Learn by Doing

Materials for Each Student

Animal Correspondences p. 2, *Animal Outlines* pp. 3-4, scissors, tape, blank piece of paper, pen or pencil

Choice Animal Correspondences

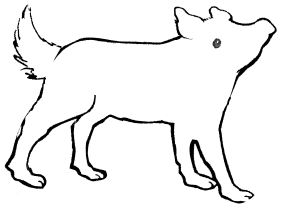
Like all other natural things, animals correspond to spiritual things. In general, animals correspond to human feelings or affections. Mild natured animals tend to correspond to good affections and fierce animals to bad affections. Often we can see connections between an animal's correspondence and the characteristics that are considered typical of that animal.

In this activity, students learn about some animal correspondences and use them to create "composite" animals. Most of the correspondences and characteristics in this activity are drawn from *Correspondences of the Bible: The Animals* by John Worcester (Swedenborg Foundation Publishers; West Chester, Pennsylvania; 2009). Others in the series include *The Plants* and *The Human Body*.

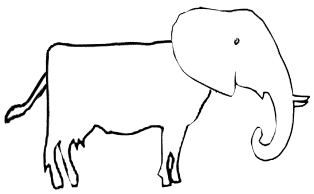
1. Today we're going to learn about the spiritual affections that animals correspond to. Hand out *Animal Correspondences* p. 2 and read through it with the students. As you read each animal, ask if anyone knows the Biblical story that is referenced. If they do, ask if they can see how the correspondence works in the story.
2. In the spiritual world, where we continue to live after death, animals appear as representatives or symbols of the thoughts and feelings of the people who are nearby. Sometimes, an animal will appear that is a combination of two or more different animals that we might see on earth. Read the following quotation:
3. *A bear symbolizes people who read the Word but fail to understand it.... That these are the people symbolized from bears became apparent to me by seeing bears in the spiritual world.... Some bears seen in the spiritual world are dangerous and some are not...but they are told apart by their heads. Bears that are not dangerous have heads like those of calves or sheep.* Apocalypse Revealed 573

4. Hand out the *Animal Outlines* p. 3-4 and point out the sample combination animals. Divide students into pairs and ask each pair to choose a well-known *fictional* hero or villain. If students have trouble thinking of someone, ask them to brainstorm favorite books, movies or TV shows. Both students in a pair should be familiar with the character they choose.
4. Referring to the correspondences, have students choose 2-3 animals that represent characteristics of their chosen person.
5. Cut the chosen animals apart and use the pieces—head, body, tail—to create a composite animal. Tape the pieces together on a blank piece of paper. Draw "connecting lines" between the parts as needed.
6. Have student pairs take turns explaining the meaning of their composite animals and who they represent.

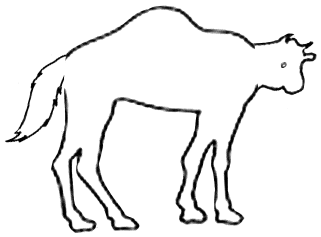
Sample:
pig-wolf-dog



Sample:
elephant-cow-camel



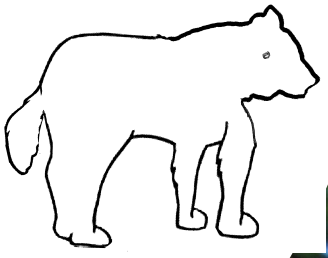
Sample:
cow-camel-horse



Teaching Hint

This activity can be done individually if your class is small.

Sample:
bear-lion-wolf



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Sheep

Characteristics:
herd animals, will follow a shepherd's voice, provide wool

Correspondence:
People who love and trust the Lord, innocent and willing to follow Him

Biblical Reference:
Jesus tells Peter to "Feed My lambs" and "Tend My sheep" (John 21:15-17).

Ox (Cow)

Characteristics:
strong, patient, obeys human authority, provides milk and other dairy food

Correspondence:
natural good will, obedience to rules, affection for learning to be useful

Biblical Reference:
It is prophesied that Jesus will eat butter and honey, so that "He may know to refuse the evil and choose the good" (Isaiah 7:15).

Dog

Characteristics:
obedient, eager to please, undiscriminating, unclean (rolling in mud, etc.)

Correspondence:
Strong affection for evil or good

Biblical Reference:
After the evil queen Jezebel is killed, dogs eat her flesh (2 Kings 9:36). Dogs try to comfort the beggar Lazarus by licking his sores (see Luke 16:21).

