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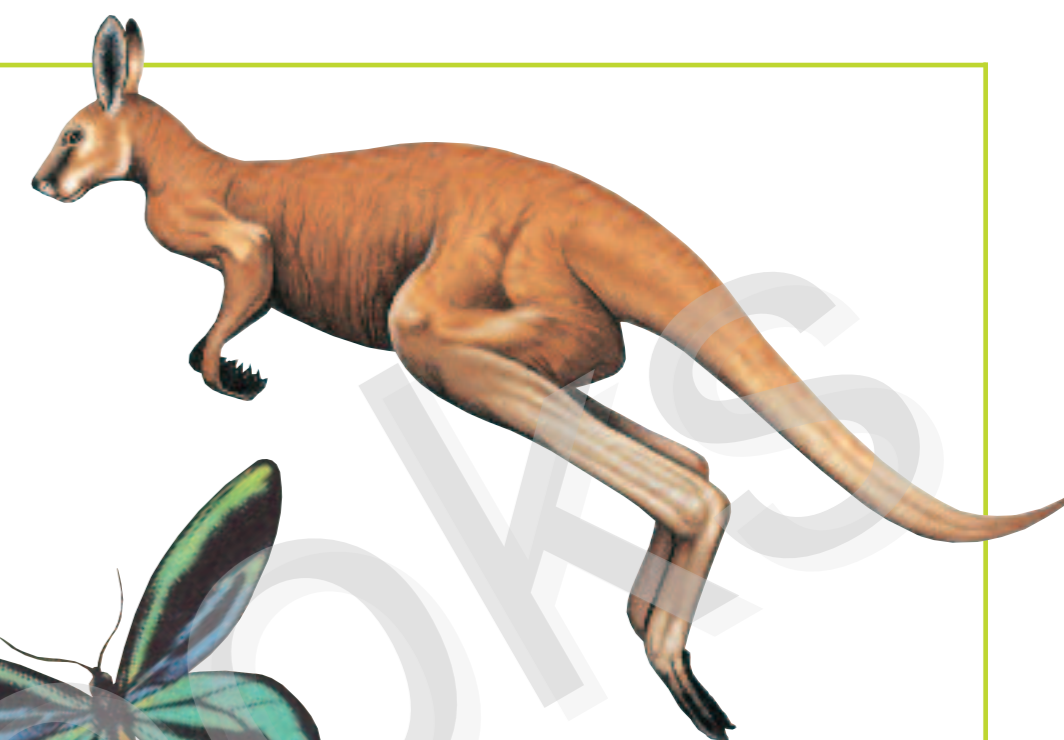
