

Dear Readers,

Read to Write

We hope you have been enjoying the Letter Stories. And, we hope that you are writing your own stories. The Letter Stories are written in a variety of ‘genres’ - that means - ‘ways to tell a story’. When you start to write a story, you may find that your story-telling takes on a certain form (genre) that seems the best way for you to tell that story. (Maybe that is because those are the kind of stories YOU like to read!).

What is a Story Genre?

It may be Poetry (Andrew, the Anteater and Farley Frog). It may be Realistic Fiction that reflects everyday, real life, and feelings through people or animals (Bumper, the Beaver, Emma, the Emmu).

Also, Fables can tell a story that teaches a lesson (The Canary, the Crow, and the Clever Cat).

Fairy Tales can tell a story in a way that is fun and magical. (Kanga-Rooga).

The Many M Animals is a Non-Fiction story giving factual information about animals.

Tall Tales were favorite ways to pass on the traditions of the times through oral storytelling around a campfire in the early frontier days (Owen and Babe Oxen).

The Quest for the Quaint Quagga

Sometimes, stories take a longer form to tell the story. To tell the “Q,q” Letter Story, we broke up the adventures of the characters into small Little Chapters. Like Quigley and Quincey, your story may take you on a surprising path to get to where you want to go.

Don’t be afraid to let your story take you there!

The Quest for the Quaint Quagga

Chapter 1 - Quigley Quokka Leaves Home

Quigley was a Quokka in Australia. In the course of time, Quigley, being a 'marsupial', got too big for his mother's pouch.

"Where will I go?" Quigley worried. "What will I do?" Quigley wondered.

"I have taught you all the Quokka ways," his mother said. "Now, you must go seek the Quagga to answer your questions."

"How can I find the Quagga, mother?" Quigley asked.

"Go to the King of the Red Kangaroos. . . ."

And so, Quigley quickly set out on his quest to find the Quagga.

Chapter 2 - Quigley Finds a Friend

Fortunately, he passed the den of his best friend, Quincey, a spunky, carnivorous Quoll. Quincey was quite happy to join him on his quest to find the Quagga. Quickly, they scurried away. Unfortunately, they had no idea of the dangers that lay ahead.

Chapter 3 - The King of the Red Kangaroos

Fortunately, the King of the Red Kangaroos lived on the nearby plains.

“G’Day, Oh King. Can you tell us where the Quagga is?” Quigley asked the Beast,

“You must answer three riddles to find the Quagga,” the Beast answered.

Here is the first riddle.”

“Look for what was, but not here.

Look far away, but not near.”

“What is the second riddle,” Quigley dared to ask.

“You must go to the Queen of the Koalas in the Dark Forest of the Eucalyptus.”

POOF!

Just like that in a puff of smoke the Red Kangaroo was gone.

“I’ve got a bad feeling about this,” Quincey said, quivering with fear.

Quigley and Quincey crept quietly into the Dark Forest of the Eucalyptus Trees.

Chapter 4 - The Queen of the Koalas

The Queen of the Koalas was very kind.

“I saw you coming in a dream,” she said. “I have the second riddle”.

“Look beyond the great blue sea

for a thing you cannot see.

What is the third riddle?” Quigley asked bravely.

Her next advice was terrifying.

“Go to the Ruler of the Saltwater Crocodiles that lives at the edge of the Great Sea.”

Hearing this, Quincey let out a squeal of horror!

Crocodiles eat Quokkas and Quolls!

Chapter 5 - The Ruler of the Saltwater Crocodiles

Fortunately, the Ruler of the Saltwater Crocodiles had just finished a delicious meal of Cod fish and was in a jolly mood.

“Crikey!” Quincey whispered to Quigley, “look at those teeth!”

“Please, Oh Mighty Ruler, where is the Quagga?” Quigley asked, quaking with fear.

Unfortunately, the mighty crocodile let out a huge roar that rippled the waves of the Great Sea.

“There is no Quagga here in Australia!” he laughed. But I have the third riddle;

Cross the water, if you dare

You will find what isn't there.

Black and white and striped, too

You will find what's false and true.

“Let them pass!” he commanded the Crocodile Guards of the Great Sea.

Chapter 6 - Crossing the Great Sea

A log was floating by, so Quigley and Quincey hopped on and floated across the water to Africa. Unfortunately, they landed in a big quagmire of soggy mud and were stuck and sinking fast into the murky mire. Fortunately, a kindly black and white striped animal pulled them out onto the sandy shore. She had a little animal with her that looked just like her.

