

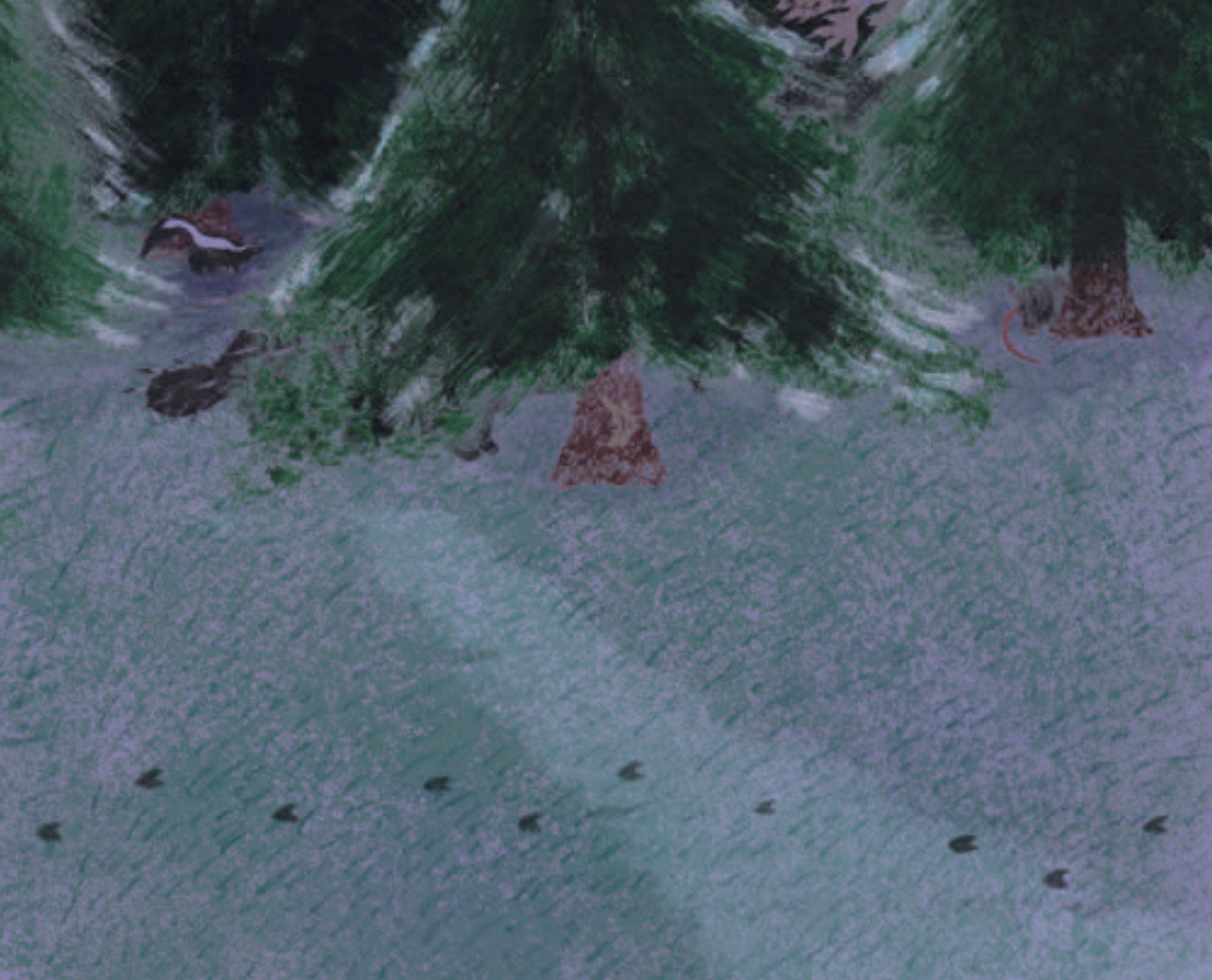
# I BUILT A CABIN

written  
by Sara Jewell

illustrated  
by Charlotte Manning







For my father, who taught me how to love nature.

~ S.J.

