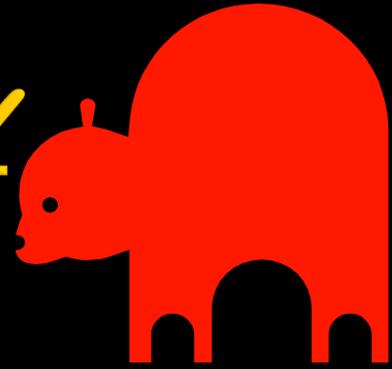


# *Our Learning Journey*

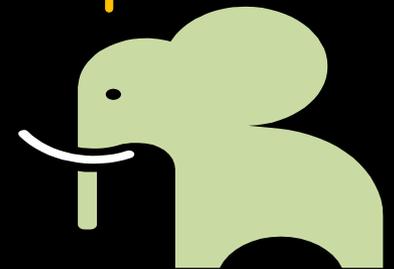
We are going to find out about seven animals who will help us with our learning journey.

This term we are going to start to use different animals to help us spot the ways in which we learn. We will work hard to use different aspects of learning to become better learners.

# The Learning Story



Bear wanted a new home.  
He knew there were caves in the  
mountains,  
but that it was tricky to reach them.  
Bear spoke to his friend Elli about it.  
she said that she knew some  
animals who might be able to help.



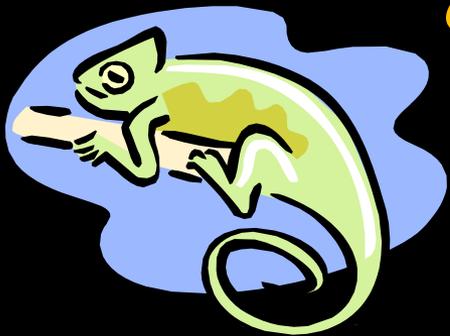
As they set off on their journey Elli said,  
"The first person we need to talk to is my  
friend Owl because she flies high in the sky  
and can tell us the best route to take."  
Owl helped them to see that by knowing how  
to get over obstacles in their path they  
would reach their destination safely.



Owls are aware of their feelings, thoughts and ideas for doing things differently in their learning. They have a toolkit of strategies they use for different situations and they take time out to think about them.

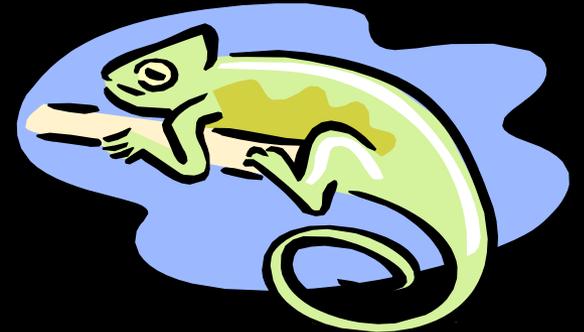
The animals came to the edge of the forest and Chameleon came down from a tall tree. Bear hadn't noticed him before, because he had been the same colour as the tree. But now he was bright red. Elli spotted him too and said, "You are so good at getting used to new things, you can help us."

Chameleon replied, "You need to know that you can change and learn things wherever you are on your journey. I never get stuck. I can always change my colour and get used to new things."



Chameleons know that they can  
get better at learning over time.

They believe that through  
effort their minds can get  
bigger and stronger just as their  
bodies can.



After a while they were tired and thirsty. Bear wanted to go home.

Luckily, they came to a stream where they had a drink. As they drank they talked about how they would cross the running water.

Elli thought of another friend of his, Unicorn. He always had good ideas and would be able to think of a way to get over the river.

They looked into the sky and saw Unicorn trotting towards them.

"I give you the gift of creativity and imagination so you can think of new ways of solving problems," said Unicorn.

"Thank you," said Bear. Then Unicorn galloped away.



Unicorns like to look at things in different ways or to find another angle. They are playful with ideas and like to use their imagination and 'inklings' which bubble up in their minds.

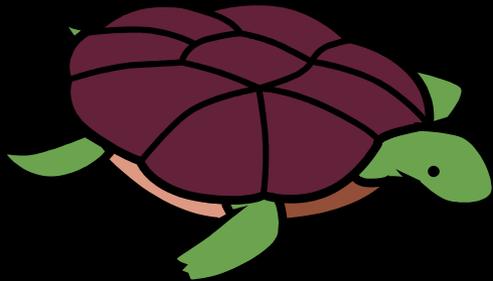
"Shall we make a raft or a bridge?" said Bear, "Or a hot-air balloon?  
Or maybe a canoe?"

