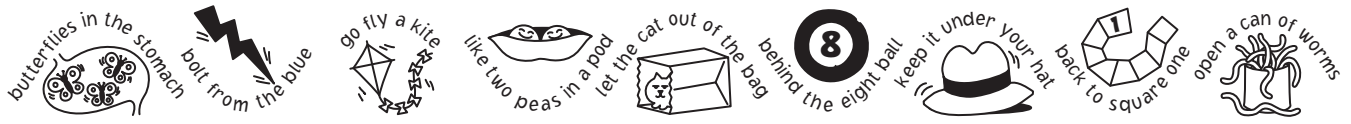


Animal-Related Idioms

- ✦ Ants in your pants
- ✦ As the crow flies
- ✦ Bats in your belfry
- ✦ Beat a dead horse
- ✦ Bee in your bonnet
- ✦ Bird in the hand is worth two in the bush
- ✦ Birds of a feather flock together
- ✦ Bug off
- ✦ Bull in a china shop
- ✦ Busy as a beaver/bee
- ✦ Butterflies in the stomach
- ✦ Buy a pig in a poke
- ✦ Cat got your tongue?
- ✦ Chicken feed
- ✦ Chickens come home to roost
- ✦ Clean as a hound's tooth
- ✦ Cold turkey
- ✦ Cook your goose
- ✦ Crocodile tears
- ✦ Dark-horse candidate
- ✦ Dead as a dodo
- ✦ Dead duck
- ✦ Dog days of summer
- ✦ Dog-eat-dog world
- ✦ Dog's life
- ✦ Don't count your chickens before they hatch
- ✦ Don't look a gift horse in the mouth
- ✦ Eager beaver
- ✦ Early bird catches the worm
- ✦ Eat crow
- ✦ Fat cat
- ✦ Fish or cut bait
- ✦ Fish out of water
- ✦ Fly in the ointment
- ✦ For the birds
- ✦ Get your goat
- ✦ Go to the dogs
- ✦ Have other fish to fry
- ✦ High horse
- ✦ Hold your horses
- ✦ Horse of a different color
- ✦ Kill the goose that lays the golden eggs
- ✦ Kill two birds with one stone
- ✦ Knee-high to a grasshopper
- ✦ Let sleeping dogs lie
- ✦ Let the cat out of the bag
- ✦ Live high off the hog
- ✦ Lock the barn door after the horse is out
- ✦ Look what the cat dragged in
- ✦ Mad as a wet hen
- ✦ Make a silk purse out of a sow's ear
- ✦ Monkey business
- ✦ More than one way to skin a cat
- ✦ No spring chicken
- ✦ Open a can of worms
- ✦ Play cat and mouse
- ✦ Poor as a church mouse
- ✦ Pull a rabbit out of a hat
- ✦ Put all your ducks in a row
- ✦ Put the cart before the horse
- ✦ Quiet as a mouse
- ✦ Raining cats and dogs
- ✦ Rat race
- ✦ Rats abandoning a sinking ship
- ✦ Red herring
- ✦ Scarce as hen's teeth
- ✦ Sick as a dog
- ✦ Sitting duck
- ✦ Smell a rat
- ✦ Snug as a bug in a rug
- ✦ Stir up a hornet's nest
- ✦ Straight from the horse's mouth
- ✦ Swan song
- ✦ Take the bull by the horns
- ✦ Throw a monkey wrench into the works
- ✦ Till the cows come home
- ✦ What's good for the goose is good for the gander
- ✦ When the cat's away, the mice will play
- ✦ White elephant
- ✦ Wild-geese chase
- ✦ Wolf in sheep's clothing
- ✦ You can lead a horse to water but you can't make him drink
- ✦ You can't teach an old dog new tricks



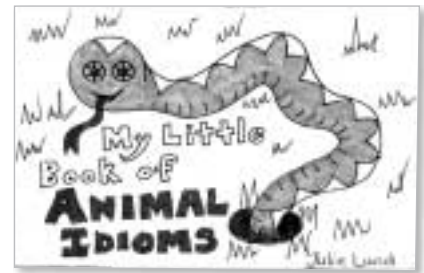
Busy as a Beaver: A Little Book of Animal Idioms

The animal world is filled with creatures possessing unique traits. These traits sparked many idioms that we use to comment on the human experience. Using a twist on the little book format, your students can explore the meanings of these animal-related idioms.