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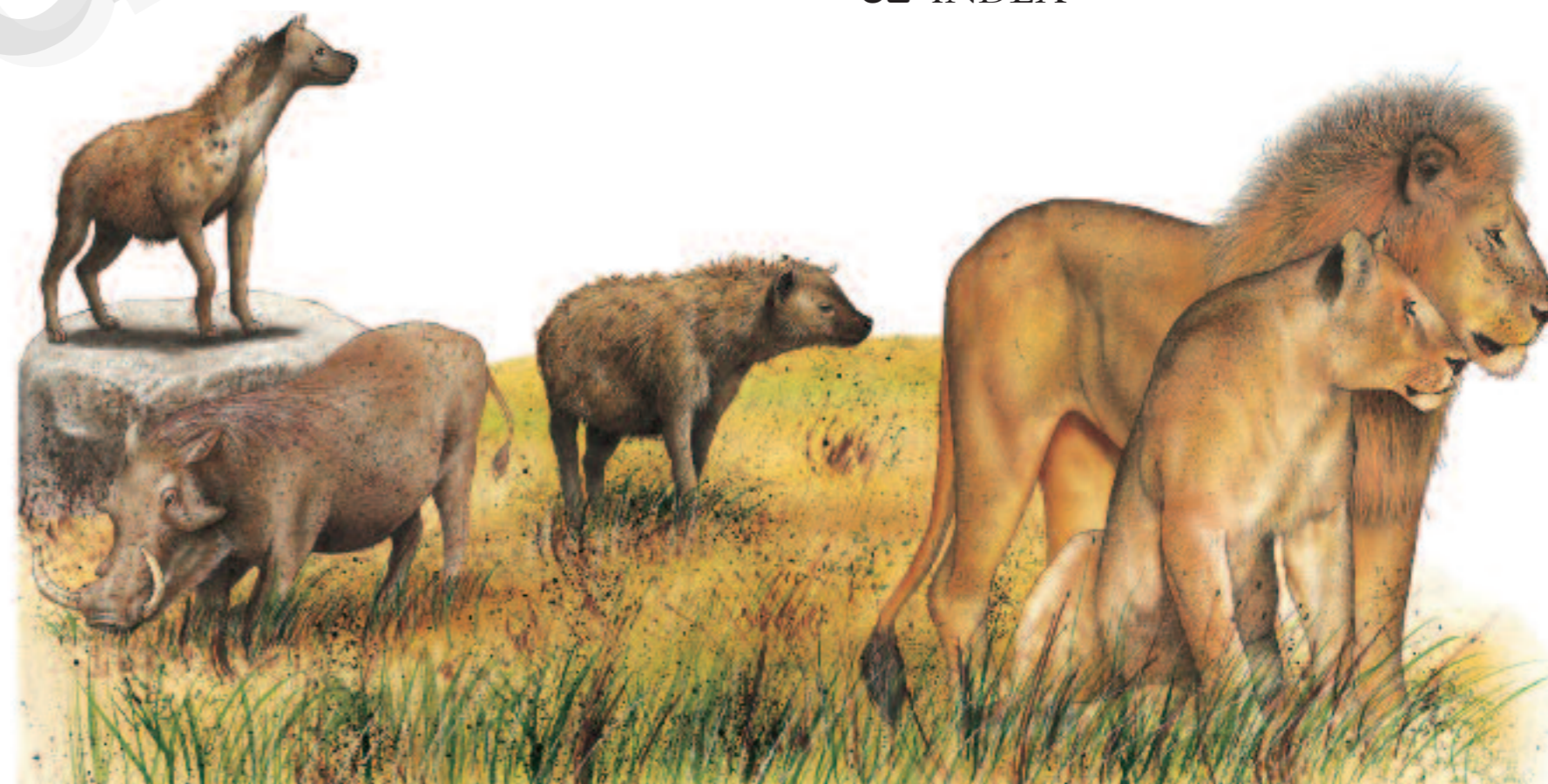