# I BUILD A CABIN

by Sara Jewell, illustrated by Charlotte Manning

Eager for some peace and quiet, the main character of this tale in verse moves to the woods and builds a little cabin getaway. She's found the perfect retreat—or so she thinks until she meets her neighbours: an array of loud and lively creatures who crunch and crack and hoot their way into her life.

Young listeners will delight in the animals' playful antics and learn a bit about life in the wild.

**SARA JEWELL** is a freelance writer, substitute teacher, licensed lay worship leader, and the author of two collections of essays for adults. A former city girl, she lives on seventy-two acres along the River Philip in northern Nova Scotia with her husband, her mother, several pets, and a flock of chickens. The birds and critters in this book often show up when she walks through the field and woods behind her house. For more, check out [www.sarajewell.ca](http://www.sarajewell.ca)

**CHARLOTTE MANNING** is an illustrator from Northumberland in the UK. She's currently living and working in British Columbia, Canada. She loves being outdoors and drawing what she can see in nature. She works with mixed media and pochoir. Her debut book *The Lost Horse* was published in the UK in 2022. Find more of her art at [www.charlottesmanning.art](http://www.charlottesmanning.art)



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#### **KEY SELLING POINTS**

- This humorous tale of a city person who moves to the country makes a delightful read-aloud
- Book includes a bit of information about each animal neighbour, and provides an excellent way to engage with young readers about wild animals and their habitats
- Author is a substitute teacher who "tested" this story with many of her students
- Author has written two books of essays for adults
- Lively and playful illustrations by an emerging illustrator who recently graduated from the Cambridge School of Art's Master's program in Children's Book Illustration; her first book was published in 2022

## **PROMOTIONAL PLANS**

- Print advertising campaigns
- Extensive ARC distribution
- Extensive social media promotion

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# I BUILT A CABIN

By Sara Jewell, illustrated by Charlotte Manning





I built a cabin  
at the edge of the woods  
on the bank of the river

I built a cabin  
far away from the cars and the crowds  
far away from any neighbours



I built a cabin  
out of logs, planks, and shingles  
and furnished it with a table, chair, and bed

I built a cabin  
with a wide front porch  
where I could sit and listen to the wind and the waves



On the first day in my cabin  
far away from the cars and the crowds  
at the edge of the woods  
on the bank of the river  
I sat on the front porch  
to listen to the wind and the waves

And I heard ...

**Chomp chomp**

**Munch munch**

**Crack crack**

**Knock knock**







I looked around  
and saw...

a porcupine chewing

an osprey eating





a red squirrel collecting

and a woodpecker tapping





On the first day in my cabin  
far away from the cars and the crowds  
at the edge of the woods  
on the bank of the river  
I sat on the porch  
to listen to the wind and the waves

but it was too noisy:

**CHOMP! CHOMP!**  
**MUNCH! MUNCH!**  
**CRACK! CRACK!**  
**KNOCK! KNOCK!**

MUNCH  
MUNCH

CRACK  
CRACK

KNOCK  
KNOCK

CHOMP  
CHOMP



So I invited my neighbours  
inside the cabin for lunch  
and served them quiet food:

soup—no crunchy crackers!

sandwiches—no crispy lettuce!

ice cream—no crackly cone!





