IN BRIEF



Dodo Island is a fun fantasy tale about some dodos that *didn't* go extinct – they went underground instead! The story inspired this pack, which is about extinct animals of all kinds and the ecological threats that endanger many other species.

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- We believe that reading stories is the best way to build students' vocabularies! When kids encounter new words in an exciting tale, they are more likely to remember them. They also get a sense of how words should be used and what they mean from context. The **Storytime Glossary** was created to help this process – children should go here to look up definitions of tricky words and phrases.

- Unfortunately, the topic of extinction is becoming more and more relevant as hundreds of species are now under threat from environmental and other hazards. The **Class Discussion Sheet** asks pupils to list extinct animals they know about and the various factors that led to their extinction. Your students can also draw a picture of an extinct animal that they would like to bring back...

- On this month's **Reading Comprehension Sheet**, pupils are introduced to *imperatives* and *possessives*. Can they spot examples of each in the extract? You might follow this up by asking children to convert 'normal' sentences into ones that use imperatives or list all the possessives they can think of.

- The story of Pip and his adventure has been divided into eleven sections on the **Story Sequencing Sheet**, and your pupils have to put them back in the right order. They should number them from 1-11 to show the correct sequence.

- The **Storyboard** page tests how well students understood this month's story by asking them to write about what happened to the dodos in their own words. The art on the page will remind them of key events to cover!

Continued on page 2...

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1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- The **Extinction Wordsearch!** features words related to ***'Dodo Island'***. Can your pupils spot them all? Some are harder to find than an underground dodo!

- The **Letter to the Future!** exercise gives children a chance to express their feelings about the importance of protecting endangered species. They should imagine that they are writing to kids in the future and tell them about the amazing endangered animals they want to save from extinction.

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- After your students have read this month's story, we're sure they will want to find out more about the fabulous birds that feature in it. The **Meet the Dodo!** sheet is filled with facts about these birds – and how they became extinct.

- The **Extinction Timeline Cards** have profiles of different extinct (or nearly extinct) species and the dates when they died out, if appropriate! When your students line them up in the right order, they will make a thought-provoking timeline of extinctions.

- There are many more extinct species than we could possibly list, but the **Which Animals Did We Lose?** page features five particularly interesting ones. Your students can also add their own favourite dearly departed creature at the bottom of the sheet.

- Habitat destruction is driving many species to extinction, as all creatures need to be in a suitable ecosystem to survive. The **Habitat Match-Up!** sheet asks pupils to decide which environment seven creatures belong in.

- Why are the world's ecosystems being damaged, and what effects does this have? The **Environment Cause and Effect** page lists the reasons for the destruction and its repercussions and challenges students to match them up.

- **Introducing the Food Chain!** informs us about how different species rely on each other for survival. Can your pupils illustrate a food chain for the dodo?

Continued on page 3...

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3. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- Some scientists have the important job of keeping track of the number of endangered animals in the world and working out which ones are getting close to extinction. The **Endangered Species Sums!** page has some maths problems based around extinct or endangered species. Can your pupils work them out?

4. ART LESSON IDEAS

- The **Colour In the Dodo!** page has a quirky bird to colour in! We have a pretty good idea of what the birds looked like in real life (greyish-brown feathers, a lighter tuft on the rear and a multi-coloured beak and yellow legs), but there's no reason why your students can't get really creative. They could be colouring a newly discovered species of dodo!

- The **Save the...** page is a template for kids to use when designing a poster that brings attention to their favourite endangered animal. They should draw amazing art of the creature and come up with a clever slogan that lets people know why their chosen species deserves protection!

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

A guide to tricky and interesting words in this month's magazine!

