



Wildlife Photographer of the Year

Activity trail

Name: _____

Welcome to Wildlife Photographer of the Year



© Xingchao Zhu

You can:  Look/Find  Discuss  Write / Draw  Move.

These 100 images, taken by photographers from around the world, tell incredible stories about the wildlife we share this planet with.

The photographers use curiosity and patience, experimenting with photographic techniques to tell surprising, hopeful, and sometimes poignant stories about the natural world.

Now let's go and explore the images.

Visit nhm.ac.uk/wpy/gallery if you'd like to complete this trail at home.

Communicate a story

Photography can tell a story without the need for words. It can share the beauty of the natural world, help people think about the challenges it faces, and inspire them to help.

A winning story



Go to the two Grand Title winning images.

A jury of seven international experts selected these two images to win Wildlife Photographer of the Year and Young Wildlife Photographer of the Year. The images were chosen for their originality and creativity.



Look at both photographs. You may like to watch the exhibition film about each one. What catches your eye when looking at them?



How do you feel when you're looking at them?
Do they give you a sense of movement?



What do you think happened the moment after each photograph was taken? Draw or write it below.



Jump like a springtail to the next activity



Migration of the monarch butterfly



Go to the Photojournalist Story Award.



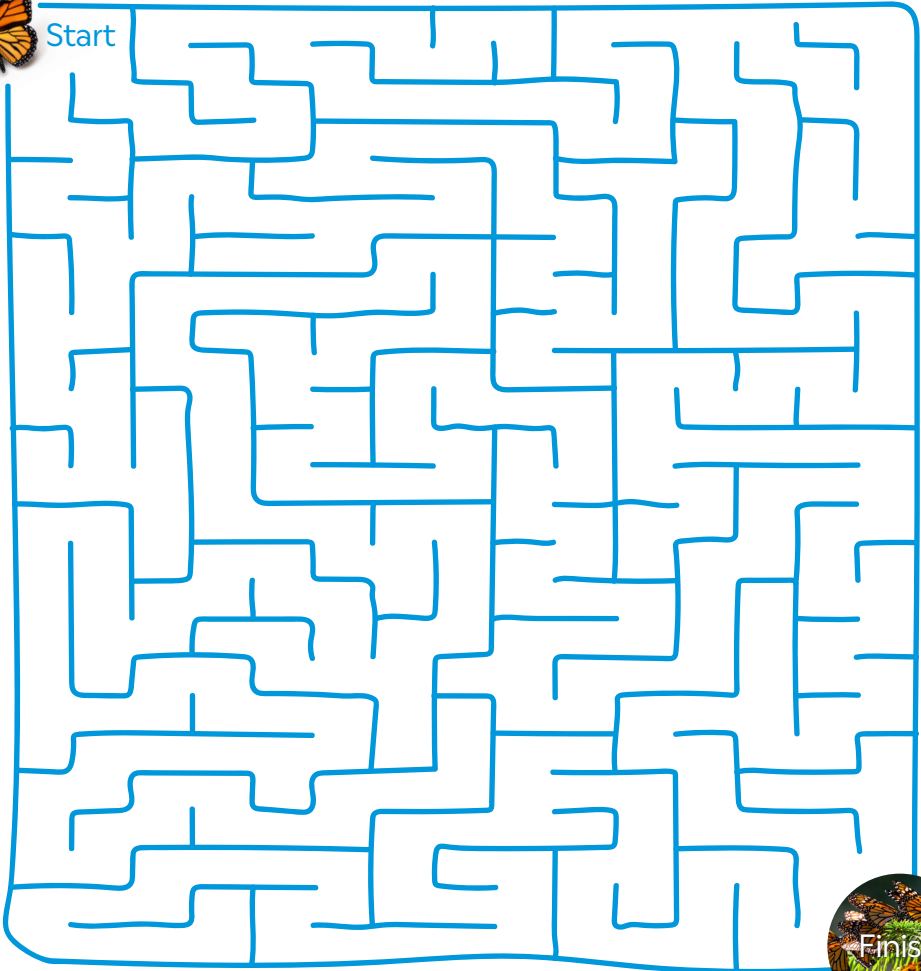
Read about the 5,000-kilometre (3,100-mile) journey of the monarch butterfly.



