



Nepal

Lesson 2

Animals of Nepal

Lesson Information:

If you were to visit Nepal, you would find more than people and mountains there. Just like in America, God made many fascinating plants and animals to live in that area of the world. One beautiful animal that you might have seen in a zoo is the Bengal tiger. There aren't many of these animals left in the world, but almost all of the Bengal tigers alive right now live in the hills and forests of Nepal.

Another unusual animal that makes its home in Nepal is the only mammal on the planet with a horn on its nose. It is the huge, one-horned Rhinoceros. (See picture below) These animals can be six feet tall at their shoulders and weigh up to 6000 pounds. Would you like to meet a Bengal tiger or a one-horned Rhino in the woods of Nepal?

Maybe you would rather meet a beautiful Daphne bird (like a peacock)? It is found wild in the high mountains of Nepal, and it is the national bird.

What if you met a cow in Nepal? (See picture below) Would you think that was interesting or scary? We see cows often, don't we? Lots of farmers in America raise cows for meat or for milk, and we usually eat some sort of milk or beef every day. Did you know that in Nepal, it is actually a very serious crime to kill a cow or eat cow meat? The cow is the national animal of Nepal. It is seen as sacred and is worshiped during special festivals. Why would cows be so special in Nepal, when Americans eat them all the time? Why would anyone worship them?

Most of the people who live in Nepal practice the Hindu religion. In this religion, the cow is seen as the symbol of motherhood. The Hindu people think that when people and animals die, they come back to life again as another person or animal. This idea is called reincarnation. They are very careful, then, not to kill certain animals, especially cows, because they believe that they are really reincarnated people and animals from other lives. (An ancient Hindu verse says that he who kills, eats, or permits the slaughter of a cow will "rot in hell for as many years as there are hairs on the body of the cow so slain!")

The Hindus also believe that some people and animals are more important, or better than others. They made up a caste system to show which people are most important, and which people aren't worth much. Animals are also ranked in importance, with cows and rats near the top. Because they believe in reincarnation, they think that if you are very good in this life, you will get a chance to be born into a higher level in your next life, but if you are bad in this life, you will move to a lower caste for your next lifetime. The lowest caste, or level of people are called the Dalits. The people who are born into this caste are considered untouchable. They get to do the worst jobs and are not allowed to eat with, worship with, or even touch the people from the higher castes.

These beliefs make life very hard for many Hindu people in Nepal. Because they can't kill or eat cows, they are often hungry and don't have enough food, and because they can't kill rats, there are too many of them running around, and they eat food the people should eat, and spread diseases that make people sick. (See picture below) Because they think people are born into a caste, or level,

according to how important they are, the people who are on the bottom levels are often rejected by everyone else and get the worst jobs and places to live, and can't get enough food or clothing.

God says that He made all people in His image (Gen.1:26) and that all people are equal in His eyes (Gal. 3:27-29). He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for all people so that everyone could go to Heaven (John 3:16). The Hindu people have no hope, because in this life, they can never get out of the caste they were born into. When they die, they think there is only an endless cycle of being reborn as some other person or animal. Jesus offers us the hope of Heaven, a beautiful paradise He has prepared for us to enjoy and look forward to, even if this life is difficult and unhappy (John 14:1-3, John 16:33). Jesus says that He is the only way to Heaven (John 14:6). The Hindu people in Nepal need to hear about Jesus and understand the hope and peace He brings to this life on earth.

Animal Word Search

Q N A R R E R O B R A S C E I P T P R V
 N Z Q I P K I H S E B A O E Y E R I Q D
 B B R M D S X H E X M K W N I H P L O D
 V P V S T E D S T N O O C C A R P U O S
 S A E X L X M I V N J A G S O T V C R O
 F R Z S O I A F P N S L E O G A E Q A Z
 F I T Q O I N Y X N W A Y R J A S T G K
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 R G R E G I T L A G N E B C T P I U A V
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 B T I E A H O T Y A G R O S S C B I A T
 A Q P R R N H Z E T W W S H S N H N M T
 Q U T N V A L Q D O E I L S C P I E O L