The Firefly's Friends (Page 6)

- **Moat:** a deep ditch filled with water
- **Lotus:** kind of large water lily
- **Abdomen:** the rear section of an insect
- **Envy:** feeling of wanting something that someone else has
- **Lantern:** a holder for a lit candle
- **Twitching:** moving slightly
- **Chrysanthemums:** kind of flower
- **Scorched:** slightly burned
- **Admired:** liked and respected
- **Spluttered:** made short spitting noises
- **Obvious:** very clear

The Ant and the Dove (Page 11)

- **Antennae:** long, thin, sensitive 'horns' on an insect's head
- **Hustling:** moving quickly
- **Bustling:** being busy
- **Tunnels:** underground passages
- **Scuttled:** rushed
- **Larvae:** baby insects
- **Saluted:** showed respect with a movement of an arm or other body part
- **Current:** continuous movement of water
- **Tumble:** fall down clumsily
- **Drifted:** moved slowly without control
- **Grateful:** showing appreciation
- **Wildcat:** kind of untamed cat
- **Pincers:** pointy mouthparts of an insect
- **Yowled:** made a loud wailing sound
- **Groomed:** cleaned and tidied up

Dodo Island (Page 14)

- **Tubers:** big roots used to store food
- **Beady:** small, round and shiny
- **Clearing:** open place in a forest
- **Glossy:** shiny and smooth
- **Hammering:** things being hit with hammers
- **Bold:** brave
- **Shocked:** surprised in an unpleasant way
- **Nervously:** in a slightly scared way
- **Original:** new and unlike anything that has been seen before
- **Peered:** looked closely
- **Spade:** shovel-like tool for digging
- **Ceilings:** upper parts of rooms
- **Hatched:** opened, letting out young
- **Extinct:** no longer existing

A Teeny-Tiny Tale (Page 20)

- **Teeny-tiny:** very small
- **Cottage:** small house
- **Stroll:** relaxing walk
- **Bramble bush:** blackberry bush
- **Gooey:** soft, sticky and thick
- **Creak:** sharp noise made by movement
- **Echo:** bounce around
- **Thumped:** beat hard
- **Frozen:** unable to move
- **Gnome:** small mythical creature
- **Relief:** feeling of being glad and relaxed after being anxious or stressed

Continued on page 2...

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

Domingo's Cat (Page 24)

- **Sunrise:** when the sun comes up
- **Humble:** not special or important
- **Overheard:** accidentally heard something not said to him
- **Pollution:** harmful substances put into the environment
- **Gobbled:** quickly and greedily ate
- **Shrugged:** lifted his shoulders slightly to show he didn't care
- **Emeralds:** bright green jewels
- **Exhausted:** very tired
- **Flummoxed:** totally confused
- **Smirked:** smiled in a confident way
- **Eager:** excited and enthusiastic
- **Interview:** hold a conversation where someone is asked questions
- **Tailor:** person who sews or fixes clothes
- **Stuttered:** spoke awkwardly
- **Election:** when people vote for a leader

The Orchestra of Hamelin (Page 32)

- **Orchestra:** group of musicians who play different instruments together
- **Cheddar:** kind of hard cheese
- **Miserable:** very unhappy
- **Double basses:** big stringed instruments
- **Kettledrums:** big, deep drums
- **Flute:** high-pitched wind instrument
- **Jig:** lively dance music
- **Concert hall:** large hall for musical shows
- **Lullabies:** songs to put people to sleep
- **Rodents:** family of animals including rats

The Clockwork Universe (Page 34)

- **Fascinated:** very interested
- **Cobblestones:** small roundish paving stones used on streets
- **Countryside:** area outside of cities
- **Jostling:** pushing and shoving
- **Crimson:** a deep red colour
- **Jealous:** resentful about what someone else has done
- **Rumours:** tales that might not be true
- **Windmill:** building for grinding grain using wind power
- **Invention:** new and original device
- **Chisels:** tools for carving
- **Calculations:** sums used to solve problems or work things out
- **Gravitation:** the force that attracts objects to each other
- **Orbit:** the curved path an object takes around other objects in space

Maui and the Secret of Fire (Page 40)

- **Maori:** native people of New Zealand
- **Embers:** glowing bits of wood in fire
- **Volcano:** mountain that erupts lava from inside the Earth
- **Goddess:** female god
- **Temper:** angry mood
- **Lava:** hot melted rock
- **Spell:** words with a magical effect
- **Mischief-maker:** person who causes lots of trouble
- **Furious:** extremely angry

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CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

extinction! Lots of plants and animals have died out in the past... and many more are about to go extinct. Let's talk about why this happened, and how we can save endangered species!