Help the monarch butterfly reach its wintering grounds in Mexico.



Start



Flutter like a butterfly to the next activity



Underwater forests



Go to the Rising Star Award.

Each year, an individual aged 18 to 26 is awarded for a collection of photographs that show technical skill and vision. This year's winner, Sage Ono, shares his love for the diversity of life found in the giant kelp forests in California.



Find these words connected to his story in the wordsearch.

CAMERA HOUSING

CORMORANT

DIVER

DIVERSITY OF LIFE

EGG

FOREST

FROND

GIANT KELP

HABITATS

LIGHT

MARINE SANCTUARY

MONTEREY BAY

NUDIBRANCH

PACIFIC OCEAN

REFLECTIONS

ROCKFISH

SEA URCHIN

STROBES

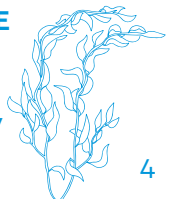
SUNBEAM

TUBESNOUT

R	O	D	I	V	E	R	E	F	L	E	C	T	O	G	G	U	P	P
C	A	M	R	A	L	P	A	C	F	C	G	O	A	I	C	I	C	J
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T	H	E	R	A	R	N	O	W	R	D	S	H	E	R	E			



Sway like a giant kelp to the next activity



Be curious

Don't be afraid to ask questions. By asking questions you can discover more about different habitats, the species that live there and their behaviours.

Bird beaks and diet

There are 11,000 species of birds, some of which are featured in this year's winning images. Birds have a wide variety of beak shapes and sizes. The shape and size of a beak can tell us about the habitat a bird lives in and the foods it eats.

 Find these birds in the exhibition, and look closely at their beaks.

 Match the circular images with the beak descriptions.



Snipe

I have a long, curved bill that I use to reach food such as fruit, insects, and even small mammals.

I'm a

.....

I have a pouch attached to my bill that I use like a fishing net to catch fish.

I'm a

.....



Greater flamingo



Brown pelican

I have a curved, hooked beak for tearing flesh from prey.

I'm a

.....

I have a straight, short beak used for probing and catching insects.

I'm a

.....

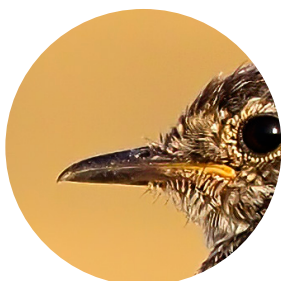


Tawny owl

I have a curved beak for filtering food in shallow waters.

I'm a

.....



Stonechat

I have a long, thin beak for probing in mud.

I'm a

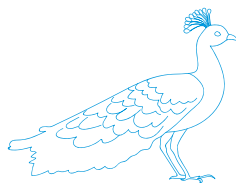
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Asian pied hornbill



Strut like a peacock to the next activity



Feather, fur, shells or scales?

There are around 100 different species of animals shown in the exhibition, ranging from a springtail barely visible to the human eye, to a humpback whale the length of a bus.

Animals have different body coverings depending on whether they are mammals, reptiles, birds, fish or insects. These coverings can vary in colour and pattern to help an animal survive and protect them from predators.



Look at these clues – find the photographs and identify the animals.



I'm a

.....
My feathers help me fly, but those around my heart-shaped face trap sounds and direct them to my ears so that I can find prey.

I'm a

.....
My fur keeps me warm, and my winter coat helps me blend into the snow.





I'm a

.....

My scales protect my body, help me move, and keep me moist. Their patterns also help me blend into my surroundings.

I'm a

.....

