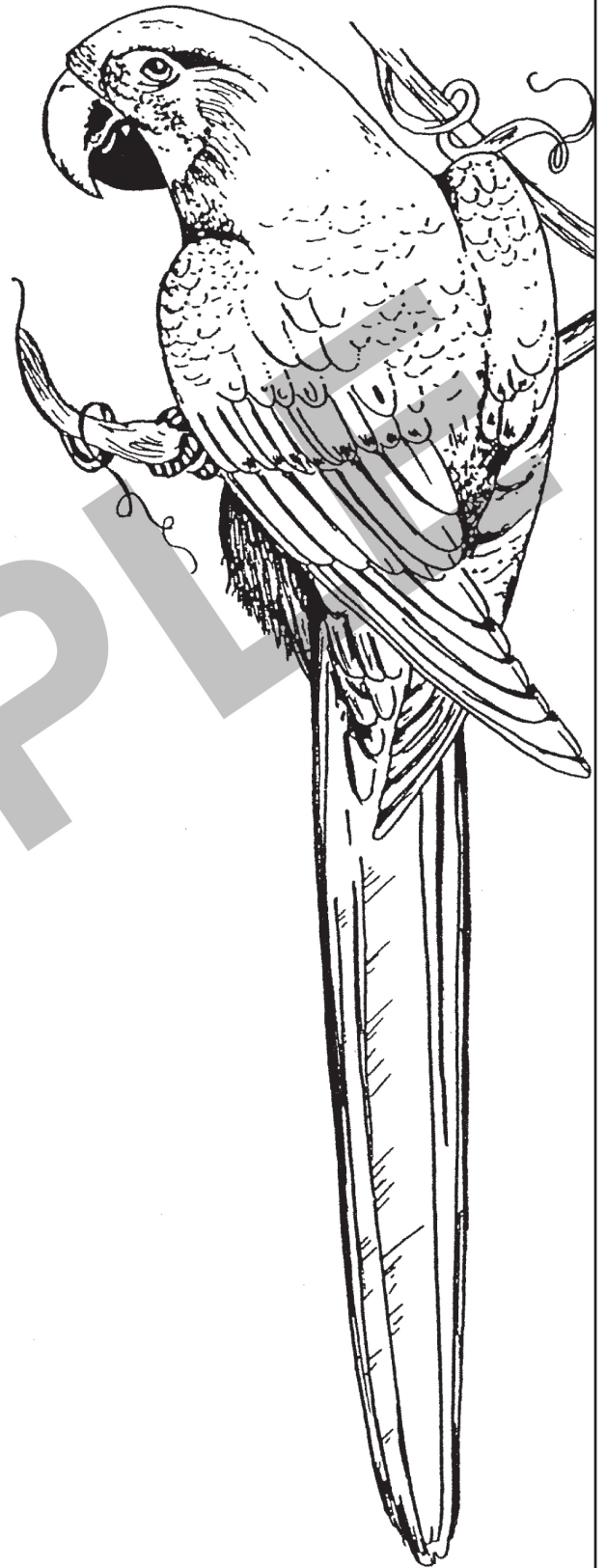


## MACAW

Macaws are very large (76 cm - 102 cm), shy parrots who live high in the trees of the Amazon jungle. They are easily recognized by their vivid red, blue, yellow, and green plumes. The top part of the powerful beak is curved over the bottom. They have long tails and wings, short legs and sturdy feet for hopping and grasping.

Groups of macaws are often found sitting in trees during the daytime, but as evening approaches they hunt for seeds, grains, and nuts. Their nests are built in tree hollows, or in holes along the river banks.

These birds can be tamed, but because of their screeching voices and vicious temperament, they do not make the most desirable pets. They are hunted for their colourful feathers, for zoos around the world, and as food. Macaws are considered pests by plantation owners, as they ruin crops.



