

# Best Foot Forward

## EXPLORING FEET, FLIPPERS, AND CLAWS

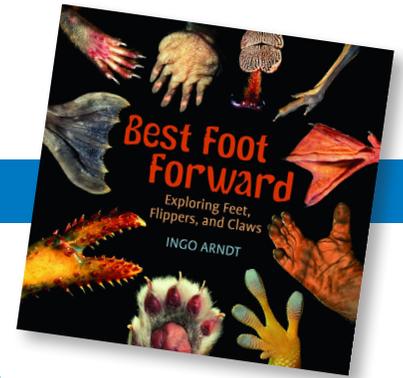
### A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

**Themes:** Animals, Adaptations, Habitats

**Book Brief:** Step inside this book to play a fun guessing game of which animal each foot belongs to, all while learning interesting facts about different types of animal feet.

**Author and Photographer:**  
Ingo Arndt

**Content Connections:**  
Science



### TIME TO READ!



#### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** What observations can you make about animal feet from the cover picture? Can you identify any of these animals just from their feet? What's the difference between a foot, a flipper, and a claw?

**The Pictures:** Show students the collage of feet. Ask them to make predictions about the types of animals they think will be in the book based on the collage.

**Prior Knowledge:** Discuss with students why animal feet come in so many different shapes and sizes. Name a few different types of feet and ask students to list the activities each type of foot might be useful for. For example, a cat's claws are good for digging, fighting, and climbing. The webbed feet of a water bird help it swim, while the talons of a bird of prey help it perch in high places and hunt for food. Explain how animals *adapt* to survive in their environment.

**Vocabulary:** webbing, flipper, meter, index

**Purpose for Reading:** Think about why the author groups the feet into different categories and how those categories relate to animal adaptations.

### WHILE WE READ

#### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

- ◆ For each animal, ask: What can you tell about this animal based on its type of foot?
- ◆ What clues can you use from the picture to make your prediction?
- ◆ Would you have put the snail into this category? Why or why not?

- ◆ How have animals with webbed feet contributed to manmade inventions?
- ◆ Can you think of other animals that dig or burrow? How do their feet compare to these feet?
- ◆ What do you notice about the feet of animals that jump?



### LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** How did the author's categories help you identify different adaptations that animals' feet have made? Go back through and list each category. Can you think of any other animals that belong in each?

**Extending Our Thinking:** What other categories would you have added? What animals would you have added if you had written this book? Explain. Can you think of any other examples of ways animals have adapted to live in their environment? Brainstorm with a partner and come up with a list of other animal adaptations.

#### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



Reading Is  
Fundamental