My scales protect my soft body from predators and help me move smoothly through water.



I'm a

.....

My hard outer shell protects my body and gives me shape, as I don't have an internal skeleton.



Pounce like a lion to the next activity



Experiment

Never be afraid to try something new. Using different photographic techniques and playing with light and colour can create new ways of seeing an animal or a plant, or reveal behaviour.

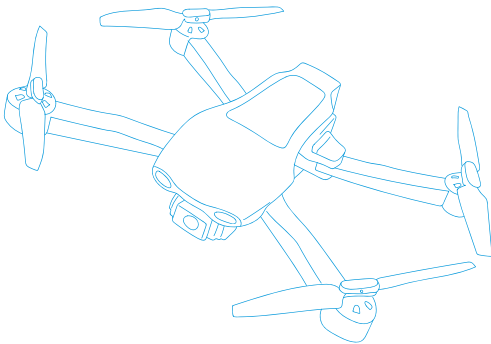
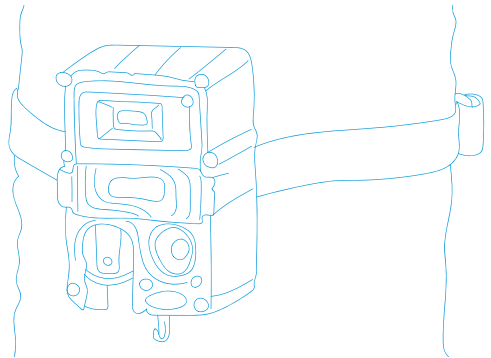
Nature in focus

Photographic technology is always changing and provides new ways of seeing the natural world.



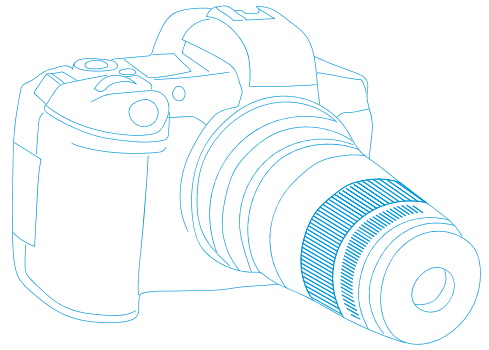
Read about some of the different types of technology featured in this year's competition.

Camera trap technology automatically takes images when animals are detected by the sensor. This technique was used to photograph the lynx in *Animals in their Environment*.



Drones can be a great way to take aerial photos of a landscape or offer a new viewpoint of animal behaviour, but they need to be low noise and not disturb the animal. The photograph of sleeping elephants in *Animals in their Environment* used this technique.

Using a **macro lens** allows a photographer to show something small as larger than life. The winner of Young Photographers: 15–17 Years used this technique.



Why do you think each photographer used their chosen technique to take these photographs?

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Can you find another example of each of these techniques?

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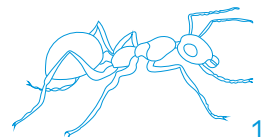
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Scurry like an ant to the next activity



Art and nature

Go to the Natural Artistry category.

As well as recording unique or special animal behaviour, photographers might play with light or patterns to create an image that reflects the beauty of nature.

Look closely at each image in this category.

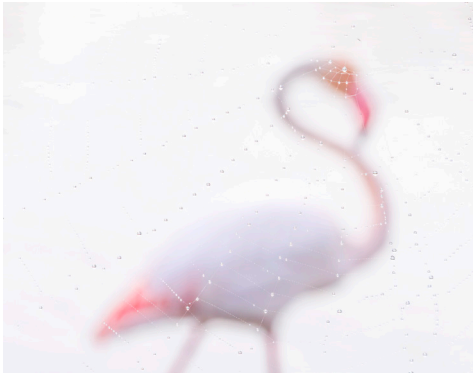
Match the photographer's description of the technique they used with the image it produced.

