ARTICLES & ACTIVITIES

GRADES 2–4





STOAT

PASSAGES, COMPREHENSION, AND MORE!

KEEP SCROLLING TO SEE WHAT'S INSIDE!

WHAT'S INCLUDED?

- 1-page & 2-page **informational articles**
- **Vocabulary cards** + cut-and-paste activities
- **Note-taking organizers & comprehension questions**
- **Fact sort** activities
- Informational **writing pages**
- Answer keys
- QR codes for safe **video research**



when the home of an animal is destroyed by nature or by humans





an animal that eats other animals

habitat loss

carnivore

VOCABULARY CARDS

Name: _____

Stoat Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictures.

Picture	Word	Definition
		
		
		
		

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Stoat Vocabulary Activi

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them with the pictur

mammal	**carnivore**	capture the whole attention of a person or animal	wh o
predator	**habitat loss**	an animal that hunts and eats other animals	
kit	**burrow**	a hole dug by a animal for a hor	
independent	**hypnotize**	a warm-bloo animal that hair or fur gives birth t young	

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Name: _____

Stoat Vocabulary Activity

Cut out the words and definitions. Match them together.

Word	Definition	Word	Definition

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VOCABULARY ACTIVITIES

While You're Reading

Mark with Symbols

!	when you find something interesting
?	when you are unsure or confused by something
*	when you find something important that you want to remember

Highlight with Colors

yellow	vocabulary words or key words
green	key phrases or definitions

Make Your Own Notations

symbol or color	meaning

Stoat

The stoat is a small mammal related to the weasel, otter, ferret, badger, mink, and wolverine. It is also called the short-tailed weasel or the ermine. The stoat lives in a wide range of habitats, including within the Arctic circle. It is common in Europe, Asia, and North America.

The male stoat is called a hob, while the female is called a jill. Both the male and female will defend their home against intruders.

Appearance

The stoat looks like its cousin, the weasel. In the summer, it has a brown coat with a white throat, chest, and belly. During the winter, the stoat has an all-white coat with a black-tipped tail.

The stoat is between 10-14 inches long and can weigh over 17 ounces. Its long, slim body makes it a fast and powerful predator.

Diet and Feeding

The stoat is a carnivore and will eat anything it can catch. It prefers to eat rabbits, mice, and insects. It will also eat eggs, chicks, frogs, rats, and squirrels.

The stoat uses its strong eyesight and sense of smell to hunt. Thanks to its size, the stoat can easily find its way through underground burrows and within trees. The stoat crawls along the ground in zigzag patterns to sneak up on its prey. If the prey is too fast for the stoat, the stoat will start dancing. The dancing hypnotizes the prey until the stoat can catch it.

Offspring

Stoats usually mate during the spring, but the female will delay her pregnancy until the following spring. After one month, she gives birth to 5-15 baby stoats, called kits. She will nurse the kits for one month.

When the kits are born, they are covered in fine, white hair. They develop a darker mane around their neck when they are three weeks old. After they are eight weeks old, they join their mother on hunting trips. The kits are completely independent when they are three months old.

Threats & Predators

Natural predators of stoats include birds of prey such as owls and hawks, as well as larger carnivores such as foxes, wild cats, and dogs. In the wild, stoats live for an average of just two years.

The stoat gets its nickname, the ermine, from its winter coat. People have prized the coat and hunted the stoat in large quantities to make clothing. Today, stoats are no longer hunted for their coats.

The stoat is common and is not considered endangered. It is threatened in some areas due to habitat loss.

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CLOSE READING BOOKMARK PAGE

INFORMATIONAL ARTICLE

Stoat Note Taking Sheet

Name:

Appearance

Habitat

Diet & Feeding

Offspring

Three Other Facts

Note Taking Sheet

Name:

What makes the stoat unique?

Describe a stoat's habitat:

Write three facts about the stoat:

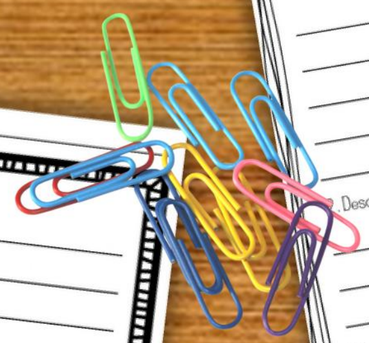
Fact

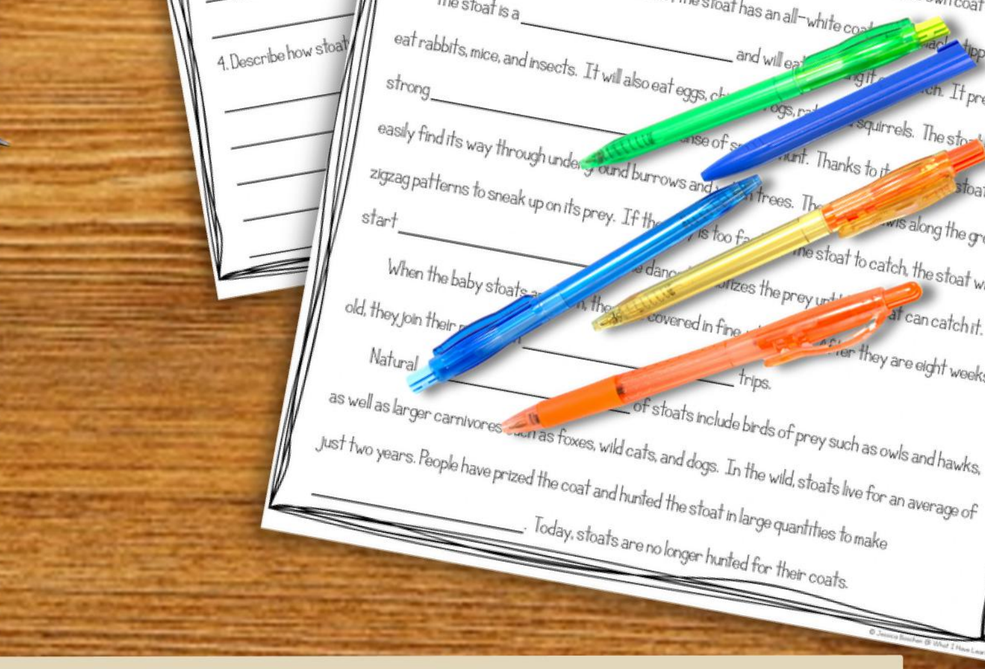
Fact

Fact

Describe how stoats take care of their offspring.

Other Information:





Name:

What I Remember About the Stoat

1. What does a stoat look like?

2. Describe a stoat's habitat.

3. What and how does a stoat eat

4. Describe how stoat

Name:

Stoat Cloze Read

Use the word bank to fill in the sentences.

carnivore	predators	dancing	eyesight
hunting	habitats	clothing	mammal

The stoat is a small _____ also called the short-tailed weasel or the ermine. The stoat lives in a wide range of _____, including within the Arctic circle. It is common in Europe, Asia, and North America. In the summer, it has a brown coat with a white throat, chest, and belly. During the winter, the stoat has an all-white coat. The tip of its tail stays black. The stoat is a _____ and will eat rabbits, mice, and insects. It will also eat eggs, chicks, frogs, squirrels. The stoat uses its strong _____ sense of smell to find its prey. It can easily find its way through underground burrows and trees. Thanks to its _____, the stoat can zigzag patterns to sneak up on its prey. If the prey is too fast for the stoat to catch, the stoat will start _____ and dance along the ground in front of the prey. This mesmerizes the prey until the stoat can catch it.

When the baby stoats are born, they are covered in fine _____. After they are eight weeks old, they join their mother on hunting _____. Natural _____ of stoats include birds of prey such as owls and hawks, as well as larger carnivores such as foxes, wild cats, and dogs. In the wild, stoats live for an average of just two years. People have prized the coat and hunted the stoat in large quantities to make _____. Today, stoats are no longer hunted for their coats.

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NOTE TAKING SHEETS

COMPREHENSION ACTIVITIES

Directions: Cut apart the labels and each fact. Sort the fact into the best category or do an open sort and create your own categories.