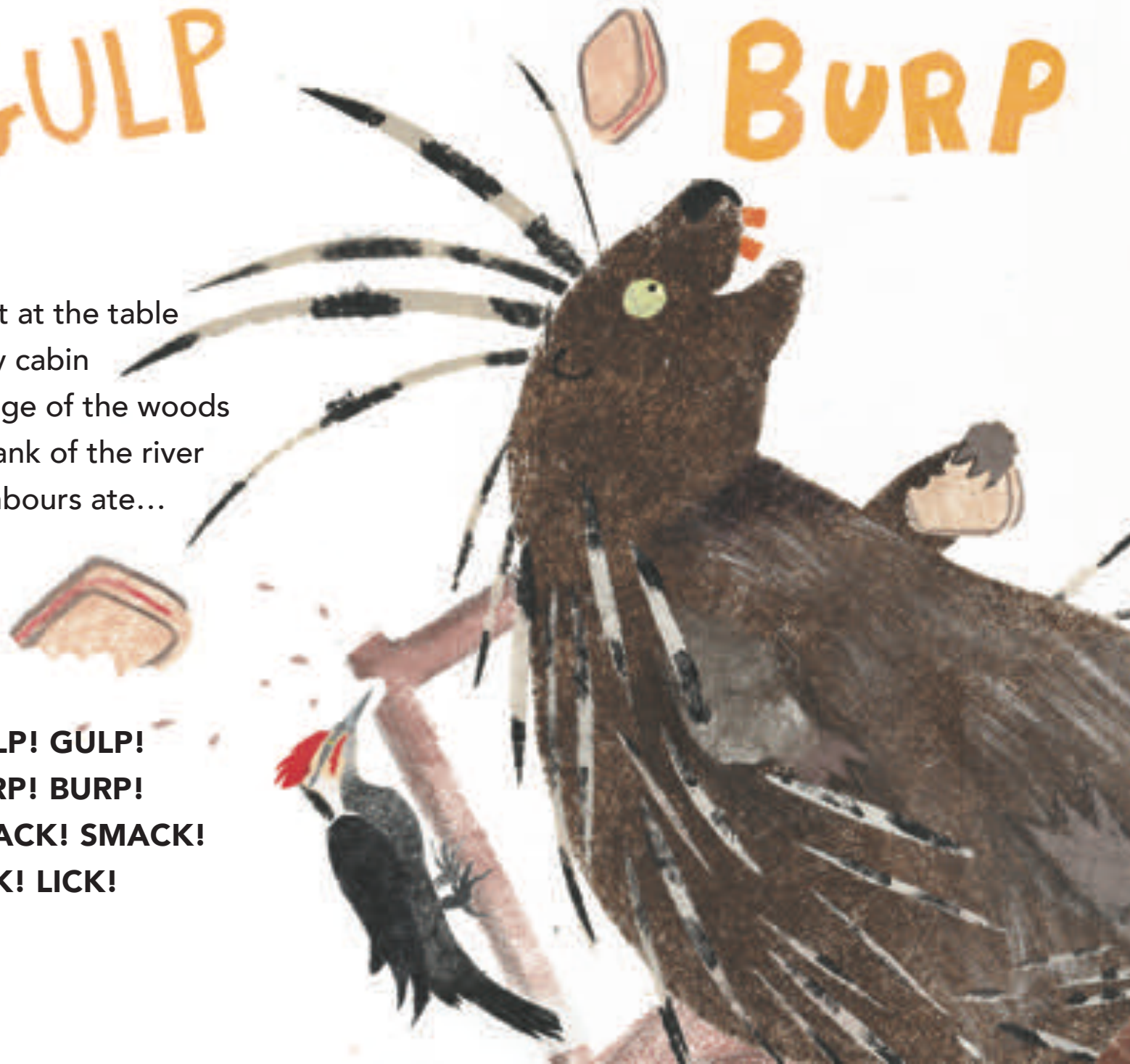


# GULP

# BURP

As we sat at the table  
inside my cabin  
at the edge of the woods  
on the bank of the river  
my neighbours ate...

**GULP! GULP!**  
**BURP! BURP!**  
**SMACK! SMACK!**  
**LICK! LICK!**







On the first night in my cabin  
far away from the cars and the crowds  
at the edge of the woods  
on the bank of the river  
I lay in my bed  
to listen to the wind and the waves

And I heard...

**Splash splash**

**Sniff sniff**

**Flit flit**

**Hoot hoot**

**SPLASH  
SPLASH**



SNIFF  
SNIFF

HOOT  
HOOT



FLIT  
FLIT



I looked out the window  
and saw...

a raccoon washing

a black bear prowling







a little brown bat flying



and a great horned owl watching

An illustration of a raccoon splashing in a pond at night. The raccoon is in the middle of a splash, with water droplets around it. An owl is perched on a tree branch to the right, looking towards the raccoon. The background shows dark trees and a night sky. The text 'SPLASH SPLASH' is written in large, yellow, stylized letters above the raccoon.