1. How many extinct species can you name? Which ones went extinct in the distant past, and which ones have died out more recently?

2. Can you think of reasons why different animals have gone extinct?

3. Which animals are at risk of dying out at the moment? Why do you think they are in danger?

4. What can we do to help save species that are going extinct? Do you know about any organisations that are working to protect endangered creatures?

THE EXTINCT ANIMAL I WOULD BRING BACK!

If I could, I would bring back the:

This is why it was amazing:

DRAW YOUR FAVOURITE EXTINCT ANIMAL HERE!

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READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

See if you can find the *imperatives* and *possessive* in this text!

"Strangers!" he squawked. "Wooden island! *Danger!* Come and see!"

Marta fluffed up her glossy grey feathers as she sat on her nest.

"That's the problem with young dodos these days! They're always running around and imagining things that aren't there!"

Old Noa scratched his dusty brown plumage. "I suppose we should go and take a look, just in case!"

1. An *imperative verb* is used when someone gives a command to someone else. An imperative is like a normal verb, but you leave out the word 'you' in the sentence. What are the two imperative verbs in the first line?

_____

2. *Possessives* are words that tell you who something belongs to. What is the possessive in the second line?

_____

3. What are the two *adjectives* (describing words) used to talk about old Noa's feathers?

MATCH THE POSSESSIVES!

Can you draw lines between the pronouns and the possessives that match them?

Pronoun:	Possessive:
I	Our
You	Its
It	Their
We	My
They	Your

ANSWERS: 1. *Come* and *see*. 2. *Her*. 3. *Dusty* and *brown*.
Match the Possessives! *I – my, you – your, it – its, we – our, they – their.*

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STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

How well do you know the tale of Pip, Marta and Noa? Can you number the eleven sections of the story in the order they should be read in?

The dodos didn't sleep well because they were scared of the humans. When morning came, Pip heard the sounds of sawing and hammering. ☐

Pip ran back to the clearing where he and the other dodos lived. He warned them about the wooden island and the strangers. ☐

That night, they put leaves in their feathers to disguise themselves as bushes and sneaked into the humans' fort. The dodos found tools! ☐

At first, Marta and Noa didn't believe Pip, but they decided to go to the beach and see if he was telling the truth. ☐

The birds lived in these tunnels, where baby dodos were born. They were safe, because humans believed that dodos were extinct! ☐

Instead of obeying the dodo, a human pointed a gun at Marta and shot the feathers on her bum. She and the other dodos ran away! ☐

He told the other birds, and they weren't sure what to do. However, Pip had an idea! He told the others about his plan. ☐

When Marta saw the humans who had come to their island, she marched up to them and told them to go away! ☐

The dodos took the tools (and a hat!) They used the things they gathered to dig tunnels where they could live and hide from humans. ☐

Pip the dodo was looking for food when he spotted a ship that looked like a wooden island. Strange creatures got off it and came ashore. ☐

When the young dodo went to the beach, he saw that the strangers had cut down trees and were building a giant wooden 'nest'! ☐

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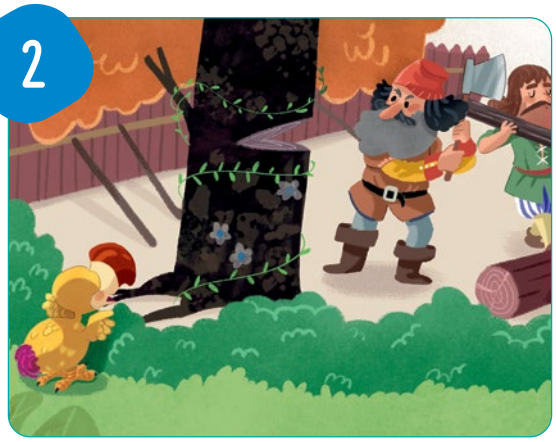
STORYBOARD

Tell the tale of Pip the dodo in your own words! Write about what happened to him in the spaces underneath the pictures.

1



2



3



4



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EXTINCTION WORDSEARCH!