Donkey

Characteristics:
strong, sure-footed, smaller than a horse, can be used for transportation

Correspondence:
understanding of natural things

Biblical Reference:
Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. (Matthew 21:1-9; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; John 12:12-19).

Horse

Characteristics:
strong, intelligent, sure-footed, larger than a donkey, can be used for transportation

Correspondence:
understanding of spiritual things

Biblical Reference:
The disciple John sees a vision of the Lord riding on a white horse in heaven (Revelation 19:11-16).

Pig

Characteristics:
Omnivorous, unclean (wallows in mud, etc.)

Correspondence:
greedy love of claiming everything for oneself

Biblical Reference:
The Prodigal Son wastes the inheritance he demanded and wishes that he could eat the food that he feeds to pigs (Luke 28:11-32).

Lion

Characteristics:
strong, fierce, known for roar, hunter

Correspondence:
power of Divine Truth, love for truth

Biblical Reference:
The Lord is called the "Lion of the tribe of Judah" (Revelation 5:5).

Elephant

Characteristics:
large, intelligent, mostly slow-moving, sensitive to skin irritation, ivory tusks

Correspondence:
love of justice and sense of fairness

Biblical Reference:
Solomon, a king known for his wise judgments, had a throne made of ivory (1 Kings 10:18).

Camel

Characteristics:
can survive desert conditions with little food or water, doesn't care about pleasing humans

Correspondence:
natural knowledge, the "rightness" of things

Biblical Reference:
John the Baptist dressed in camel's skin as He told people to repent (Matthew 3:1-4).

Wolf

Characteristics:
hunts in packs to cut off prey from help, clever, carnivorous

Correspondence:
People who use truth to make themselves important and teach falsities to others as if they were truths. This makes people dependent on *them*, rather than on the Lord.

Biblical Reference:
Jesus likens false prophets to wolves (Matthew 7:15).

Bear

Characteristics:
large, strong, clumsy, protective of young

Correspondence:
love of the literal sense of the Word; people who follow a rule or law literally

Biblical Reference:
Bears maul children who mocked the prophet Elisha (2 Kings 2:23-24).

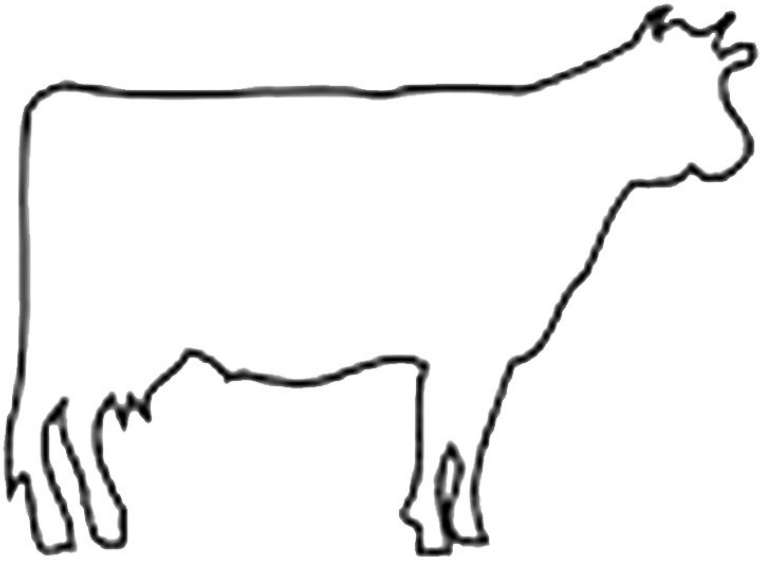
Snake

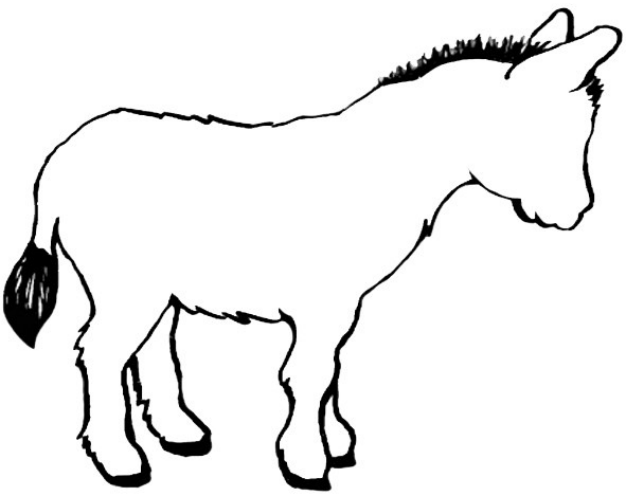
Characteristics:
moves silently, carnivorous, wriggles on the ground, some harmless and some poisonous

