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## think about it

'Our task must be to free ourselves... by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty.'

Albert Einstein

## "celebrate our animals"

The idea of World Animal Day was originated by Heinrich Zimmermann. Heinrich Zimmermann (1887 - 1942) was a German editor, writer and animal protection activist. As key organizer for the movement for the prevention of cruelty to animals, he was also the publisher of the magazine Mensch und Hund/Man and Dog. He used the magazine to promote the welfare of animals under the general public .

Every year Zimmermann worked tirelessly on the promotion of World Animal Day. He established a World Animal Day Committee and after organizing World Animal Day for the first time in Berlin, he managed to get a resolution adopted unanimously at the International Animal Protection Congress in Florence, Italy on 8 May 1931, making 4 October celebrated worldwide as World Animal Day.

The first World Animal Day took place in 24 March 1925 in the Sport Palace in Berlin, Germany. Over 5,000 people attended the event. The organizers had planned on 4th October, but the Sport Palace, which was the only venue large enough to hold the thousands of visitors, was not available on that day. In the ensuing years the organizers stuck with March but in 1929 World Animal Day was celebrated for the first time on 4th October; the day it was originally intended to be.

World Animal Day was chosen to be on 4 October as it is the day of Francis of Assisi, the Patron Saint of ecology. Francis of Assisi was the founder of the Catholic Franciscan order. Legend has it that Saint Francis was able to talk to animals, which is why he is depicted in numerous paintings in their company. He would also preach to the animals and even tamed a wolf. He died on the eve of 4 October, which became his Patron Saints day. Assisi is a town in central Italy, north of Rome, only two hours from Florence where in 1931, 705 years after Francis' death, World Animal Day was officially adopted.

Source: Wim Dekok, World Animal Net, <https://www.worldanimalday.org.uk/img/resource/Origin%20of%20World%20Animal%20Day.pdf>

## did you know?

- Some creatures across the globe become extinct before they are scientifically documented.
- Several animal species across South Africa are on the brink of becoming extinct in the near future due to poaching, pollution and human destruction.
- The riverine rabbit is the country's most endangered mammal.

Source: <https://www.lonelyplanet.com/south-africa/wildlife/endangered-species>, <https://www.rnews.co.za/article/15604/the-10-most-endangered-animals-in-south-africa>

## the best elephant games

- \* **Elephant race:** Divide the Cubs into two teams, and have them line up. First Cub bends at the waist, puts one arm in front of their face like an elephant's trunk, and puts their other hand through their legs towards the person behind them. The next Cub bends over, grabs the first Cub's "tail" with their "trunk", then extends their "tail" through their legs, and so on until you have two teams of "elephants", lined up and ready to go. Then have a race.
- \* **Elephant peanut race:** Mark a start and a finish line. Then line the Cubs side by side at the starting point and place a peanut on the starting line in front of each Cub. The object of the game is to see who can push the peanut to the finish line first... Easy? Oh, I forgot to say that they can only use their noses! Be aware of any nut allergies.
- \* **Elephant trumpet:** Have the Cubs sit in a circle and trumpet like elephants. Pick one player to stand in the centre of the circle. Have the Cub in the middle close their eyes. Walk around the outside of the circle and pat one Cub on the head. That Cub performs their best elephant trumpeting sound. The Cub in the middle has to guess which player was the trumpeter.

Source: <http://www.coolest-kid-birthday-parties.com/birthday-game/>  
<https://www.thespruce.com/jungle-party-games-2104611>

## Frequently Asked Questions

- ◊ **Q: What is POPI?**
- ◊ **A:** POPI is the Protection of Personal Information Act. It is a piece of legislation designed to protect any personal information which is processed by both the private and public sectors.
- ◊ **Q: What effect will POPI have on Scouting?**
- ◊ **A:** SSA has put systems in place to ensure that it complies with the Act's 8 conditions for lawful processing of the personal information of both individuals and juristic entities.
- ◊ **Click here to view SSA's POPI policy or find it on the SSA website under Resources & Policies: <https://www.scouts.org.za/members/resources/>.**

## Facts about St. Francis:

- St. Francis of Assisi is the Patron Saint for ecologists, a title honouring his boundless love for animals and nature
- In 2013, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio chose to honour St. Francis by taking his name, becoming Pope Francis
- Giovanni di Pietro di Bernadone was St. Francis' real name

<https://www.biography.com/people/st-francis-of-assisi-21152679>

## st. francis of assisi - patron saint of ecology

Feast Day: October 4

St. Francis was born around 1181 in Assisi, in Italy. As a young man he loved parties and good times. He was handsome and rich, so he bought himself the finest clothes and spent money freely.