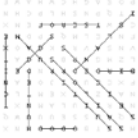
Can you find all of the words related to this month's story in this wordsearch? They are harder to find than Pip, Marta and Noa!

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

Bird
Dodo
Eggs
Extinct

Forest
Hunted
Island

Mauritius
Sailors
Species



ANSWERS:

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LETTER TO THE FUTURE!

We'd like you to write a letter to children who will live in the next few decades and tell them why it is important to protect endangered species. Mention some awesome animals that you want to survive!



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MEET THE DODO!



Do you want to find out more about dodos? Here are some facts you need to know about these unique extinct birds!

WHO WERE THEY?

- The dodo was a flightless bird that lived on the island of Mauritius in the Indian Ocean.
- It was about 3 feet tall and weighed around 15-20kg (as heavy as a medium-sized dog!)
- Dodos couldn't fly because they didn't need to. They had no natural predators... until humans arrived, that is!

DODO SPOTTING!

Dodos had large, round bodies, small wings, stubby tails and a big hooked beak. Their feathers were greyish-brown, and they had yellow feet.

DRAW ONE HERE!

WHAT HAPPENED?

Dodos became extinct in the 1600s after sailors arrived on Mauritius. The birds were hunted for food, and their eggs were eaten by rats, pigs and monkeys brought by the sailors.

FUN FACT!

The word 'dodo' comes from the Portuguese word *doudo*, which means 'fool' or 'simpleton'.

WHO AM I RELATED TO?

Which modern bird is closely related to the dodo?

HINT: they are common in cities!

_____

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EXTINCTION TIMELINE CARDS

These cards are about different species that have gone extinct.
Cut them out and put them in order to create a timeline of extinction!

1936
The **THYLACINE (TASMANIAN TIGER)** was a carnivorous marsupial that was hunted by farmers who thought it ate their sheep. Habitat loss made it hard for them to survive.

1980s
The **GOLDEN TOAD** lived in the forests of Costa Rica. Changes in the climate and people destroying their habitat caused them to disappear.

1662
The **DODO** was a flightless bird from Mauritius. Sailors hunted them and animals like rats and pigs ate their eggs, giving the dodos no chance of survival.

1900
PASSENGER PIGEONS were once everywhere in North America. People hunted them and cut down their forests, leaving them with no place to live.

1850s
GREAT AUKS were large seabirds that lived in the North Atlantic. They were hunted for their feathers, meat and oil. Before long, they were gone.

2000 Years Ago
The **IRISH ELK** was famous for its huge antlers. They became extinct because the climate changed and they couldn't find enough food to survive.

10,000 Years Ago
The **WOOLLY MAMMOTH** was a furry elephantlike animal that lived during the last Ice Age. Warmer weather destroyed their habitat and humans hunted them.

2022
The **SPIX'S MACAW**, a blue parrot, became extinct in the wild because their rainforest was cut down. Some survived in captivity and have been reintroduced into the jungle.

Now (2025)
Only 20-30 **AMUR LEOPARDS** remain in the wild. These beautiful big cats are threatened by deforestation and poachers who hunt them for their fur.

65 Million Years Ago
DINOSAURS disappeared during the Cretaceous-Paleogene extinction event. A giant asteroid hit the Earth, causing fires and huge changes in the environment.

PANDA POWER: A CONSERVATION SUCCESS STORY

Population recovery: The number of giant pandas living in the wild has grown from under 1000 to 1864 today, thanks to focused conservation efforts.
Why were they in danger? The destruction of bamboo forests left them without the food and shelter they need.
How we helped: China has created 67 panda reserves, replanted bamboo forests and implemented breeding programs.
Result: In 2016, pandas were reclassified from 'Endangered' to 'Vulnerable' by the IUCN (the International Union for Conservation of Nature), showing that progress is possible!

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WHICH ANIMALS DID WE LOSE?



The dodo is just one of many animals that are no longer with us. Here are a few others that have disappeared...

Woolly Mammoth: During the last Ice Age, millions of these hairy elephantlike animals roamed across northern Europe, Asia and North America. When the Ice Age ended, they were unable to adapt to the new climate and went extinct. It didn't help that our ancestors hunted them with stone-tipped spears, too!