What to Do

- MATERIALS**
- copy of the animal-related idioms (page 19)
 - copies of the directions (page 22)
 - white paper
 - scissors
 - hole puncher
 - colored pencils

1. Post the list of animal-related idioms in a central place in your classroom.
2. Give students the opportunity to choose four animal-related idioms to illustrate and write about.
3. Distribute copies of the directions. Have students follow the directions to create their very own Little Book of Animal Idioms.



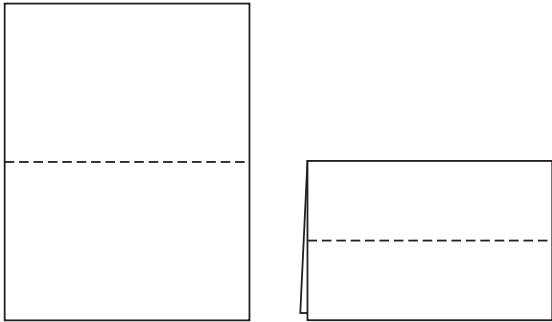
My Little Book of Animal Idioms

Follow the directions below to create a Little Book to help you explore the meanings of animal-related idioms.

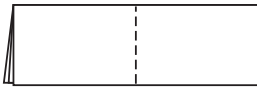
Directions

Part I

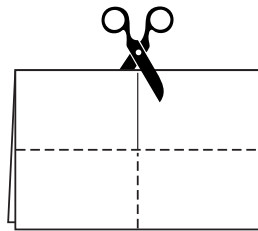
1. Fold a sheet of paper in half widthwise.
2. Fold it in half again in the same direction.



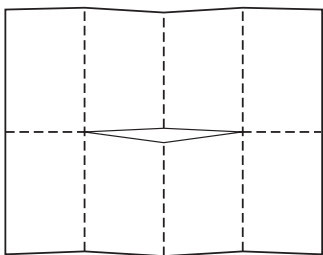
3. Fold this long, narrow strip in half in the opposite direction.



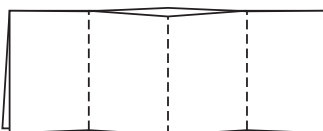
4. Unfold the paper to the position at the end of step 1, and cut halfway along the center fold.



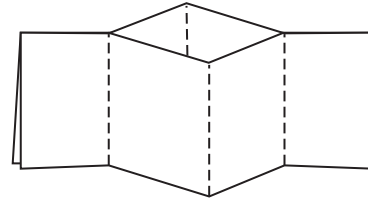
5. Unfold the paper completely. There should be a slit in the center of the paper where you made the cut.



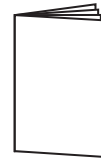
6. Fold the paper in half along the fold with the slit.



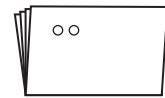
7. Push in on the ends of the paper so the slit opens. Keep pushing until the center panels meet.



8. Fold the pages to one side to form a book, and crease the edges.



9. Use a hole-puncher to punch two eyeholes through the top three pages as shown.



10. Use the eyeholes as a stencil to draw two circles on the last page of the book. These circles will be the eyes for the animals drawn on each of the pages of the little book. Color in the eyes.

Part II

Once you've created your book template, it's time to fill it in!

1. On each of the inside pages, draw an animal mentioned in three of the four idioms you chose, using the eyes you've created.
2. Under each animal, use creative lettering to write the idiom. On the page below each animal, write a few sentences that explain the meaning of the idiom.
3. On the cover, draw the animal related to the fourth idiom you chose. Personalize your book with a title. On the back cover of the little book, explain the idiom related to the cover illustration.