SPLASH  
SPLASH

On the first night in my cabin  
far away from the cars and the crowds  
at the edge of the woods  
on the bank of the river  
I lay in my bed  
to listen to the wind and the waves

but it was too noisy:

HOOT  
HOOT

**SPLASH! SPLASH!**  
**SNIFF! SNIFF!**  
**FLIT! FLIT!**  
**HOOT! HOOT!**



SNIFF  
SNIFF

FLIT  
FLIT



So I invited my neighbours  
in for a sleepover  
and tucked them under quiet bedding:

pillows—no crunchy stuffing!

sheets—no crispy corners!

quilt—no crackly cloth!







As we lay in my bed  
inside my cabin  
at the edge of the woods  
on the bank of the river  
my neighbours slept...

**SNORE! SNORE!**  
**SCRITCH! SCRITCH!**  
**TWITCH! TWITCH!**  
**YAWN! YAWN!**



SNORE  
SNORE


TWITCH  
TWITCH

SCRITCH  
SCRITCH

YAWN  
YAWN





The background is a textured painting. The top half is a mottled green, representing foliage or a sky. The bottom half is a blue river. In the foreground on the left, there are green, pointed shapes representing reeds or grass. Three brown, oval-shaped seed pods or catkins are attached to thin red stems, reaching upwards from the green foliage. A horizontal band of brown, textured material separates the green foliage from the blue river.

I built a cabin  
far away from the cars and the crowds  
out of logs, planks, and shingles  
with a table, chair, and bed  
so I could listen to the wind and the waves  
at the edge of the woods  
on the bank of the river





and then I met my neighbours...





## Learn more about the creatures in this book:

### PORCUPINE

A porcupine is covered in yellow-tipped hair that hides its most famous feature: quills! These quills are hollow and loosely attached to the porcupine's skin so when a predator gets too close, they come away easily. Porcupines don't "throw" quills; if a porcupine can't run away, it will make its quills stand up (like the hair on our arms does), turns its back on its attacker, and swing its prickly tail.

Porcupines eat a wide range of plant material, including grass, berries, and tree bark. While porcupines spend most of the time on the ground, they are good climbers and good swimmers.



### OSPREY

The osprey is a large hawk, sometimes called a "fish hawk" because it only eats fish. It is well-known for its aerial dives into rivers and lakes, plunging feet first into the water to catch a fish. Little barbs on the bottom of its feet help it grip slippery fish, and when it flies back to its nest, it lines up the fish head first for less wind resistance. Ospreys have something in common with owls: they have a reversible outer toe that allows them to grasp with two toes in front and two behind.

Ospreys migrate south every fall and return, to the same nest if possible, every April, and with the same mate year after year. The osprey is the official bird of the province of Nova Scotia.





#### RED SQUIRREL

The North American red squirrel has red fur on its back, white fur on its belly, and a fluffy red tail. It also has a distinctive "eye ring": a circle of white around each of its black eyes. Small and chatty, red squirrels are found throughout North America and prefer forests with evergreen trees because they eat the seeds and the cones of evergreens. In the summer, they collect and hide seeds and nuts in order to have food during the winter, but sometimes they forget to dig up the seeds. This benefits their local habitat because the squirrels are unintentionally planting trees in new places.

#### PILEATED WOODPECKER

A pileated woodpecker is a large bird with a distinctive look when it flies: it "undulates" (like it's doing the butterfly stroke in swimming) and reveals its white underwings. Every pileated woodpecker has a bright red crown; the males also have a red stripe across their cheeks.

These woodpeckers are found in mature forests with plenty of dead trees and downed logs, and can be located by their loud drumming on trees. A pileated woodpecker carves a rectangular-shaped hole in a dead tree as it hunts for insects. These holes can be quite wide and deep, and benefit other birds by creating a food source. Pileated woodpeckers do not migrate; a mated pair stays in its territory year round.





## RACCOON

Raccoons have a highly evolved sense of touch in their paws. This is why raccoons have whiskers near the tips of their paws. They also have a high number of nerves in their “fingers” that help them sense things. It’s believed this is why raccoons appear to “wash” their food: the wetness enhances their sense of touch even more.

Raccoons prefer to live in moist woodland areas, but they also live in farmlands, suburbs, and urban areas. Raccoons prefer to build dens in trees, but may also use deserted buildings, barns, garages, or houses. They easily live near humans.