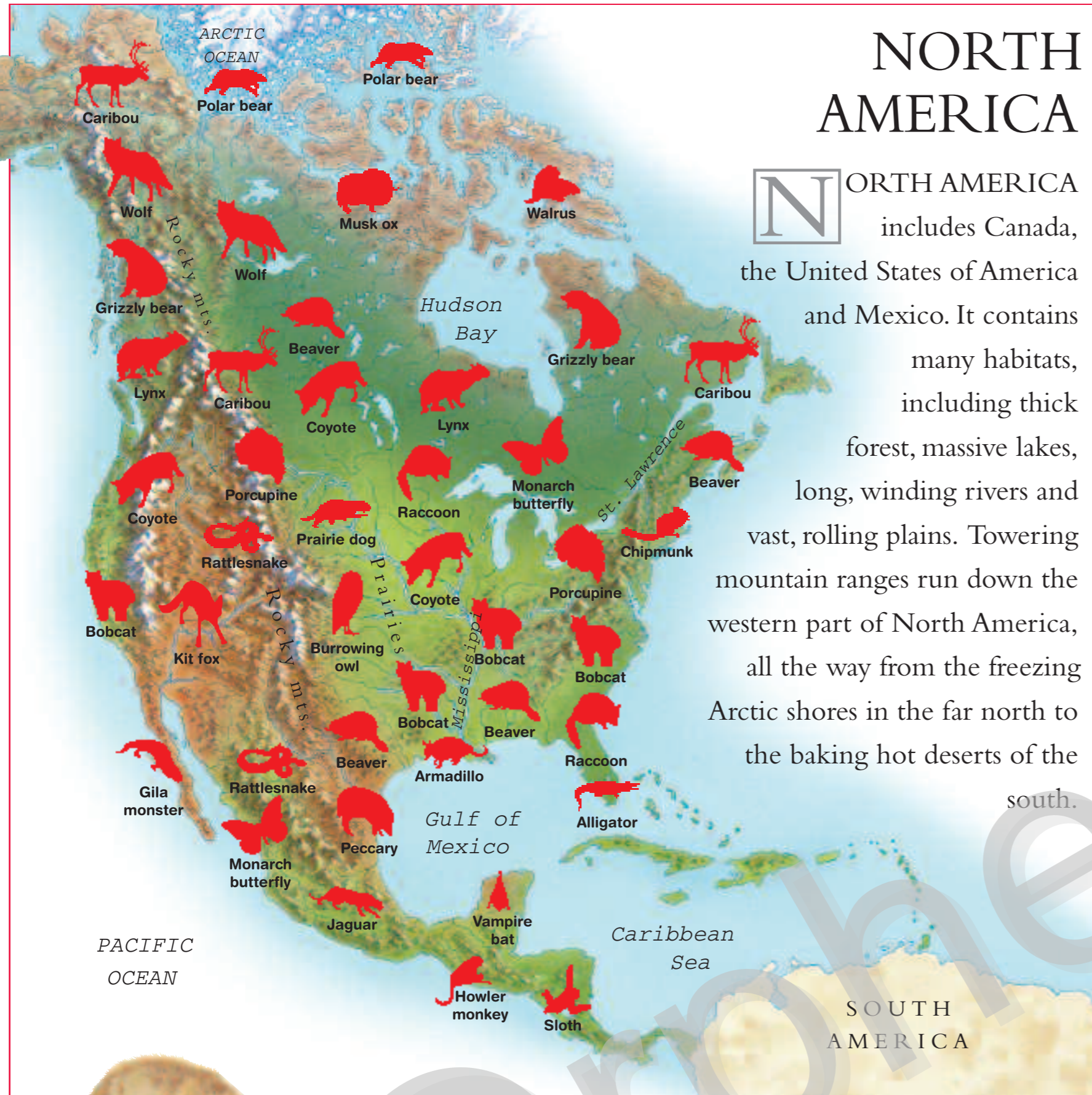
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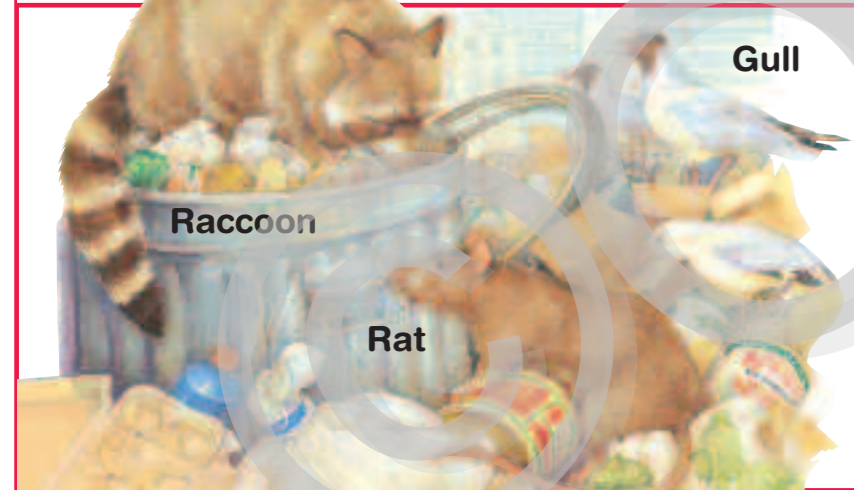