Moa: These giant flightless birds evolved in New Zealand, but when the Maori settled on the islands in around 1200CE, they discovered that the birds were very tasty. Within a few hundred years, the moa had been wiped out.

Atlas Bear: This was Africa's only native bear, and it lived in the Atlas Mountains. Unfortunately, it was targeted hunters and many others were captured and put in zoos. The last surviving Atlas Bear was killed by hunters in Morocco in 1870.

Quagga: Relatives of the zebra, they lived in Africa and had striped heads and reddish-brown bodies. They were hunted by European settlers who wanted to graze cattle in their habitat. Some quaggas were taken to Europe, either as zoo animals or to pull carriages! The last quagga died in captivity in 1883.

Steller's Sea Cow: These giant marine mammals once lived in the Bering Sea between North America and Asia. The 'sea cows' grazed on seaweed rather than grass. Locals hunted them for food, and they were finally wiped out by Europeans who harvested the last remaining sea cows for their blubber in the 18th century.

Can you name another extinct animal? **Write about it here!**

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HABITAT MATCH-UP!

Different animals need to live in different habitats to survive.
Can you match the ecosystems with the animals below?



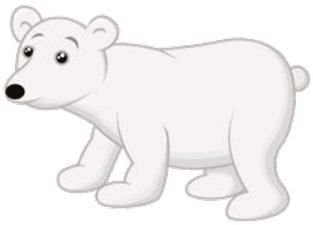
☐ Orangutan



☐ Giant Panda



☐ Pangolin



☐ Polar Bear



☐ Snow Leopard



☐ Hawksbill Turtle



☐ Vaquita



A. Himalayan Mountains



B. Indonesian Forests



C. Gulf of Mexico



D. Coral Reefs



E. The Arctic



F. Bamboo Forests



G. African Savannah

ANSWERS: Orangutan – B, Giant Panda – F, Pangolin – G, Polar Bear – E, Snow Leopard – A, Hawksbill Turtle – D, Vaquita – C.

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ENVIRONMENT CAUSE AND EFFECT

Destruction of animals' habitats is driving many species to extinction!
Can you match each environmental problem with its effects?

PROBLEM A: CUTTING DOWN FORESTS!

Cause: Trees are cut down for wood and paper or to make space for farms and cities.

PROBLEM B: AIR POLLUTION!

Cause: Smoke and fumes from cars, factories and power plants pollute the air.

PROBLEM C: HUNTING ANIMALS!

Cause: Some animals are hunted for their fur, horns or meat.

PROBLEM D: TOO MUCH WASTE IN LANDFILLS!

Cause: People throw away too many things that could be reused or recycled.

PROBLEM E: LITTERING IN THE OCEAN!

Cause: People throw rubbish, like plastic, into rivers and seas.

1. EFFECTS

- **Health Problems:** Dirty air causes breathing issues like asthma.
- **Climate Change:** Greenhouse gases like CO^2 trap heat, which warms up the planet.
- **Acid Rain:** Pollution mixes with water, harming plants, animals and buildings.

2. EFFECTS

- **Species Extinction:** Overhunting can cause entire species to disappear.
- **Disrupted Ecosystems:** Species being removed upsets the balance of the environment.
- **Loss of Biodiversity:** The benefits of unique animals to ecosystems are lost.

3. EFFECTS

- **Loss of Biodiversity:** Animals and plants lose their homes, leading to extinction.
- **Climate Change:** Fewer trees mean less CO^2 is absorbed, increasing global warming.
- **Soil Erosion:** Without tree roots, soil washes away, making land dusty and barren.
- **Water Cycle Disruption:** This leads to heavy rainfall or droughts.

4. EFFECTS

- **Pollution:** Toxins leak into soil and water, harming humans, plants and animals.
- **Greenhouse Gases:** Waste releases methane, contributing to global warming.
- **Loss of Space:** Landfills take up precious land.
- **Harm to Wildlife:** Animals eat or get trapped by plastic.

5. EFFECTS

- **Harm to Marine Life:** Animals like turtles and fish get tangled up in plastic!
- **Pollution:** Rubbish poisons water, making it unsafe for creatures and humans.
- **Food Chain Disruption:** Harmful microplastics end up in fish that humans eat.

