

# Wild Words



Early safaris involved the hunting and killing of the wild animals of Africa and India. Today many of these animals are considered endangered and safari visitors *shoot* with their cameras, not their guns! The importance and unique nature of the animals is reflected by their use in our everyday language.

## What do we mean when we use these common expressions?

- Cunning as a hyena .....
- Crocodile tears .....
- Memory of an elephant .....
- Elephant in the room .....
- White elephant .....
- Slippery as a snake .....
- Lower than a snake's belly .....
- Snake in the grass .....
- Snake oil .....
- Paper tiger .....
- A leopard can't change its spots .....
- Lion's share .....
- On the hoof .....

## Have some fun!

- Put on your school hat and play a game of *celebrity animal heads*. Working in pairs, each person writes an animal on a card and pins it on their partner's hat without them seeing the name.
- Take it in turns to ask questions which can only be answered with a *yes* or *no*.
- The first player to name their animal wins a point.
- Continue playing with new animals until one player reaches five points.

**Collective nouns** are words that name a group of like things, people or animals. Most animal species have their own collective name eg a flock of sheep.

See if you can find a collective noun for each of the following animals:

- Lions .....
- Leopards .....
- Elephants .....
- Rhinoceros .....
- Tigers .....
- Zebras .....
- Hyenas .....
- Antelope .....
- Wildebeest .....
- Baboons .....
- Vultures .....
- Flamingos .....

If you can't find one, make up your own.

## Word Jumble

Rearrange these letters to make words associated with the animals you might see on safari :

- dennegared
- yrovi
- ovesho
- stksu
- daterrops
- ecravrino
- riageff
- nuthed
- hictesros
- thawelore
- fidewill
- zellages
- guns
- slamma

Write a story about a safari experience using as many of these words as you can.