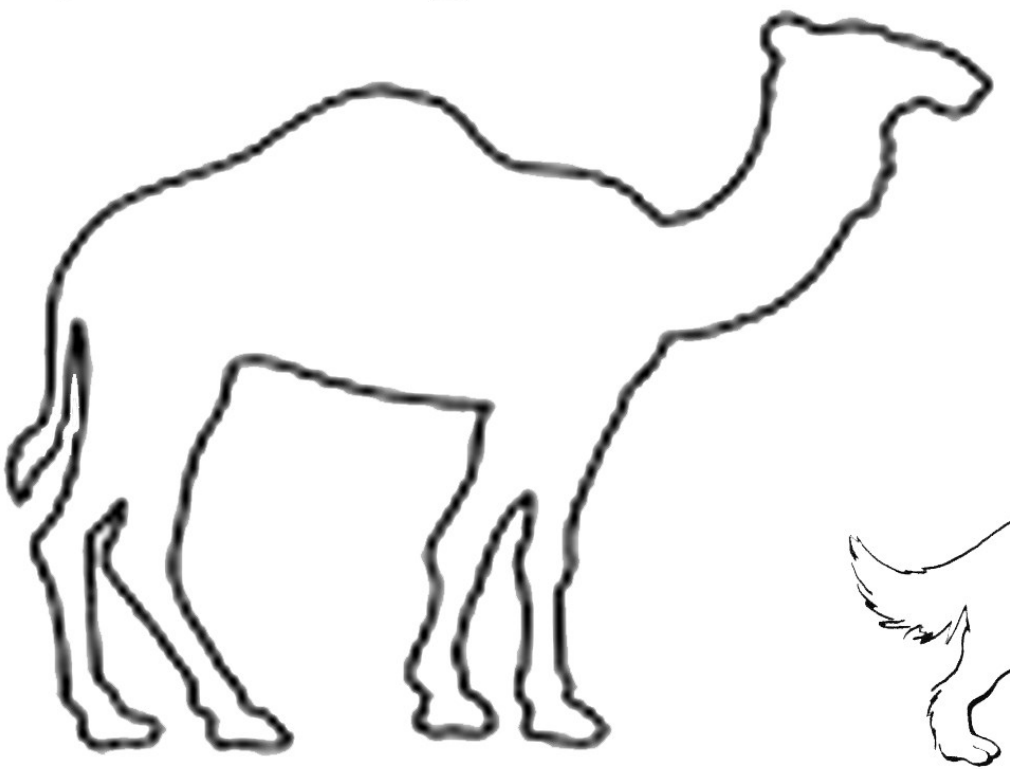
Correspondence:
Pleasure from the five senses. Enjoying the senses is harmful if it is our main focus

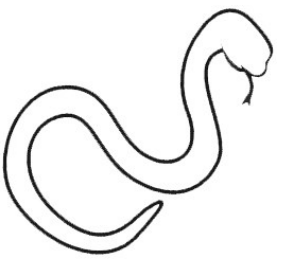
Biblical Reference:
The serpent tempts Eve and persuades her to disobey God (Genesis 3:1-6).

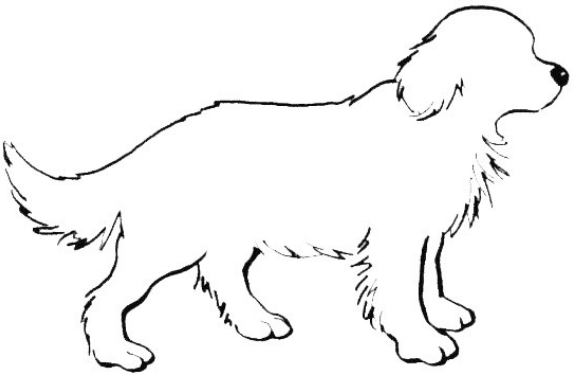
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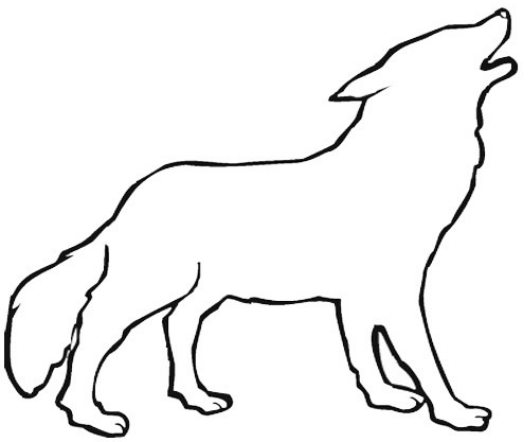