Francis had no wish to study or to learn his father's business, as he was having too much fun. One day he refused to give alms to a poor beggar, but as the man was leaving, he felt sorry for what he had done and ran after him with some money.

After he fell ill twice, Francis realized that he was wasting precious time. He realized that he should be serving Jesus and began praying more and making sacrifices to grow strong in spirit.

While riding his horse one day he saw a leper and quickly turned his horse to ride away. Then he thought to himself, if Jesus saw a leper he would not turn the other way. So he kissed the leper and gave him money. He often gave his clothes and money to the poor and served the sick in hospitals. Still he felt he must do more. He fasted and began to go around in rags to humble himself. It is not hard to imagine how his rich friends must have looked at him now! His father was so angry that he beat him and locked him up at home. Francis bore all this suffering for the love of Jesus. When his father took everything from him in disgust, Francis put all his trust in his Father in heaven.

He had no shelter. His food was what kind people gave him. Everywhere he went, he begged people to stop sinning and return to God. Many men began to see how close to God this poor man really was, and they became his followers. Francis followed the example of Jesus closely by living a life of simplicity and teaching the Gospel message with great joy.

That is how the great Franciscan order of priests and brothers began. They helped the poor and sick and preached everywhere. Even after the order had spread all over Italy, Francis insisted that they should not own anything. He wanted his priests to embrace poverty as he did. St. Francis had the power of working miracles. He loved all creatures and the birds and animals happily obeyed his commands! As a reward for his great love, Jesus gave him his own wounds. Two in his hands, two in his feet and one in his side, but the humble Francis tried to hide them from people. He advised his brothers to love God, to love being poor, and to obey the Gospel. "I have done my part," he said. "May Jesus teach you to do yours." Francis died on October 3, 1226.

Source: <http://www.traditionalcatholicpriest.com/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/St.-Francis.jpg>, [http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/kids/saints/1004\\_francis.asp](http://www.holyspiritinteractive.net/kids/saints/1004_francis.asp)



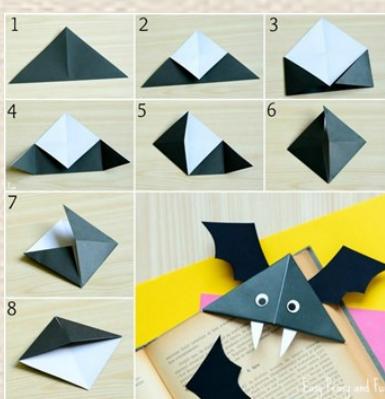
## animal crafts

### Simple Bug Hotel

**Material:** A large plastic bottle cut into two cylinders, sticks, pine cones, bark and anything else you can find, preferably from your environment and anything that lasts, bamboo with its holes is great too!



**Instructions:** Cut your bottle down to shape. Check what materials you have and arrange by size and texture. If you plan to hang your bug hotel, loop some garden twine round and then start layering your bug hotel. Stuff it to make it nice and firm, so it doesn't get blown about!



### DIY Bat Corner Bookmarks

**Material:** black and white paper, scissors, glue and a pencil

**Instructions:** Fold a square piece of the black paper diagonally on both sides. Fold it into a triangle. Hold the top of the triangle and fold it towards the bottom of the triangle (to the centre). Hold the left corner and fold it towards the bottom centre of the triangle. Do the same with the other corner. Unfold both ends. Grab hold of the left corner and fold it towards the top of the triangle. Do the same with the other corner. Tuck the left "flap" into the pocket. Do the same with the other. Glue two eyes on it. Cut two wings and two fangs out of paper. Glue them onto the bookmark.

Source: <https://www.redtedart.com/simple-bug-hotel-for-kids/?cn-reloaded=1>, <https://www.easypeasyandfun.com/diy-bat-corner-bookmarks/>

## resources:

- Patron Saint of Scouting is St. George. Read more about him here, <https://www.thescoutingpages.org.uk/patron.html>

## news:

- A new Cub Badge Workbook will soon be available. It contains all the requirements for the interest badges with space for the examiner to sign in the book.

More about heading to the hills, tips, tricks and crafts in the next edition of **pack chat**

Stay tuned!

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