# NORTH AMERICA

**N**ORTH AMERICA

includes Canada, the United States of America and Mexico. It contains many habitats, including thick forest, massive lakes, long, winding rivers and vast, rolling plains. Towering mountain ranges run down the western part of North America, all the way from the freezing Arctic shores in the far north to the baking hot deserts of the south.

SOUTH AMERICA



**Gull**

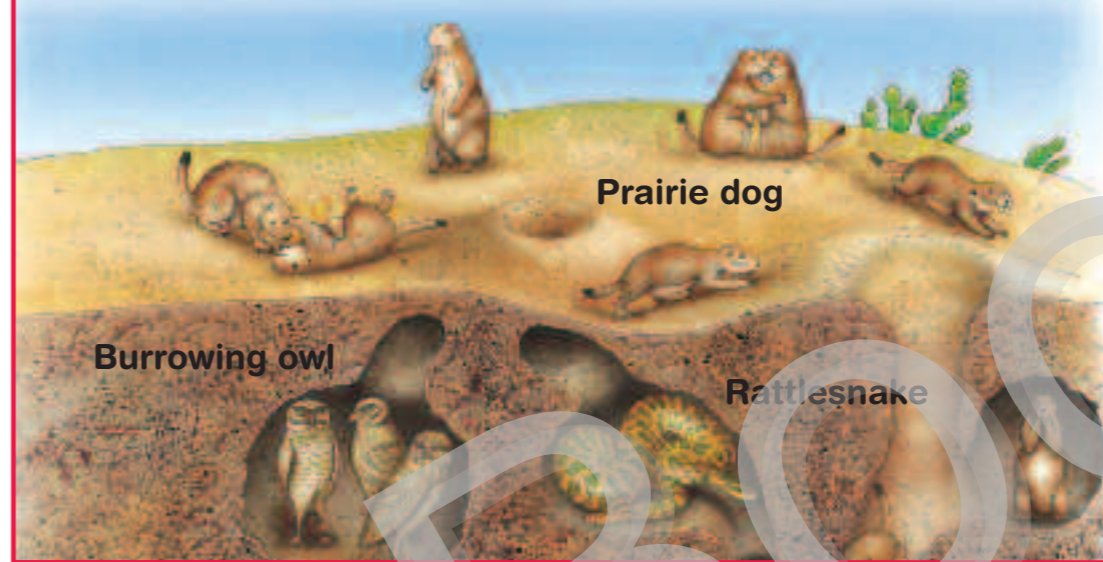
Many animals have moved from the countryside into cities in search of food. They adapt their lifestyles to their new homes. Rats, raccoons and gulls scavenge for food among the dustbins in many North American cities.

**DID YOU KNOW . . ?**

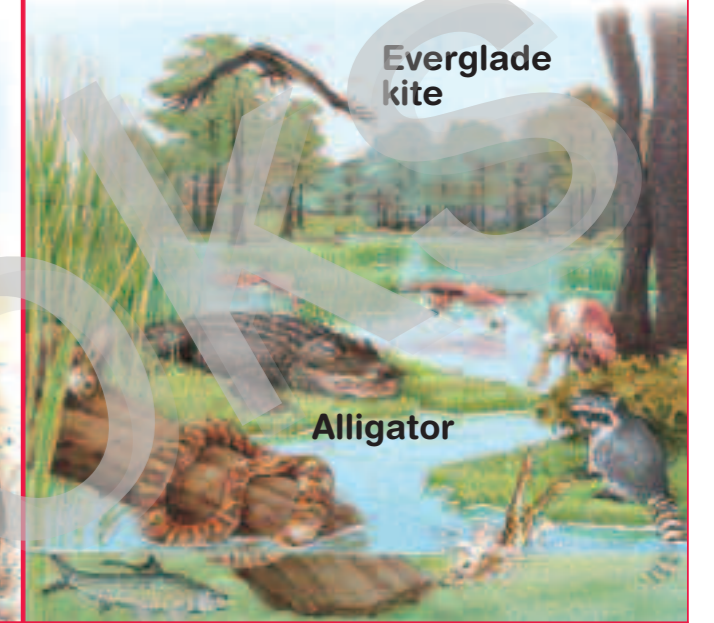
The bald eagle is the symbol of the USA. Its head is actually covered in white feathers but "white" is an old meaning of the word "bald". The eagle can grow to more than 80 cm long with a wingspan of more than 2 m.