Raccoons are nocturnal (they come out at night) and very clever; they are also fast runners and tree climbers.



## BLACK BEAR



The black bear is found only in North America—throughout Canada and as far south as Florida in the United States. As the name suggests, they have black fur but are distinguished by their long, light-brown noses. Black bears hibernate and cubs are born in January or February, during hibernation. A female black bear can have one to three cubs. They are intelligent mammals with amazing memories. Their sense of smell is 100 times greater than a person’s. Black bears are most active around sunrise and sunset, and enjoy a long nap during the day.

Black bears eat almost anything including berries, nuts, and insects. A varied environment—from forests to woods, wetlands to streams/streams—provides a variety of food and drinking water, as well as places to stay cool in summer. Cubs prefer white pines or hemlocks to climb because the grooved bark is easy to grab onto.



LITTLE BROWN BAT

The little brown bat is one of nineteen bat species in Canada, and is found in every province and territory except Nunavut. The little brown bat also is found throughout most of the United States and the cooler mountainous regions of central Mexico. In Canada, the little brown bat is an endangered species.

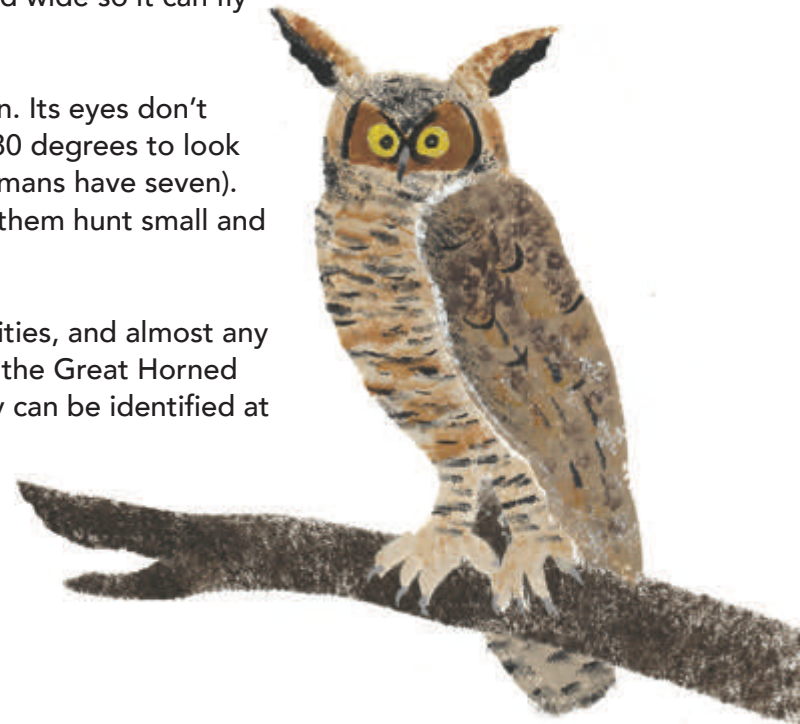
As its name implies, the little brown bat is indeed little, weighing between seven and nine grams, which is the equivalent of a pair of fancy earrings or a brand new pencil that hasn't been sharpened. Little brown bats are nocturnal, which means they are awake at night, hunting insects. They can eat half their weight in bugs in one night! In the summer, during the day, they rest by roosting in abandoned buildings, barns, and tree cavities. For winter, they hibernate in caves or mines.

#### GREAT HORNED OWL

The Great Horned Owl gets its name from its prominent ear tufts that look like horns (but actually are called "plumicorns"). Its feathers are very soft, allowing it to fly quietly—in stealth mode!—and its wings are short and wide so it can fly safely through the trees.

A Great Horned Owl has large eyes and excellent night vision. Its eyes don't move in their sockets, but it can swivel its head more than 180 degrees to look in any direction because it has fourteen bones in its neck (humans have seven). Great Horned Owls also have sensitive hearing, which helps them hunt small and large rodents and birds.

Found in deserts, wetlands, forests, grasslands, backyards, cities, and almost any other semi-open habitat between the Arctic and the tropics, the Great Horned Owl is one of the most common owls in North America. They can be identified at night by their deep, hooting call.







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