Elephant" to draw attention to expensive public projects that had been left unfinished. Work on this exercise in twos or threes.

1. In this table, fill in what you think is the meaning of each idiom or the reason behind it.

Idiom	Meaning	Likely origin
<i>e.g. White elephant</i>	<i>Something very big and costly but not very useful.</i>	<i>In Thailand, a white-skinned (albino) elephant was very rare and costly to keep.</i>
Night owl	Someone who stays up late.	
Dark horse		An unknown racehorse suddenly surprises everyone by winning the race.
Early bird	Someone who gets up, arrives or starts early.	
Social butterfly		A butterfly moves from flower to flower.
Sitting duck	Someone or something easy to attack.	
Crocodile tears		It comes from an old belief that crocodiles cried while eating their prey.
Cash cow	Something that regularly earns money.	

2. Choose ONE animal idiom from above or elsewhere. Do not tell other groups which one you chose.

Our idiom: _____.

3. Create one clear and interesting illustration that shows what your chosen idiom means. Do not simply draw the idiom's words literally. For example, if your idiom is a night owl, don't just draw an owl at night. Draw maybe a student happily reading comics at 2am while everyone else is asleep. This will give your classmates clues about the figurative meaning of the idiom.

You can consider:

- What does our idiom mean?
- What situation can show its meaning?
- Who/what will be in the picture?
- What visual clues will we use to help others guess?
- You can use facial expressions, objects, body language, or speech bubbles to give clues.

Draft your illustration here. Then, create your artwork on a fresh sheet of paper.

4. Show your picture to the class and invite them to guess your idiom!