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ANSWERS: A. 3, B. 1, C. 2, D. 4, E. 5.

INTRODUCING THE FOOD CHAIN!

No species can survive on its own! They rely on other plants and animals for food and many other things. That's why extinction is particularly bad – it can upset whole ecosystems!

WHAT IS A FOOD CHAIN?

- A food chain shows how living things are connected by what they eat.
- It starts with plants (producers), which are eaten by herbivores (plant-eaters).
- These herbivores are then eaten by carnivores (meat-eaters) or omnivores (who eat both plants and meat).

WHY IS THE FOOD CHAIN IMPORTANT?

- It keeps nature in balance.
- If one part of the chain is removed (like when the dodo went extinct), it affects other plants and animals.

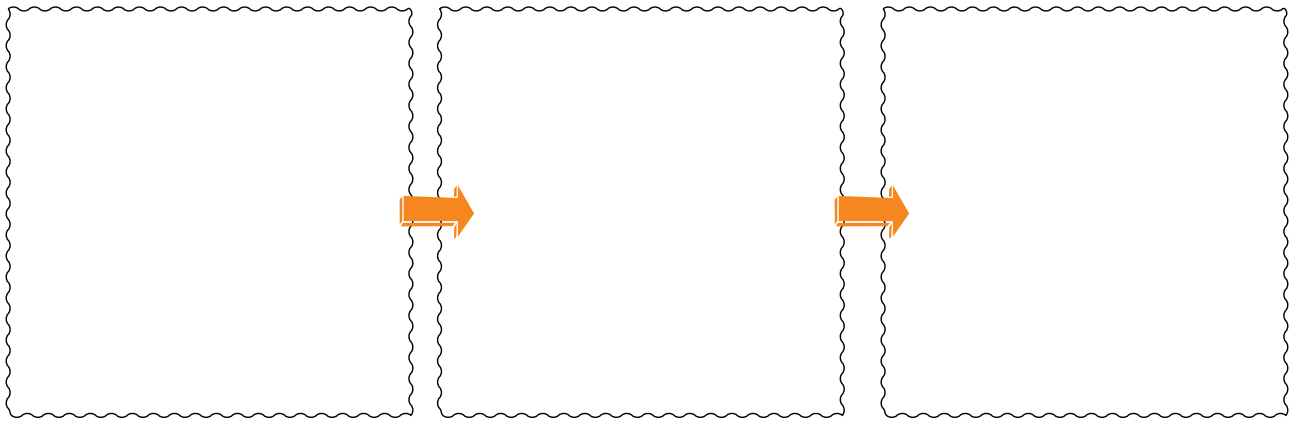
THE DODO'S FOOD CHAIN

1. Producers: Plants on Mauritius that grow fruit and seeds (these include guavas, coconut palms and mango trees)

2. Primary Consumer: Dodo (ate fruits, seeds and plants)

3. Predators: Humans and invasive species (sailors hunted dodos for food and rats and pigs ate dodo eggs, which stopped new dodos from hatching)

DRAW THE DODO FOOD CHAIN:



SOMETHING THE DODO ATE! | THE DODO | WHO ATE THE DODO OR ITS EGGS?

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ENDANGERED SPECIES SUMS!

Counting animals is a tricky job! Can you figure out these equations related to endangered creatures?

A. If there were 10 dodos on an island and 5 were hunted by sailors, how many dodos are left?

_____

B. A rhino sanctuary has 3 rhinos. If each rhino needs 2 buckets of water every day, how many buckets of water are needed each day?

_____

C. A bamboo forest is divided into 4 sections, and 12 pandas live there. If each section has the same number of pandas, how many pandas live in each section?

_____



D. There are 7 sea turtles swimming in the ocean. If 5 more hatchlings join them, how many sea turtles are there now?

_____

E. There were 20 tigers in a forest. Sadly, 4 were caught by hunters, but 6 more were born in the same year. How many tigers are in the forest now?