Chapter 7 - Africa

“Are you a Quagga?” Quigley asked

“Well, said the creature, “I am often thought to look like a Quagga”, she said proudly.

But I am a Zebra. The Quagga is extinct. *He was, but he is, no more.*

So, there is no Quagga?” Quincey asked, confused.

“There is no Quagga?” Quigley repeated sadly.

The Zebra answered gently:

Stay and play and then return;

you will know what you have learned . . .

Quincey stamped his little feet! “Does everyone have to talk in riddles?!”

The little Zebra hiding behind her mother asked, “What are you?”

“I’m a Quokka, Quigley said. “I’m a Quoll,” said Quincey. We come from Australia.

And so, the new friends played all day until the sun was going down on the Great Sea.

Chapter 8 - The Journey Home

Fortunately, the log was floating near the shore. Quigley and Quincey jumped on and waved good-bye.

Unfortunately, a big wave swept them off the log and out into the shark-infested waters.

Fortunately, a friendly Tortoise was going to Australia and let them ride on his back.

Chapter 9 - Home, Sweet Home

Mother was waiting for him on the shore. In her pouch was a new baby sister. Many marsupials were there to welcome them back to the homeland. All the marsupials let out a cheer.

"Good on ya", they cried to Quigley and Quincey.

"No worries, mates," the two little heroes answered.

His mother smiled. "Did you discover the secret of the Quagga?"

"Yes, Mother, Unfortunately, *I found the Quagga, but he wasn't there;*

fortunately, I found that friends are everywhere! "

Did You Know the Quokka?

- Look like little fat kangaroos
- Were the first animals discovered by explorers in Australia in 1696 (early settlers in Australia thought they were rats)
- They are the size of a domestic cat with 12 inch tail
- They are herbivores
- Are not afraid of people
- They look like they are smiling

Did You Know the Quoll?

- Can give birth to 18 'pups!
- Are carnivores (insects, frogs, birds, lizards)
- The species are: Eastern, Western, Northern, New Guinea, Tiger, and Bronze
- They can weigh up to 15 pounds and have furry tails
- They 'hiss', 'cough', and 'huff'

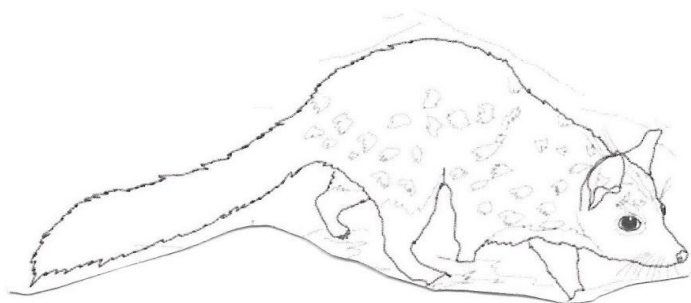
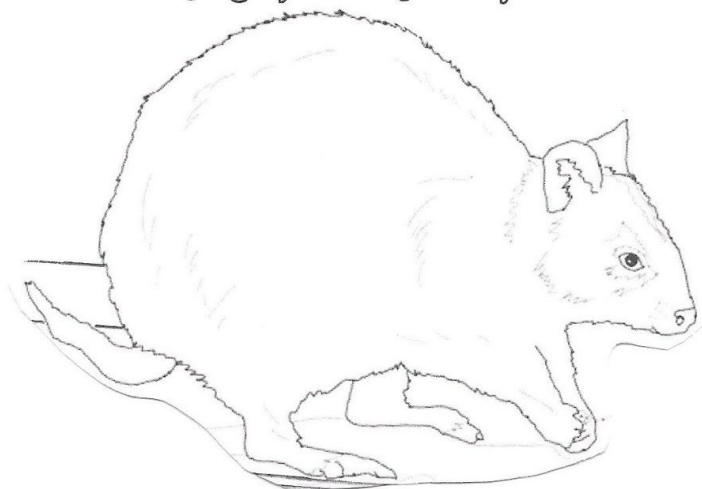
Did You Know the Quagga?