"Let's make a raft," said Elli. "We can tie branches together with  
vines." Soon the raft was finished. They put it in the water, and  
climbed onto it. But then it broke and started to sink.

"We need help from another of my friends. He is called tortoise, let's  
find him." said Elli.

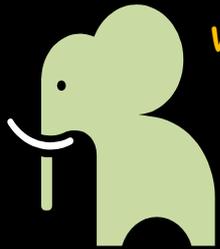
"Hello, Tortoise." said Elli. "Bear and I are trying to get across this  
big river. We made a raft but it broke. What should we do?"

"What you need," said Tortoise "is to keep on trying. Some people call  
this 'stickability'. It means that you *stick* to what you're doing and  
don't give up."



The tortoise likes a challenge and is willing to have a go, even if they are finding things tricky. They accept that learning is sometimes hard for everyone and that to get something wrong is OK.

Elli and Bear remembered all the gifts they had been given. "We can do this," they said. They rebuilt the raft, planning carefully the amount of logs they would need and how to tie them all together. Soon the raft was finished and they floated to the other side of the lake to continue their journey.



As it grew dark, they came to a huge hole between them and the mountains. None of the gifts they had been given so far could help them get over this massive hole.

"I need to introduce you to two more of my friends," said Elli. "They are Curious Cat and Web Spinning Spider."

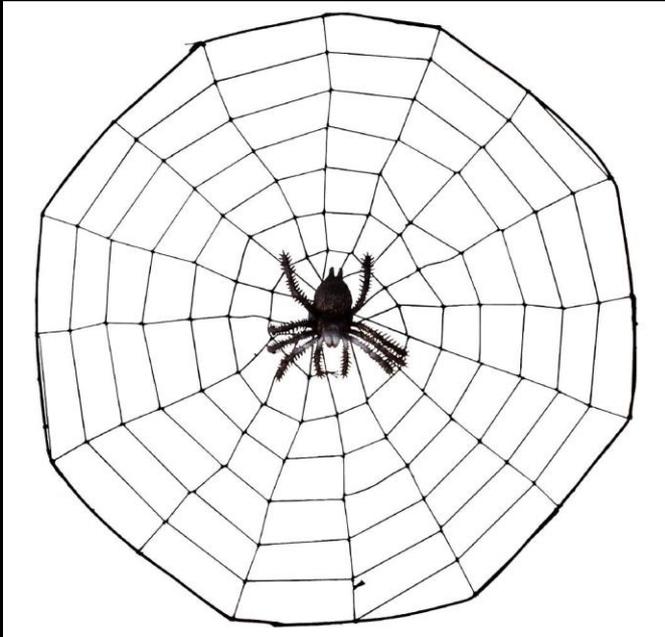
She called their names, and both of them came into view. "We are trying to get to the mountains so that Bear can find a new home," said Elli, "but we have come to this hole, and we don't know how to get across."

The cat stretched and said, "You must be more curious about the problem. If you ask the right questions you will find out exactly how big the problem is, and then you will be able to use Unicorn's gift of creativity to find a way of solving it."



Curious cats like to find things out, to get to the bottom of things and find out what is really going on. They like to ask the question, "WHY?"

"Also," said spider, "You need to link your ideas together to make connections inside your head."



Spiders are on the look out for connections between what they are learning and what they already know - from life experiences or earlier learning. They like to see how things fit together.

Bear and Elli sat down, and began to use the creativity of Unicorn to make a clever plan. They collected all of the spiders' webs from the trees and rocks around them, and wove them together to make a strong catapult. They set the catapult up next to the hole and were ready to be thrown across it when they realised that they needed some more help.

"We need the last of my friends, the bees," said Elli.

"They are good at working together in a team."

A swarm of bees buzzed around the corner!

Elli told them that they needed some help to catapult themselves across the hole. The Bees agreed to help. "Thank you," replied Bear and Elli. "The Bees pulled back the catapult, working as a team, and soon Bear and Elli were on the other side of the hole. The Bees waved goodbye as they gathered into a swarm and flew away.



Busy Bees like to work with other people, learning from them and learning with them. They can learn on their own too.

Bear and Elli had all the tools they needed to get Bear a new home. By morning he was settled into his new cave in the mountains.

He knew all he had learnt from Elli's friends would be useful to him again and he felt very happy!