



# WILD Kids



## Small of the Wild

Mammals and some birds have few young, but they take very good care of them. They give them food, warmth, and protection. By caring for their young, the parents see that many of the young survive. Other animals have many young, but do not care for them at all. Insects, spiders,

and amphibians (frogs, toads, and salamanders) can lay hundreds of eggs, but usually aren't around when the eggs hatch. The babies are on their own. By having lots of young, there is a good chance that at least one or two will survive to become adults.



Most mammals give food, warmth, and protection to their young. A female black bear usually has only 1 or 2 cubs every other year. The cubs are born in the den

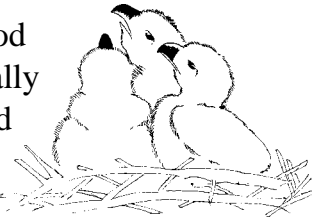
while the mother is hibernating. At birth, the tiny cubs weigh only about a half a pound and are the size of a guinea pig. The cubs are born without fur and cannot see, hear, or smell. They depend on their mother for food and warmth. In the spring, when the cubs are three months old, they come out of the den with their mother. They will stay with her for almost a year.



Bats also take good care of their young. A newborn bat is called a pup. It is born without fur and depends on its mother for food, warmth, and protection. When

Mexican free-tailed bats go out to feed, they leave their pups in a type of "nursery" with other bat pups. The pups huddle together in the nursery to stay warm. Bats usually have only one pup each year, and take care of it until it can fly at about 2 months of age.

Many types of birds take good care of their young. It is usually the female that provides food and protection for the young birds. But in some birds of



prey (owls, hawks, and falcons), both the male and female sit on the eggs and bring food to the chicks. Eagles lay only two eggs in the nest. Usually the stronger eaglet (young eagle) receives more food, so the weaker one may not survive. Eaglets and young owls (called owlets) stay with their mother until they can fly and hunt for their own food.

The female Gambel's quail sits on 10-20 eggs while the male perches on guard in a nearby tree or bush. When the eggs hatch, the male joins the family. He takes the lead, with the female at the rear and the chicks in between. Quail chicks can feed on their own, but depend on their parents for protection.

Some fish can lay hundreds or even thousands of eggs. Most of the eggs are eaten by other fish and predators. The young fish, called fry, hatch from the eggs and are on their own to find food and avoid predators. Some fish have live born young. These fry have a better chance of survival because they can swim away from predators.

## Names for Young Animals

Calf - Elk or Bison

Cub - Bear or Mountain lion

Fawn - Deer

Kid - Pronghorn

Kit - Ferret, Rabbit, Fox

Leveret - Hare

Pup - Wolf, Coyote, Bat

Red - Javelina

Chick - Most birds

Duckling - Duck

Cygnets - Swan

Gosling - Goose

Eaglet - Eagle

Owlet - Owl

Squab - Pigeon

Fry - Fish

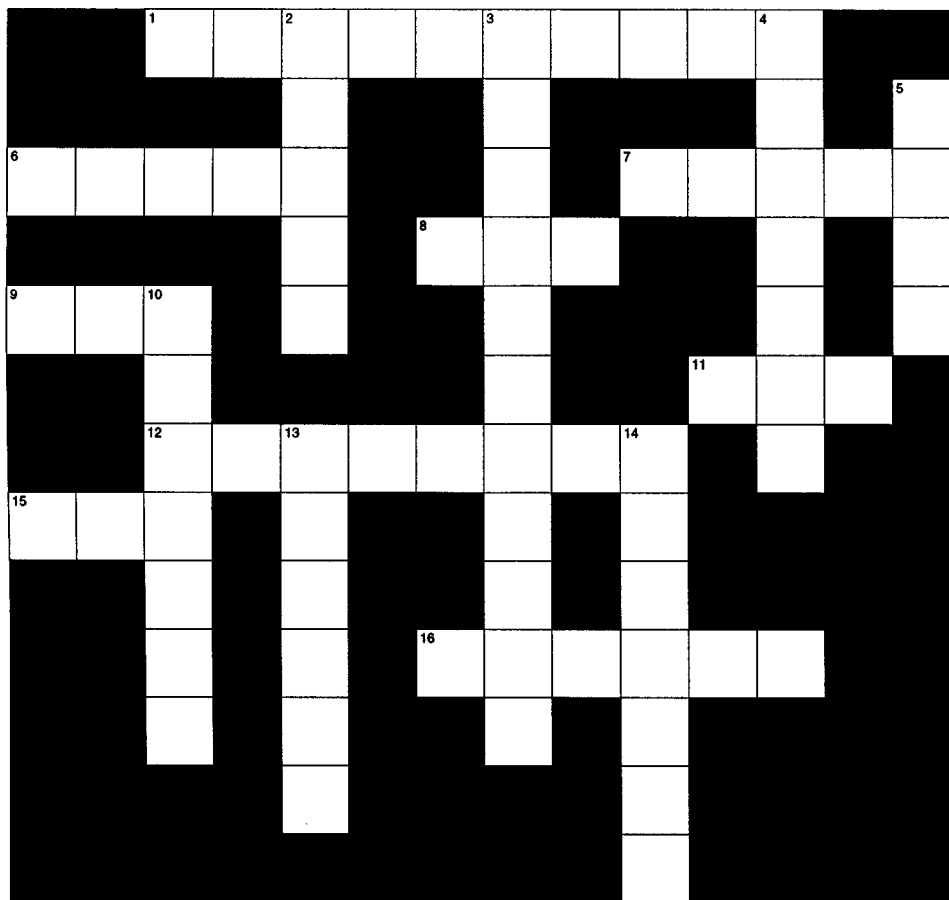
Tadpole - Frog or Toad

Caterpillar - Butterfly or Moth

Grub - Beetle

Larva - Insect

Nymph - Grasshopper



### Across

1. Quail chicks depend on their parents for this
6. A newborn bear cub cannot do this
7. A young insect
8. A young javelina
9. A young ferret
11. A young fish
12. A young duck
15. A young bat
16. A young eagle

### Down

2. A young owl
3. A young butterfly
4. This is where some mother bats leave their pups
5. A young elk
10. A young frog
13. A young swan
14. A young goose