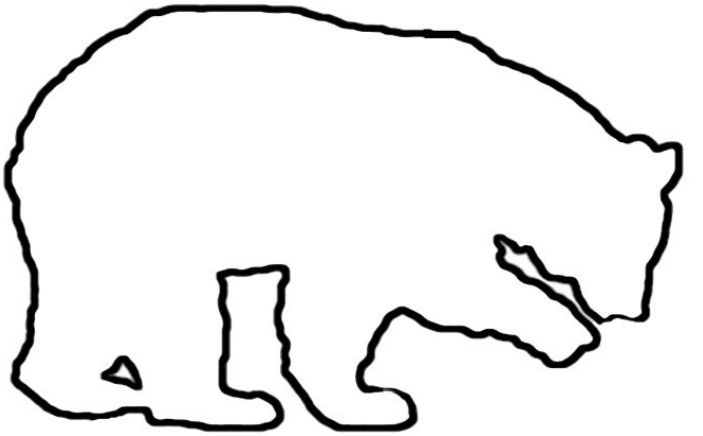




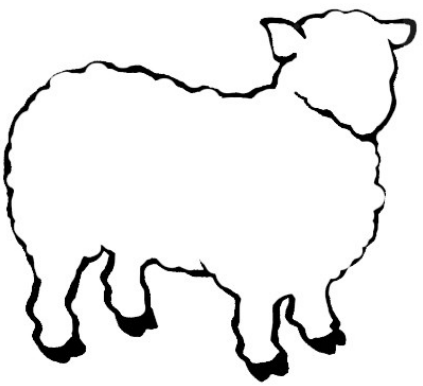


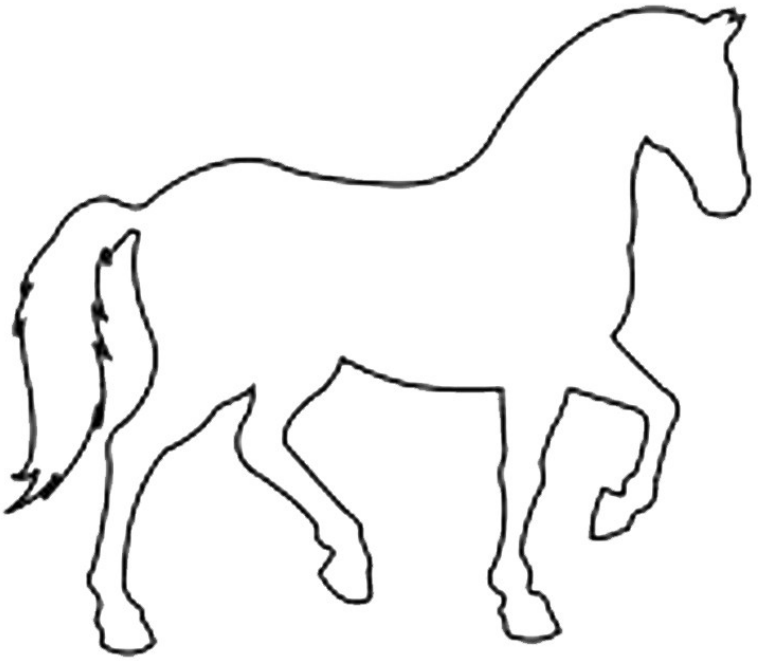




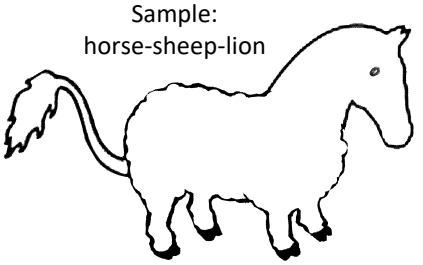


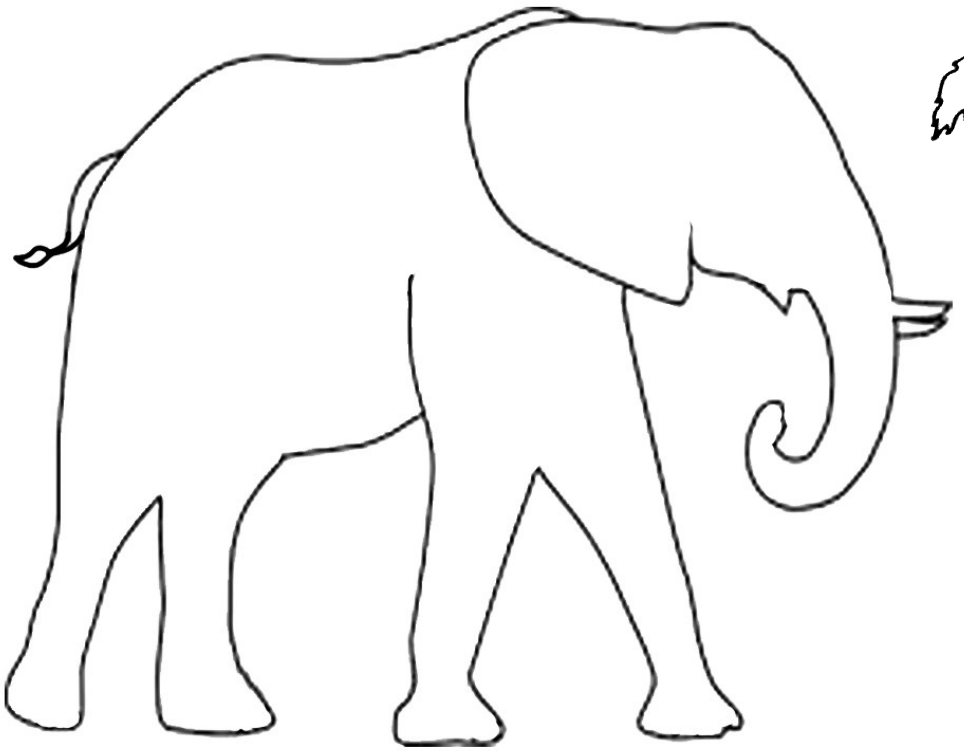
Animal Outlines



