

# Ecology: Move Like an Animal



## **Introduction**

- Ask your student: What are some animals that live in Colorado? Examples include...
  - Mammals: Bighorn sheep, black bear, deer, mountain lion, elk, rabbit, etc.
  - Birds: Lark bunting, magpie, red tailed hawk, cormorant, snowy egret, Stellar's Jay, etc.
  - Reptiles: Western Painted Turtle, snake, lizard
  - Fish: Greenback Cutthroat Trout, rainbow trout, minnow
  - Bugs: insects (butterfly, praying mantis,
- Clarify that many animals in the zoo do not exist in the wild in Colorado

## **Game time!:**

Easiest way to play is on a walk with your student.

1. Have them name a wild animal in Colorado. Ask them questions to get them thinking about how that animal moves. Examples:
  - Is it slow or fast?
  - Does it move on all fours?
  - Big or small?
  - Is it a predator or prey? (Does it hunt or get hunted?)
2. Pick a landmark (like a lightpole) on your path. Challenge them to move like that animal. If they feel silly or are hesitant, do it along with them! You won't be mad about it.

## ***Variation with multiple students:***

- Set up two boundary lines in an open area. The goal is for students to move from one line to the other without being caught by you (the predator animal)
- Have students take turns choosing Colorado animals. When they pick one, ask them what animal would be its predator? (Examples: rabbits may have to watch out for snakes, birds of prey, fox, mountain lion, etc. Fish may have to watch out for a black bear or a bird.)
  - Eyes in the front= ready to hunt; Eyes on the side= ready to hide
- Frontload:
  - Light tagging
  - Fast walking/slow running