

by Jen Dennison



Why do kids think wolves are mean? Why do owls have a reputation for being wise? Are bears really that ferocious? Or are they more like Winnie the Pooh?

Where do kids get their impressions of animals?

Well, a lot of it comes from cartoons. Think about the last Disney movie you watched. Were the animals behaving like their real counterparts? Do lions and tigers really walk on their hind legs? Of course not. Sometimes it's easy to separate the cartoon characters from the real thing. But sometimes it's not. So here's an activity to try next time you're watching cartoons.

PICK A CHARACTER IN THE CARTOON OR MOVIE . . .

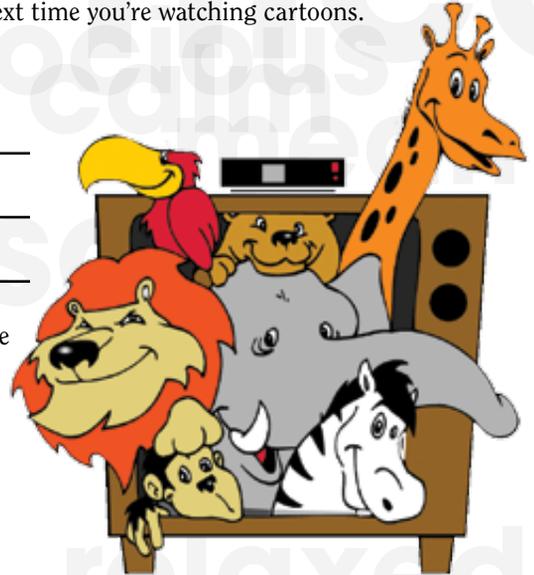
Name of cartoon character _____

What real animal is the character based on? _____

Is that real animal wild, tame, or both? _____

Now think about the behavior of the cartoon animal versus the real animal and compare them. Here's a list of behaviors to think about. Write yes or no for each animal.

BEHAVIOR OF . . .	REAL ANIMAL	CARTOON CHARACTER
Can it talk?	_____	_____
Can it walk on four legs?	_____	_____
Can it walk on two legs?	_____	_____
Does it have hands?	_____	_____
Can it run fast?	_____	_____
Does it wear clothes?	_____	_____
Is it smart?	_____	_____



Now think about your first impressions of the following animals. Are they really true? For example: When you think of owls, the first thing you might think of is wise. Is this true? If you're not sure, do a little research on the Division of Wildlife's Website at www.ohiodnr.com/wildlife and look for our Species page for help.

NAME YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION	TRUE OR FALSE
Bear _____	_____
Fox _____	_____
Snake _____	_____
Spider _____	_____
Bat _____	_____

The above activities were adapted from Project WILD © 2001 Council for Environmental Education

PAGE 19 Regulations Afield ANSWERS:

1. Only during the statewide primitive weapons season and the Youth Deer Gun Season.
2. Yes, provided the hunter has permission from the landowner.
3. No, a wildlife officer cannot retrieve the deer.
4. Shed antlers may be possessed at any time without a receipt. Skulls with antler and/or deer parts may only be possessed with a tag, seal, or certificate stating their legal acquisition. Contact your local wildlife officer or the nearest wildlife district office for help.
5. No, the law states that the whole deer with head attached to the carcass, must be transported to the check station for inspection.