‘Using a long shutter speed (open for two seconds) and moving the camera in different directions helped me to create a painting-like photograph. I can use my camera like a painter’s brush, and I can create what is in my imagination rather than what my eyes see.’



‘We like to think outside the box when it comes to nature photography. What is obvious? What is hidden in the picture? We split up and experimented with different lenses and techniques: he tried to get even closer with the macro, and I looked from further away.’

Seeing the fleeting nature of the ice and snow with the warming day, I took the image with my phone. The element of peace is what I like best. The frost and snow add a surreal element to the scene.'



'It gives me a particular emotion to capture instances of light, movement or form. Capricious movement of the waves as they rise and fall gave me the result I was looking for.'

'It was a cloudy day, when the snow and sky shared the light, with no shadows or shapes in the snow. It gave the scene a dream-like quality.'



Walk like a flamingo to the next activity



Be patient

Use all your senses to notice nature. Look at the patterns in a web created by a spider on your windowsill or listen to a bird calling as it perches in a tree. Feel the breeze as it races through the grass or taste the freshness of the air after rain. By spending time understanding wildlife behaviour and interactions, you'll experience special moments that are unique to you.

What's missing?

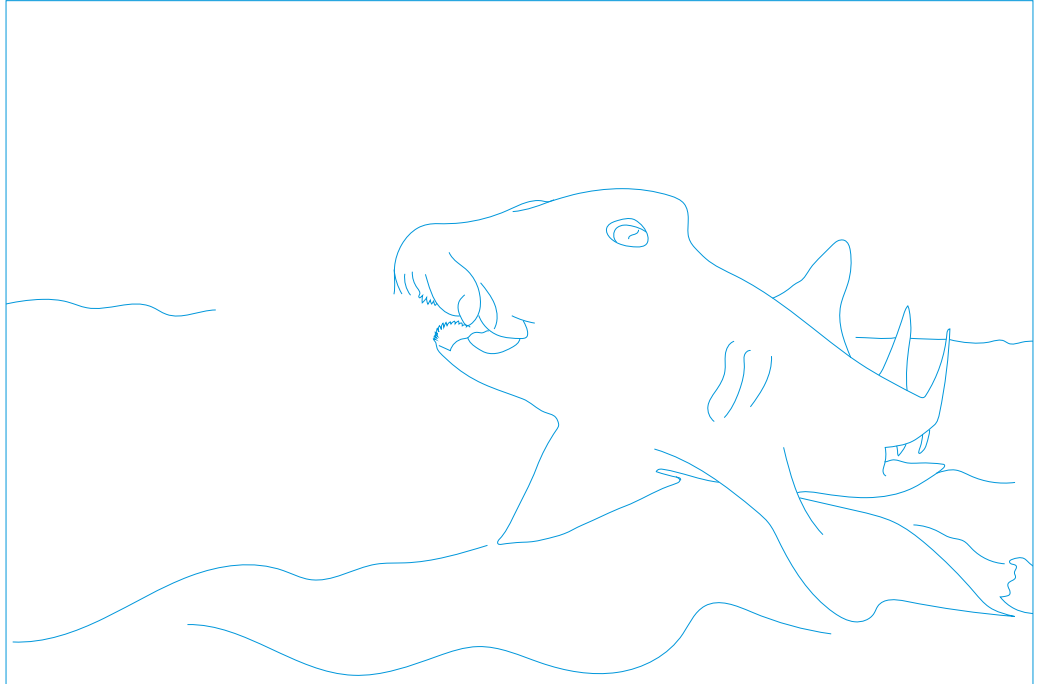
Find the photographs that match these drawings.



Look closely at each one.



Draw in the missing parts.





Now that you've explored some of the photographs from this year's competition, do you have a favourite?

My favourite is

.....

because

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Feel inspired?

It's free to enter the competition if you're under 26 years old.
The competition entries open every year in October.
For more information, visit nhm.ac.uk/wpy/competition.

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Exhibition supported by Associate Donor

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