



## Paw-Prints and Footsteps

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Use encyclopedia articles, science books, magazines, or other sources of nonfiction information to answer the questions about your animal in the Just the Facts section. Use the facts and your imagination to complete the Create Your Character and Get Ready to Write sections.

### Just the Facts

1. Write the name of the kind of animal you chose:

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Reread Rudyard Kipling's description of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi:

He was a mongoose, rather like a little cat in his fur and his tail, but quite like a weasel in his head and his habits. His eyes and the end of his restless nose were pink; he could scratch himself anywhere he pleased, with any leg, front or back, that he chose to use; he could fluff up his tail till it looked like a bottle-brush, and his war-cry as he scuttled through the long grass, was: "Rikk-tikk-tikki-tikki-tchk!"

Write two or more sentences that describe how your animal looks and sounds. What features does it have that make it different from other kinds of animals?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Reread Rudyard Kipling's description of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi's actions:

Rikki-tikki felt his eyes growing red and hot (when a mongoose's eyes grow red, he is angry), and he sat back on his tail and hind legs like a little kangaroo, and looked all around him, and chattered with rage.

List two or more things your animal does that no or few other animals do, and explain when and why it acts that way.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Give two or more facts about your animal's habitat:

---

---

---

---

5. Reread Rudyard Kipling's description of Rikki-Tikki-Tavi and Nag's relationship:

[Rikki-Tikki-Tavi] knew that all a grown mongoose's business in life was to fight and eat snakes. Nag knew that too, and at the bottom of his cold heart he was afraid.

List one or more animals that are your animal's natural enemies: what animals eat your animal, and what animals does your animal eat?

---

---

---

---

**Create Your Character**

6. Wild animals do not have names like people do. Giving a wild animal in a story a human name is an example of *personification*. Rudyard Kipling *personified* the mongoose in his story by giving him a personal name. But he did not choose just any name; he called the mongoose "Rikki-Tikki-Tavi" in part because the noise a real mongoose makes sounds like, "Rikk-tikk-tikki-tikki-tchk!"

Choose a name for your animal and explain why you chose that name.

---

---

7. You've learned that *personification* means giving an animal or object human qualities. Think about the way your animal acts. If your animal was a person, what qualities might it have? Would your animal be *sad* or *cheerful*? *Timid* or *curious*? *Foolish* or *wise*? Write the three best adjectives that would personify your animal's behavior.

---

---

---

---

8. Authors can *personify* an animal's relationships, too. For example, in the wild, a mongoose naturally hunts cobras, so Rudyard Kipling made Rikki-Tikki-Tavi and Nag enemies. If your animal and the other animals in its habitat were people, which animals would be your animal's enemies? Why?

---

---

---

You may remember that in the wild, cobras hunt tailor-birds, so Rudyard Kipling also made Nag and Darzee enemies. Then, since Darzee and Rikki-Tikki-Tavi were both Nag's enemies, Darzee and Rikki-Tikki-Tavi worked together as friends.

If your animal and the other animals in its habitat were people, which animals would be your animal's friends? Why?

---

---

---

**Get Ready to Write**

9. Summarize your *plot*: tell what will happen in your story. You might want to use the words *first*, *next*, *then*, and *finally* to help you put the events in the correct order.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

10. What do you want readers to learn from your story? For example, you might want your readers to see that different kinds of animals can be friends, or that a certain quality, like courage, is a good quality to have. This idea is called the *theme*. Write the *theme* of your story on the lines below.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---