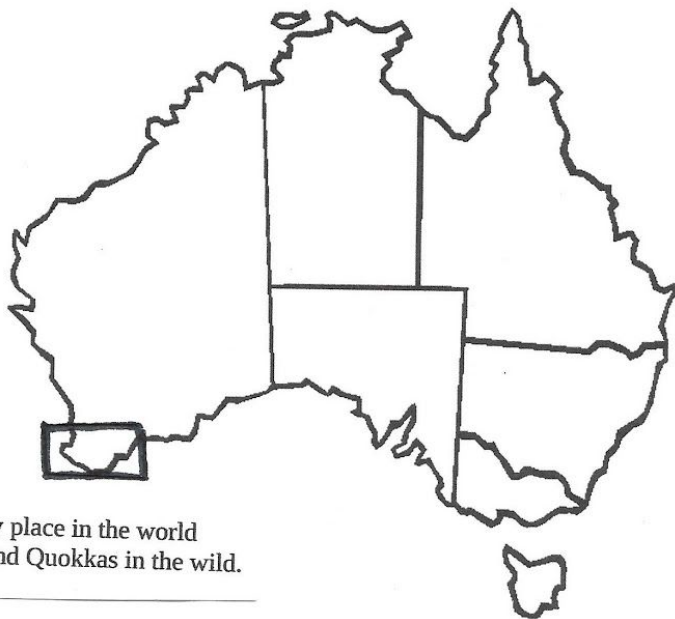
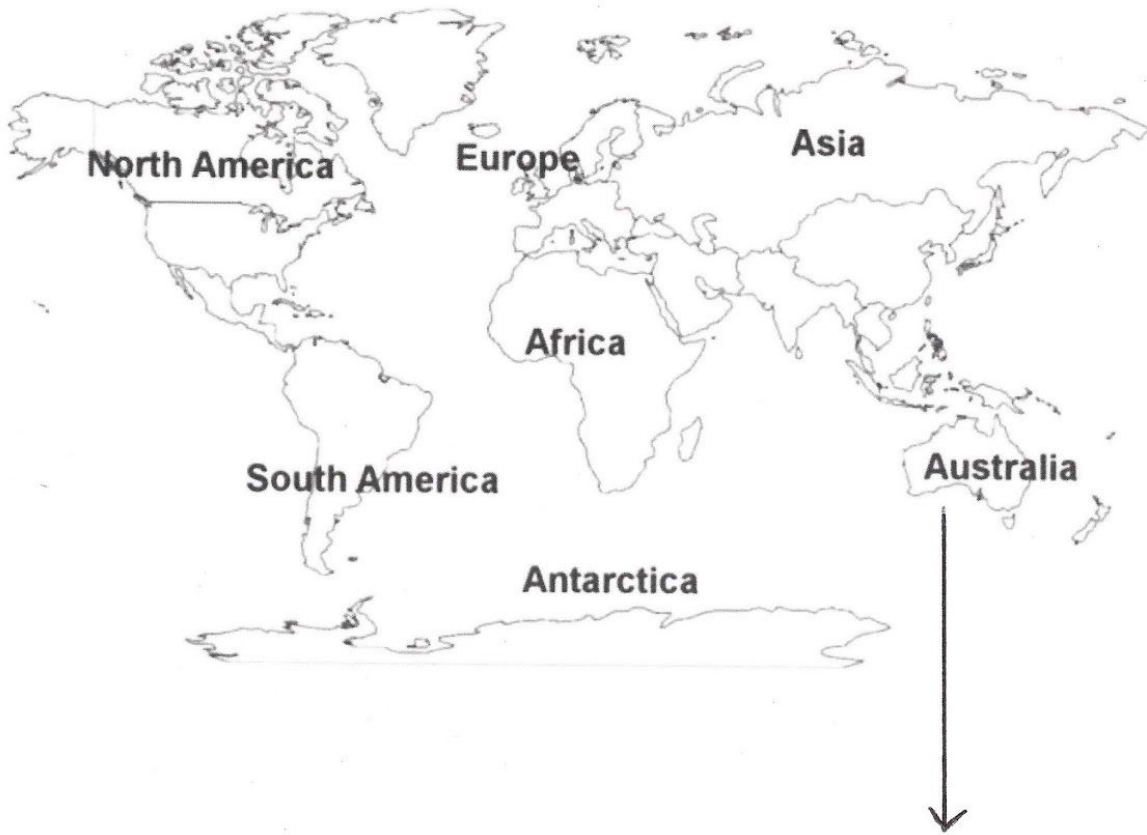
- Are a large, hooped type of zebra that were hunted to 'extinction'
- The last Quagga died in the Amsterdam Zoo on August 12, 1883
- They lived in herds in dry grasslands of South Africa
- They had yellowish-brown fur with stripes on head, neck, and chest
- They had long legs and was a fast runner
- It was about 53 inches high at the shoulder and weighed 500-700 pounds.

