



Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Every picture tells a story

Fun activities for families with children aged eight and over,
to use with this year's *Wildlife Photographer of the Year* exhibition

1. Open this guide to see six pictures.
2. Find each photograph in the gallery, and talk about them together.
3. How do the pictures make you feel?
4. What techniques have been used to take the picture?



Tick all the statement(s) you agree with:

The African wild dogs are stealing an elephant foot from the hyena.

- The hyena is laughing.
- There are four animals in the photograph.
- It is the middle of the day.
- The photograph is quite scary.

Circle the correct word:

1. There are not many African wild dogs left in the world. They are **endangered/indecent** animals.
2. African wild dogs usually hunt in packs like **rabbits/wolves**.

The robin is shaking its head so fast that it has just become a whirling, swirling blur.

- The water makes a nice cool bath.
- The mirror image makes this a more interesting picture.
- The robin was probably quite dizzy when it had finished shaking its head.
- The drops of water look like crystals that are hanging in the air.

Circle the correct word:

If the photographer had used a **faster/slower** shutter speed, the robin's head would be less blurry.

This insect gets its name from the noise it makes, which sounds like *katy did, katy didn't*.

- The katydid is difficult to see because it is so well camouflaged.
- The katydid would be even more difficult to see if the background was in focus.
- This katydid is beautiful.
- Its antennae are longer than its body.

Circle the correct word:

1. Male katydids make their unusual call to **attract/scare** females during courtship.
2. All insects have **eight/six** legs, and some of them have wings, too.

Use these **wildlife words** to talk about the pictures

Camouflaged This is when something is coloured so that it blends in with its background, making it difficult to see.

Habitat This is the natural place or surroundings where a plant or animal lives.

Predator This is an animal that hunts and kills other animals for food. Animals that are hunted are called prey.

Antennae These can look like extra legs on the heads of insects and other animals such as centipedes and lobsters. They are usually used to feel or smell things.



Only the flowers are in focus
Small depth of field



Movement **frozen**
Faster shutter speed



These fish are swimming together in a shoal because it is safer for them.

- A shoal of fish is more likely to spot a predator than a fish swimming alone.
- The shoal looks like one large animal.
- There are about 100 fish in this shoal.
- The different shades of blue in the picture make it feel cool and calm.

Circle the correct word:

You can see the **spirals/rays** of light passing through the water.

These rockhopper penguins are rushing to the safety of their nests.

- Some of the penguins look as if they might fall over.
- The photographer is standing on the ice.
- Rockhopper penguins have crests that look like bushy eyebrows.
- The penguins' stumpy wings are perfect for moving through water.

Circle the correct word:

Fathers look after the young **chicks/pups** while the mothers look for food.

This huge coconut crab is climbing up a coconut palm tree.

- The crab is as big as the top of a palm tree.
- The trees are in focus although they are far away.
- The crab's habitat is the frozen Antarctic.
- The crab would be tasty to eat.

Circle the correct word:

1. The crab needs large and powerful **pincers/scissors** to crack open coconuts.
2. The photograph has a large depth of field as the crab and the trees are all **sharp/blurry**.



B

Background more in **focus**
Larger depth of field



D

Movement **blurry**
Slower shutter speed

Use these **photography words** to talk about the pictures

Focus

Look at **photo A**. The flowers at the front are sharp and clear. They are in focus. The leaves and the background are out of focus as they are all blurred.

Depth of field

Compare **photos A and B**. It's the same flowers, but in **photo B** the background is much more in focus. If a photo has lots of things in focus at different distances away from the camera, it is said to have a large depth of field.

Shutter speed

Compare **photos C and D**. The shutter speed of a camera is like a stopwatch. It sets how long the camera stays open. To freeze something that is moving, a fast shutter speed is used. A slower shutter speed will show more motion blur.

Around the exhibition

Use your eyes to spot these eyes.
They all appear somewhere in the gallery.

Can you find them?

Tick them off as you go.

Detail of Golden-crowned sifaka
© Pete Oxford (UK)



1

Detail of Puffin pose
© Adrien Imre (Hungary)



2

Detail of Leopard shot
© Alessandro Bee (Italy)



3

For your journey home

Look at the picture of the gorilla. Gorillas are closely related to humans.

Discuss with your family how you might be able to tell this, just by looking at the photograph.

How many of these words have you learned?

1. Is all of the picture in **focus**? **yes / no**
2. Do you think this photo has much **depth of field**? **yes / no**
3. Is the gorilla **camouflaged**? **yes / no**
4. This animal eats plants. Is it a **predator**? **yes / no**



Detail of Human encounter © Suzi Eszterhas (USA)

At home

Turtles belong to a group of animals called reptiles.
Reptiles have tough scaly skin and lay their eggs on land.

Find out which reptiles:

1. Became extinct (died out) about 65 million years ago.
2. Have no eyelids and no limbs.
3. Are the world's heaviest lizards.

Visit the competition website

www.nhm.ac.uk/wildphoto

See the online gallery and winning images from the current and past exhibitions. Check out how you could enter your own photo for next year's competition.

Can't wait to share your pictures?

Send a drawing or a photograph and you could see it on the Natural History Museum website. Have a look at what others have sent in at

www.nhm.ac.uk/kids-only/picture-gallery/picture-gallery.html



Detail of Swimming for life © Willem Kolvoort (The Netherlands)