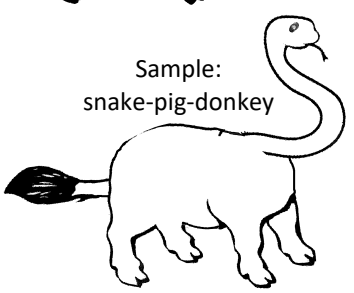


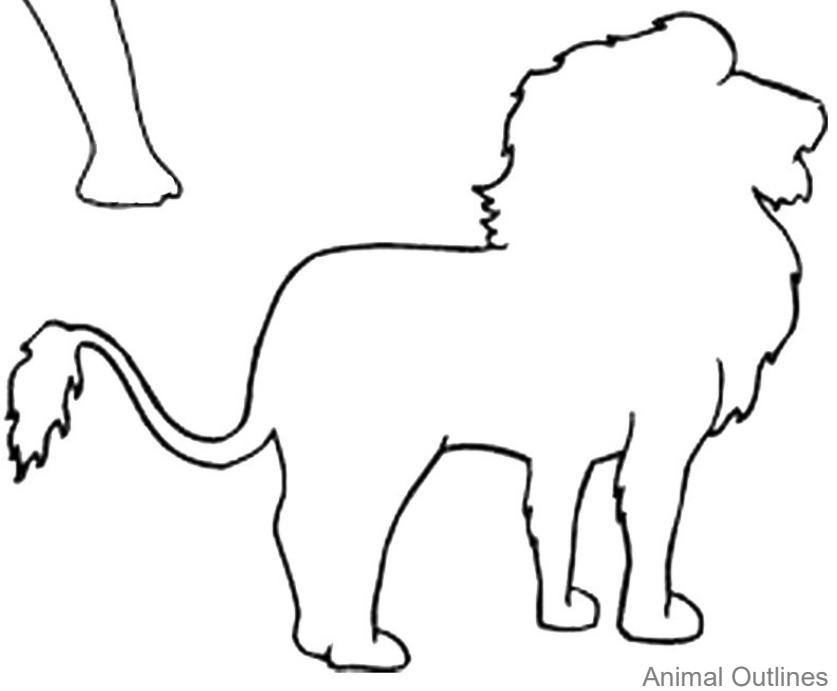
Sample:
horse-sheep-lion

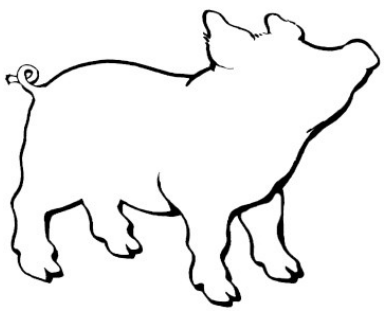




Sample:
snake-pig-donkey







Animal Outlines

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