In the North American Midwest lie grassland plains known as the prairies. They once covered a huge area but now are mostly given over to farmland. Prairie dogs are

rodents that dig large networks of burrows, tunnels and chambers under the ground. Long ago, a prairie dog "town" may have been home to millions of prairie dogs.

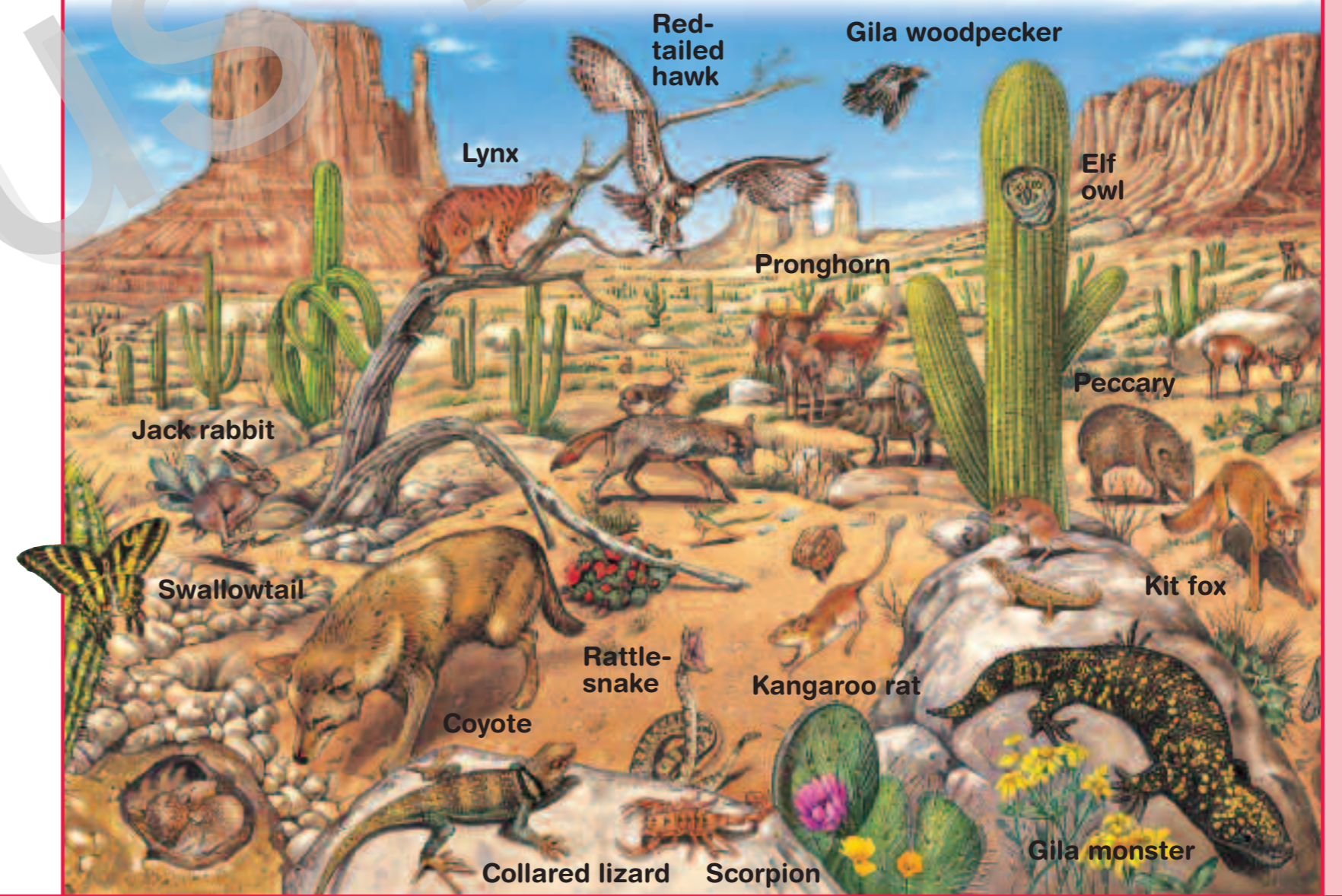


The Everglades in Florida, USA, is a large area of swampy marshland. It is a precious haven for many species, including wading birds and the American alligator.



Large parts of southwestern USA and northern Mexico are rocky deserts. By day, temperatures can soar to 50°C, but, by night, they can fall to below freezing. Many desert animals, such as the kit fox, rest during the

day and come out at night to hunt for food. The kit fox uses its large ears and superb hearing to track down its prey of lizards and other small animals. It chases after its victim before pouncing.