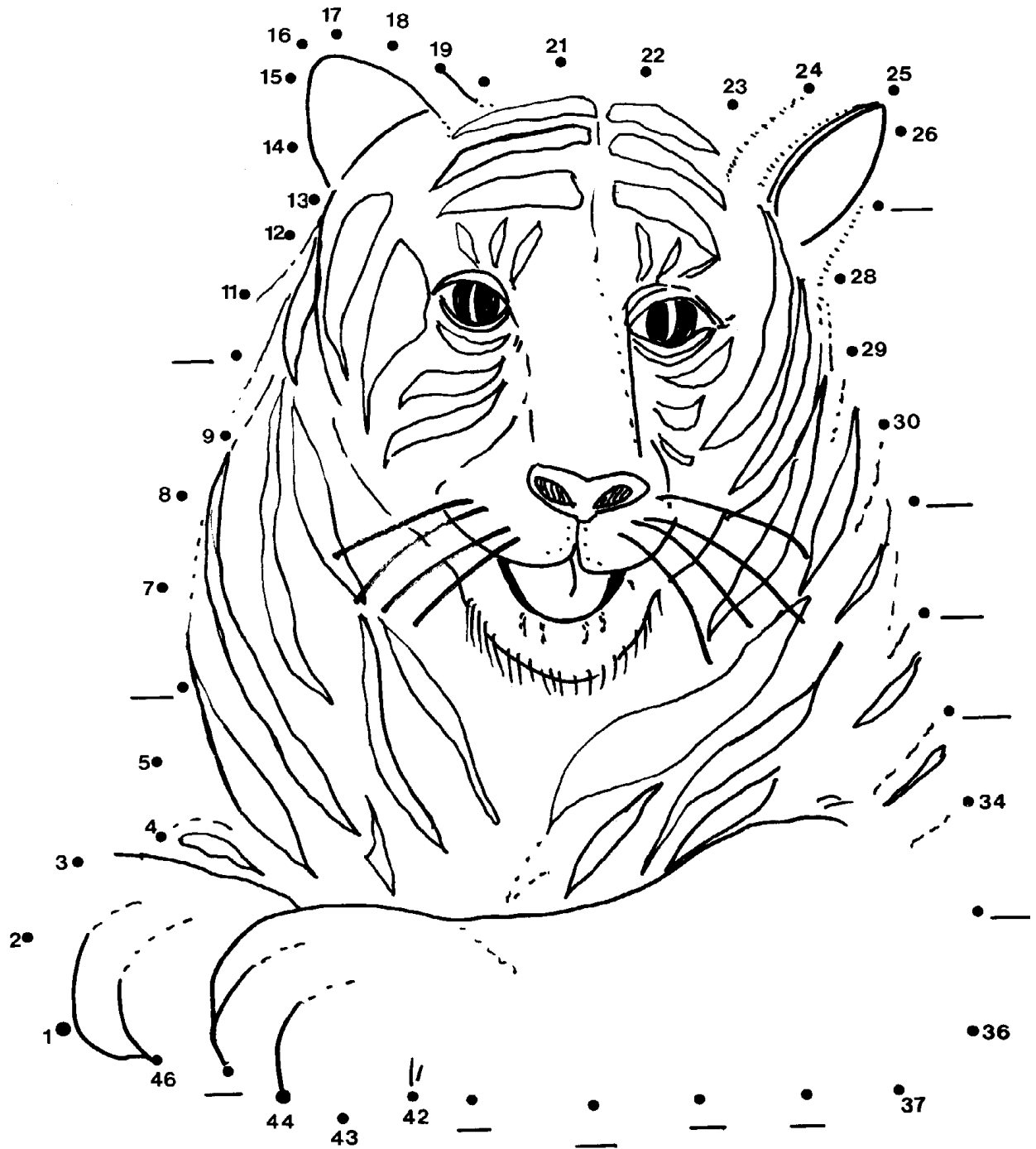
1. Find the five animals that live in Nepal that we talked about in our story. Circle their names with a pen or pencil in the puzzle above.
2. Find the three animals that might live right here in North America. Use a green marker to cross out their names in the puzzle above.
3. Find the three animals that might be found in an ocean. Use a blue marker to cross out their names in the puzzle.
4. Find the three animals that would usually be found in Australia. Use an orange marker to cross out their names in the puzzle above.
5. Find the three animals that might be found on the plains of Africa. Use a brown marker to cross out their names in the puzzle.

Rhinoceros
 Chipmunk
 Raccoon
 Zebra
 Koala Bear
 Rat

Manatee
 Dolphin
 Jellyfish
 Hyena
 Bengal Tiger
 Cow

Giraffe
 Grizzly Bear
 Kangaroo
 Wallaby
 Daphne Bird

The Bengal tiger is a large, striped cat from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, and Burma. Bengal tigers are mostly solitary, but sometimes travel in groups of 3 or 4. Male Bengal tigers are up to 10 ft. long. The fur is usually orange brown with black stripes. The fur on the belly is white with black stripes. White Bengal tigers (with white fur and black stripes) are very rare in the wild. The Bengal tiger is a carnivore (meat-eater).



Color the Daphne Bird





Water Buffalo are a type of cow that is very common in Nepal. They are used to pull plows for planting fields and they give milk for a family to drink, but it is against Hindu law to kill these animals or any type of cow.



The one-horned rhinoceros lives primarily in northern India and Nepal. Their segmented hide looks like a coat of armor. This mammal is a plant-eater (herbivore) and can live up to 40 years. These rhinos grow to about 12.5 ft. long, 6 ft. high, and up to 6000 lbs. They are on the endangered species list.



Rats are seen as sacred in Hinduism. In this temple, milk and grain are fed to the rats, and then people eat and drink from the same milk and grain as part of their worship. It is considered a blessing from the Hindu god, Ganesh, to eat what a rat has touched. The god, Ganesh, is said to have ridden on a rat, making it a sacred animal.