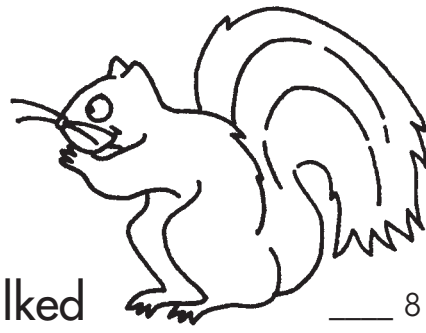
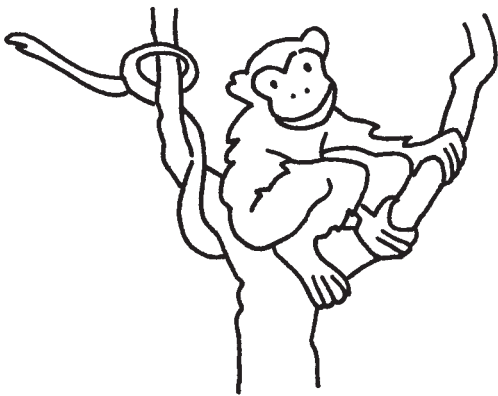


The Cleverest Tail



“Look, Dad,” said the boy, as they walked _____ 8
by the animal cages. “Isn’t that the cleverest tail?” _____ 17

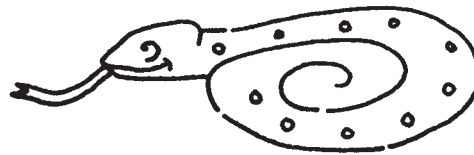
“Those people think my tail is the best,” said Squirrel, _____ 27
and made his tail fluffier. _____ 32



“You are the silliest animal,” _____ 37
said Monkey. “They were talking _____ 42
about me. My tail is handier.” _____ 48
He wrapped his tail around a _____ 54
branch and swung to the ground. _____ 60

“You are both funnier than fools,” cried Peacock. _____ 68
“Mine is the prettiest and the tallest!” _____ 75

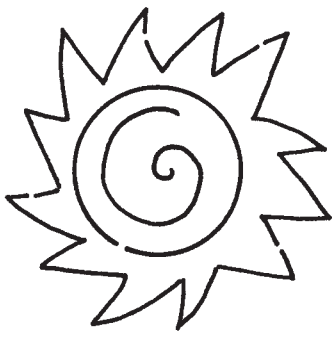
“Not so fa-s-s-s-t!” hissed Anaconda. “They meant _____ 82
me. My tail is the longest and the strongest.” She _____ 92
slithered closer. “Want to s-s-s-ee?” _____ 97



“No!” cried the animals. _____ 101

“I thought not.” Anaconda smiled her trickiest smile. _____ 109

“My tail is the cleverest of all.” _____ 116



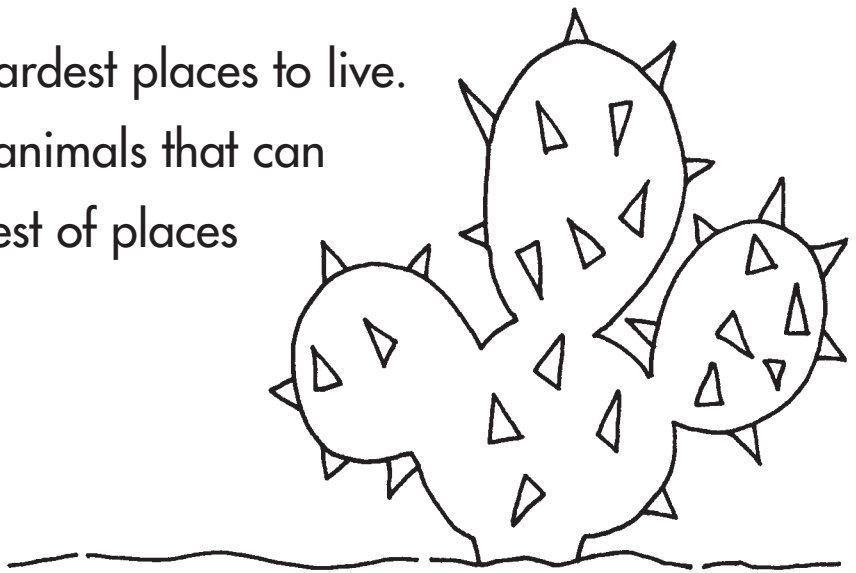
Deserts

A desert can be one of the hottest places on earth. Or it can be one of the coldest. Deserts get fewer than ten inches of rain per year. Deserts are the driest places on earth.

Desert plants often have smaller leaves than plants that live in other places. Some desert plants have leaves that look like needles. They are pricklier than most plants.

Many animals in the hot deserts sleep during the day. They may look as though they are lazier than other animals. But they are wiser. The desert is cooler at night. It is easier for the animals to hunt when it is cool.

Deserts are the hardest places to live. Only plants and animals that can survive in the driest of places live in deserts.





The Luckiest Puppy

Kelly looked at the puppy. "This is the saddest day of my life," she said.

"Come on," said James. "You know we can't keep him, even if he is the cutest puppy in the world."

Kelly followed James up the wide steps of the largest house on the street. The puppy wriggled deeper into her arms. James knocked his loudest knock. A boy and his mom opened the door. They smiled the brightest smiles.

"You found our lost puppy!" said the boy.

Quicker than a wink the puppy was in the boy's arms. It gave him the wettest puppy kisses.

"This is the happiest day of all," Kelly said.