NORTH AMERICA

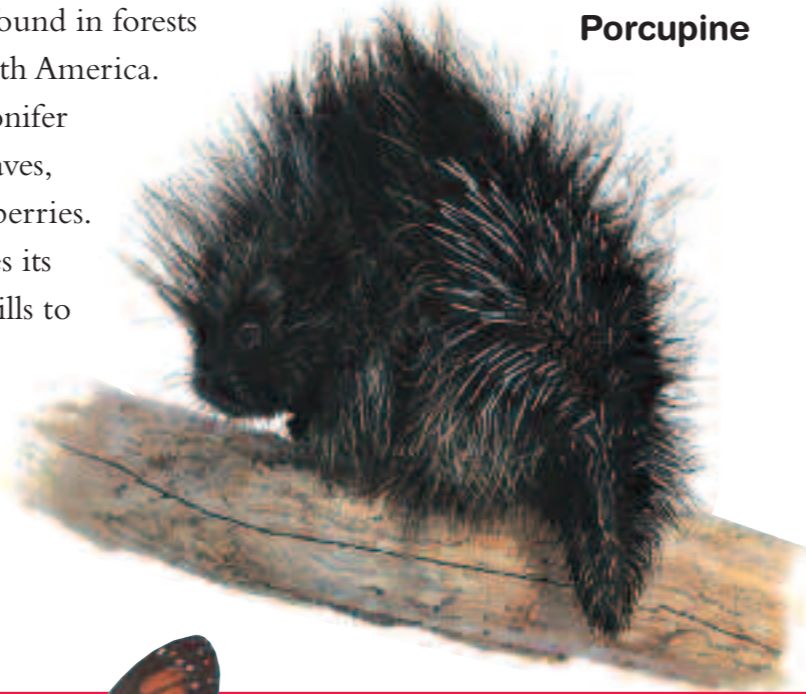
**Chipmunk**



The chipmunk is a type of rodent. It lives in North American woods and forests. In summer, it collects nuts, seeds and berries in its cheeks. It stores the food underground, ready for winter when it hibernates.

Porcupines are found in forests right across North America. They feed on conifer needles, bark, leaves, buds, roots and berries. A porcupine uses its needle-sharp quills to defend itself. It spreads out its quills, turns around, and lashes out at its attacker with its prickly tail.

**Porcupine**



The huge grizzly bear stands up to 3 metres tall and may weigh almost half a tonne. It gets its name from its grizzled (grey-tipped) fur. Grizzlies are immensely strong and can kill an animal as big as a caribou with their front claws. They also eat fish, rodents and berries. Large numbers of grizzlies have been wiped out by hunting and loss of habitat. Today, they are rare.