Attributes
looks, has, is

Actions
does, can

Environment
where it lives

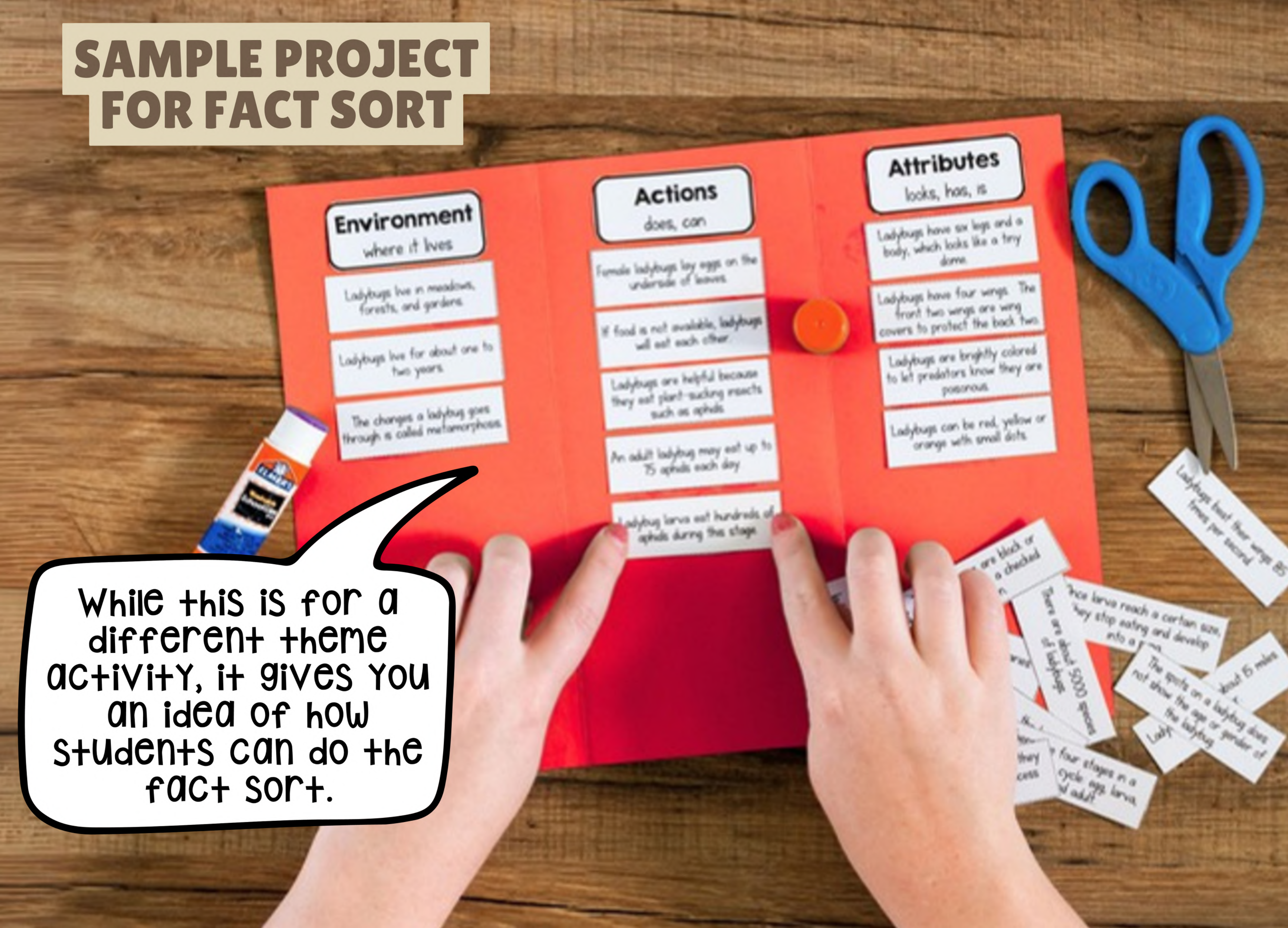
Use the above categories as a set. Alternatively, create your own categories.

The stoat is a small mammal.	The stoat crawls along the ground in zigzag patterns to sneak up on its prey.	Thanks to its size, the stoat can easily find its way through underground burrows and within trees.
Today, stoats are no longer hunted for their coats.	It is related to the weasel, otter, ferret, badger, mink, and wolverine.	The female stoat gives birth to 5-15 baby stoats, called kits.
The stoat uses its strong eyesight and sense of smell to hunt.		at lives in a wide ge of habitats, including the Arctic circle.
The dance hypnotizes the prey until the stoat it.		they are eight weeks e kits join their mother n hunting trips.
During the winter, t has an all-white coat wit black-tippe		Too fast for the o catch, the stoat will start dancing.
The kits are co independent when three months		In the wild, stoats live for an average of just two years.
It prefers to eat rabbits, mice, and insects.	It is common in Europe, Asia, and North America.	The stoat is a carnivore and will eat anything it can catch.
People have prized the coat and hunted the stoat in large quantities to make clothing.	It will also eat eggs, chicks, frogs, rats, and squirrels.	The stoat is common and is not considered endangered.

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FACT SORT

SAMPLE PROJECT FOR FACT SORT





WAYS TO USE IN THE CLASSROOM

- **Use during winter science or nonfiction reading units**
- **Assign one animal per week for close reading and writing**
- **Add to literacy centers or guided reading groups**
- **Support animal research reports and projects**
- **Leave ready-to-go for sub plans or independent work**

YOU WILL LOVE THIS BECAUSE



Perfect Science and ELA Integration

Students read, write, sort, and research while learning about animal adaptations and habitats in cold environments.



Saves Time With Consistent Layouts

Every animal follows the same structure, making planning simple and allowing teachers to focus on instruction, not prep.



Supports All Learners With Built-In Scaffolds

Vocabulary cards, fact sorts, and note-taking organizers help struggling readers and writers access complex information.



My passion is making learning accessible to all students. I love scaffolding learning, breaking down the concepts and building them up so that students can see the connections. I love figuring out the small components that build up to the big ideas and helping students see it all.

teach MATH

teach SCIENCE

teach READING

teach WRITING

What I have LEARNED

WEBSITES






Websites

This animal article comes with a Google Site that students can use for further research. The Google Site contains the same URLs as the QR Codes.

Google Site: [redacted]
bit.ly/alpine-[redacted]

If you find any links that do not work, please email me and I will fix it promptly. Videos are from a variety of websites, including YouTube (via SafeShare or SafeTube). There are two pages of QR Codes. One page has the YouTube link and the other page has the SafeTube link. Make sure you can access YouTube or SafeTube at your school.

Websites

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YouTube

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Websites

Stoat

[redacted]

Videos

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