True/False Quiz (*Answers in the Story and Did You Know*)

1. Quokkas and Quolls are marsupials
2. Quokkas are herbivores
3. Quolls are carnivores
4. Quokkas and Quolls are both mammals
5. The 'quagmire' is a kind of tree
6. The first animal Quigley went to see was the Saltwater Crocodile
7. Everything is more fun with a friend
8. Quigley and Quincey had to go to Africa
9. Extinct means 'none are left alive in the world.'
10. Quigley and Quincey's new friend was a zebra.

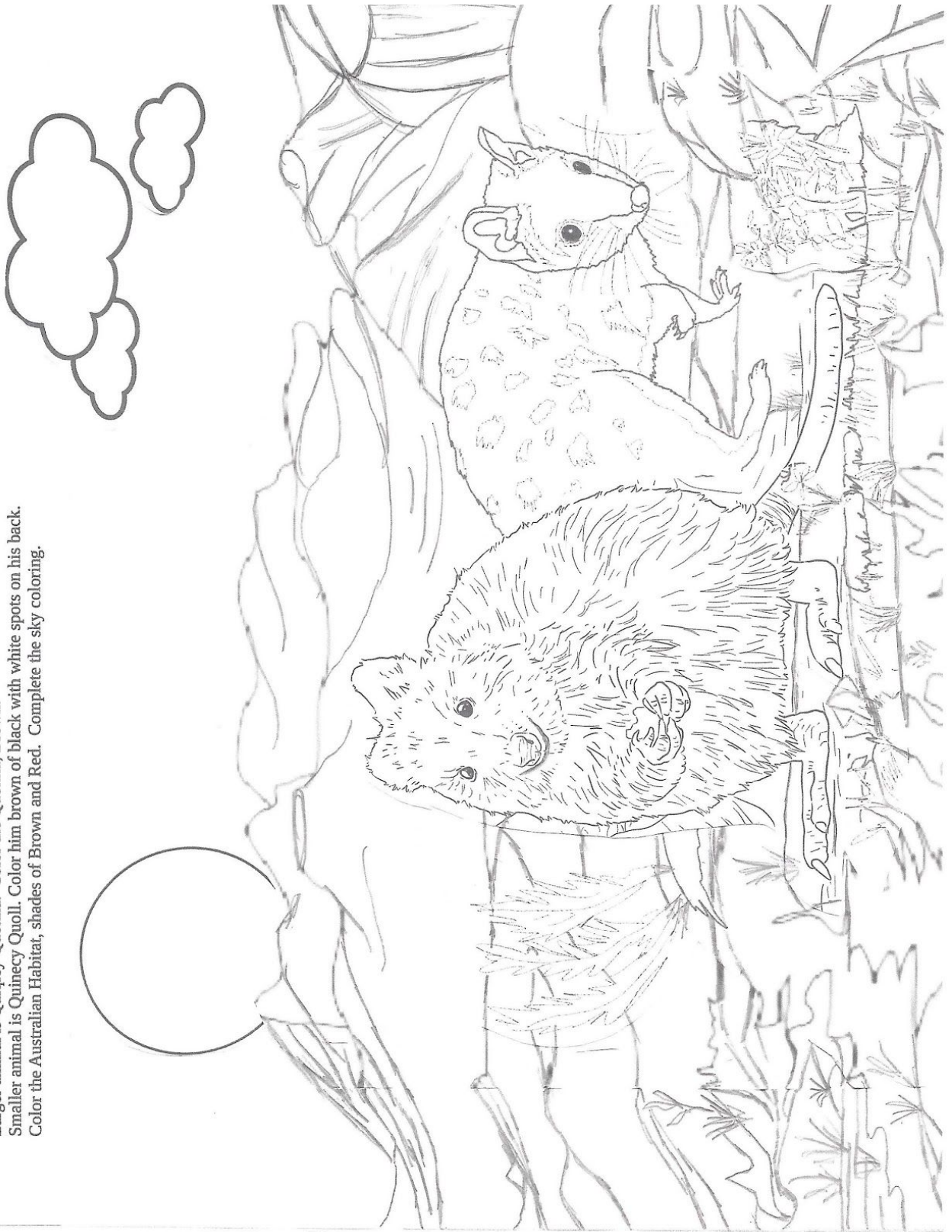
Draw Quigley and Quincey





Only place in the world
to find Quokkas in the wild.

Larger animal is Quilley Quokka. Color the Quokka, Brown.
Smaller animal is Quinecy Quoll. Color him brown of black with white spots on his back.
Color the Australian Habitat, shades of Brown and Red. Complete the sky coloring.



Quagga