**Grizzly bear**



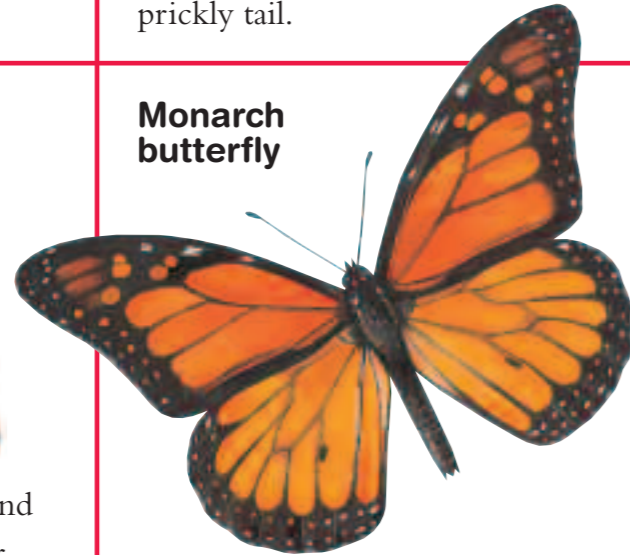
In the northern forests, grey wolves live and hunt in packs. They howl to keep in touch with each other and to warn rival packs away. The wolves set out in single file to track their prey of musk oxen or moose. Once the prey is sighted, the wolves stand still. As soon as the animal starts to run, the wolves suddenly rush forward into the attack. For protection, musk oxen form a tight circle around their young. They use their sharp horns as weapons for self-defence.

**Beaver**



Beavers are superbly adapted to life around North American lakes and streams. Their back feet are webbed for swimming and their coats are sleek and waterproof. A beaver uses its large tail as a rudder for steering as it swims. If danger threatens, it slaps the water with its tail as it dives. Underwater, it can hold its breath for up to 15 minutes. Beavers are also brilliant builders. With their strong teeth, they gnaw through tree trunks which they use to build a dam across a stream. In the pond that forms behind the dam, they construct a lodge out of mud and sticks.

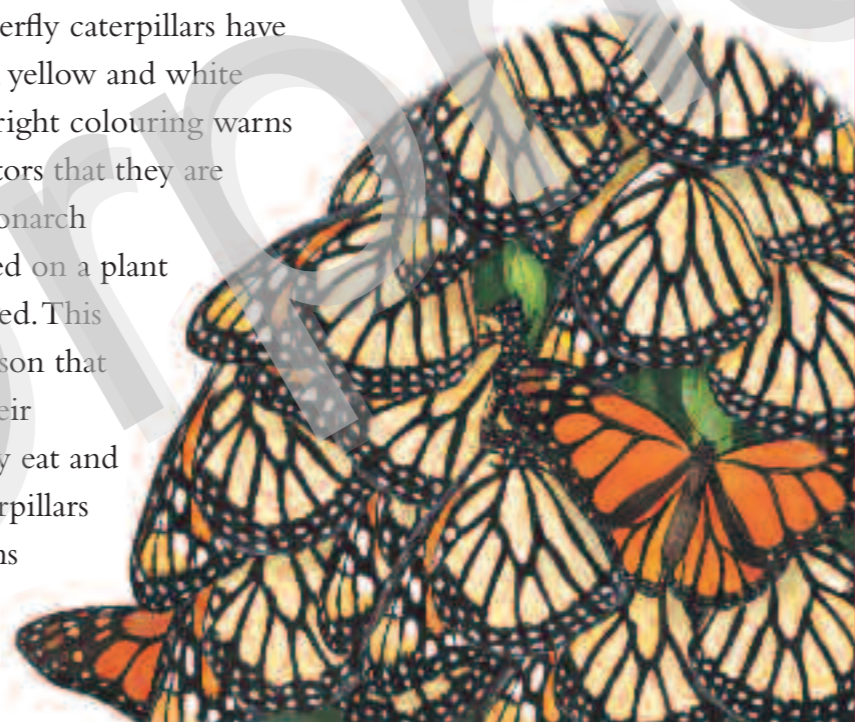
**Monarch butterfly**



Every year, in September, millions of monarch butterflies begin an amazing journey. These insects fly more than 3000 kilometres from Canada to California and Mexico. Here, millions of monarchs gather together in thick clusters on forest trees where they spend the winter (below). As spring approaches, they leave their roosts to feed and find a mate before they begin their journey back north again in February or March.



