

Guess the National Animal

Animals are often used as symbols to represent groups of people or organizations. For example, sport's teams often have animals, called 'mascots' that represent the team. Similarly, some countries have what is called a national animal-- an animal that is meant to represent the country. In this activity you will have to use the clues given to match the animal with the country that it represents and then answer some discussion questions on the next page- good luck!

Animals

Unicorn

Unicorns are magical animals with rainbow-colored hair and sparkly horns. People in the West have believed in the existence of these beautiful creatures for thousands of years

Jaguar

Jaguars are large cats that are native to North and South America. They are known for their speed, their spots, and their strength, and are generally found in tropical forests

Bald Eagle

The bald eagle is a large, powerful bird of prey, and is considered to be a symbol of bravery and freedom.

Bull

Bulls are male cows, known for being large, strong, and aggressive. They are also an important part of some traditional cultural practices such as bull riding and bullfighting, which originated in Spain.

Sable Antelope

The Sable Antelope is native to the savannah woodlands and grasslands of eastern and southern Africa. It is known for its beautiful curved horns and tall proud necks

Countries

United States of America

The United States of America was founded in 1776, when brave patriots fought against the British for their freedom.

Spain

Spain is a country on Europe's Iberian peninsula and has a variety of different regions from historic cities, to coastal beaches, to mountains, volcanoes and deserts.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a country in southern Africa that boasts one of the largest animal populations in the world--350 species of mammals and over 500 species of birds live in the savannah grasslands and wetlands of Zimbabwe.

Scotland

Scotland is a small European country with a long tradition of fairy tales and ghost stories. And Scotland also looks like a real-life fairytale with its old castles, and luscious green scenery.

Brazil

Brazil is the largest country in South America and is home to a wide variety of animals who live in Brazil's thick tropical forests.



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Discussion Questions:

- 1. An 'educated guess' is a guess that is likely to be correct because one has a good reason to think it. How were you able to make 'educated guesses' about which animals belonged to which country? What clues did you use?**

- 2. Based on what you learned from this activity, what might be a good way to explain how/why a country might choose a certain animal as its symbol?**

- 3. Imagine that you had to choose a national animal for the place that you live now, or for somewhere that you have lived in the past. What would you choose and why?**

Answer Key

- 1. Unicorn- Scotland**
- 2. Jaguar- Brazil**
- 3. Bald Eagle- United States**
- 4. Bull-Spain**
- 5. Antelope- Zimbabwe**