_____

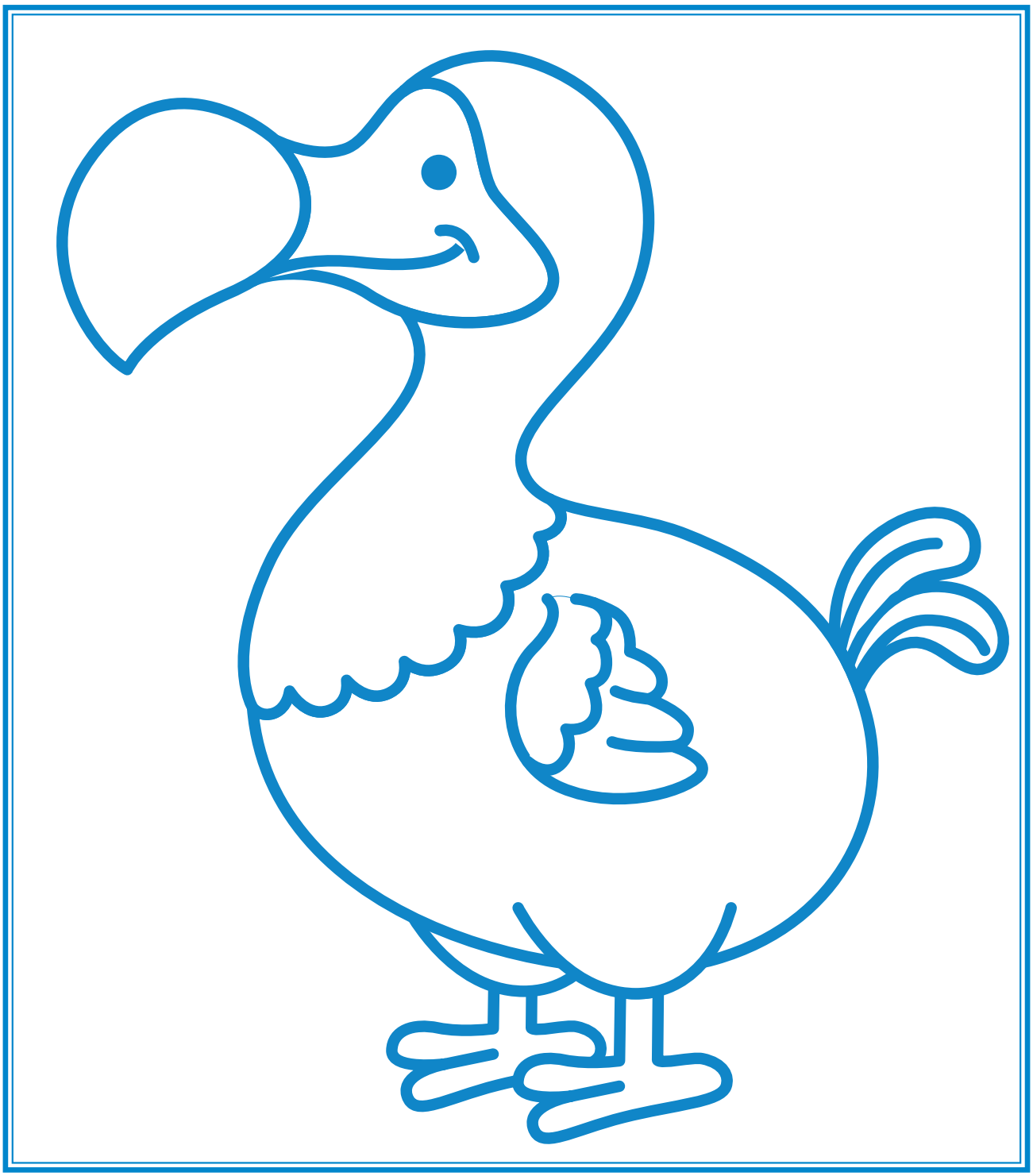
ANSWERS: A. 5, B. 6, C. 3, D. 12, E. 22.

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COLOUR IN THE DODO!

Most dodos were greyish-brown with yellow feet, but you can decorate your dodo in any amazing colour scheme you want!



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SAVE THE...

THEY NEED OUR HELP BECAUSE...

NAME _____ CLASS _____

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