Monarch butterfly caterpillars have striking black, yellow and white stripes. This bright colouring warns hungry predators that they are poisonous. Monarch caterpillars feed on a plant called milkweed. This contains a poison that stays inside their bodies. As they eat and grow, the caterpillars shed their skins (above.)

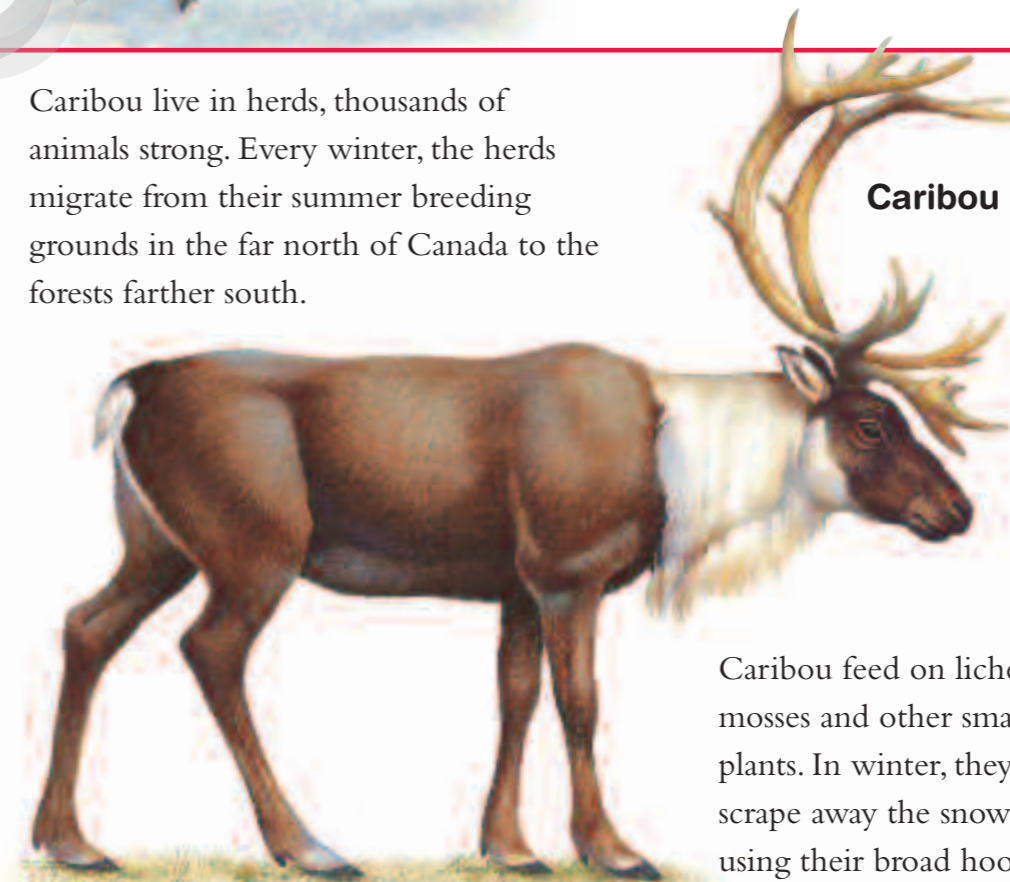


**Bobcat**



The bobcat lives on rocky or forested mountain slopes. Its spotted coat blends in well with its background, allowing it to creep up on its prey unseen. Bobcats feed mainly on rabbits and birds. They sometimes hunt porcupines, flipping them over to avoid their deadly quills (see opposite)

**Caribou**



Caribou live in herds, thousands of animals strong. Every winter, the herds migrate from their summer breeding grounds in the far north of Canada to the forests farther south.

Caribou feed on lichens, mosses and other small plants. In winter, they scrape away the snow using their broad hooves.

**Musk oxen**



**Grey wolf**