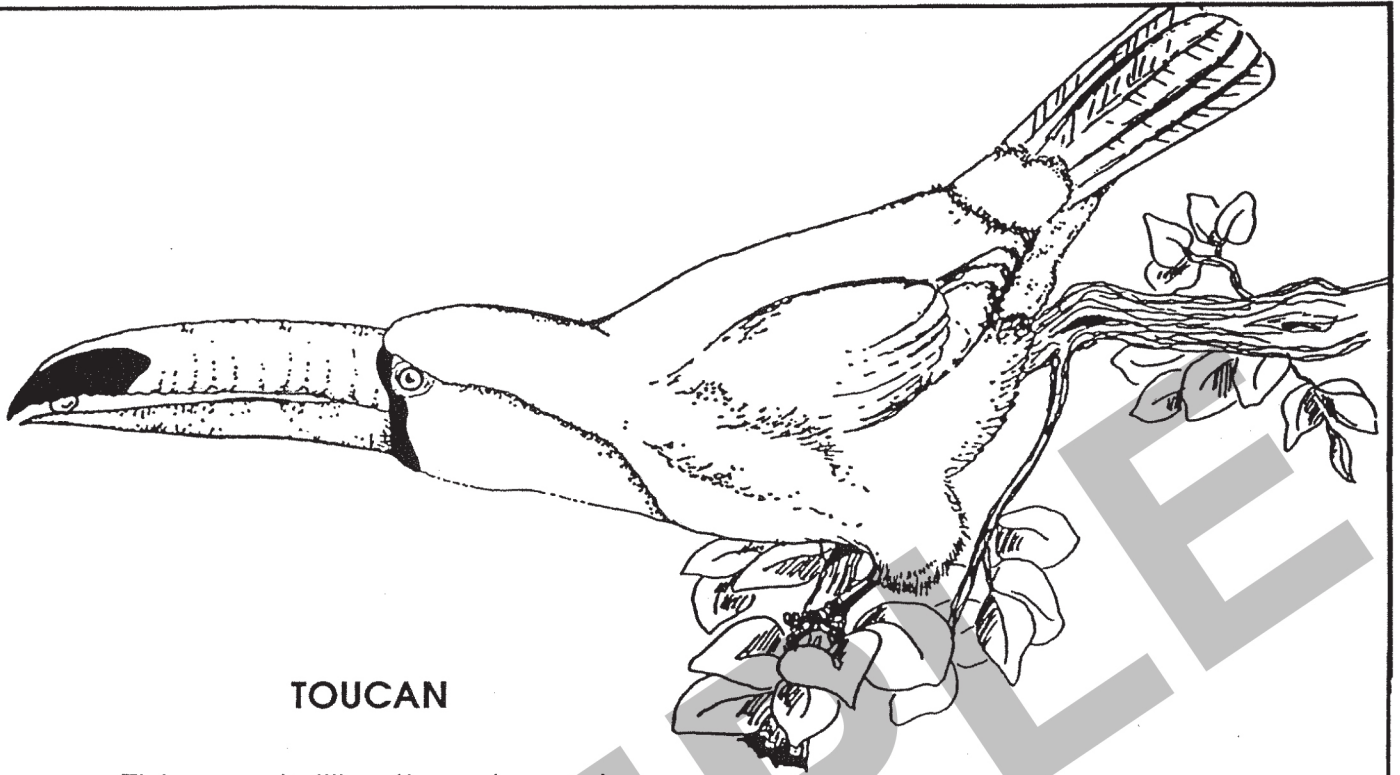
## CHINCHILLA

The chinchilla is a mammal that has teeth made for gnawing. It grows to about 30 cm in length, and weighs up to 990 g. It has a very long tail, short body, bright eyes, long whiskers, and large ears that stand straight up. Its coat varies in shades of grey, but a silvery toned pelt is most valued.

This rodent hunts mainly at dawn or dusk, and rests during the day. Its favourite wild foods are roots, bulbs, and grasses. Ranchers feed them special pellets, hay, grains, beans, etc. When eating, the chinchilla holds the food in its front paws. The hind legs are used for hopping.

Incas used the meat of the chinchilla for food, and clothing was made from the furs. Because the fur was so valuable, it was almost hunted to extinction by the Andean Indians. Today there are many chinchilla farms in America that produce these very valuable furs.





## TOUCAN

This very brilliantly coloured bird has a large, lightweight, colourful bill. The toucan's plumage varies in colour and may be red, green, yellow, blue, white, orange, brown or black. The beak may also be brightly hued. This bird is about 30 cm to 60 cm long, and its enormous, strong bill has a sawlike edge for tearing its food. The tongue is long and narrow, with bristles. The tail is rather pointed, but more rounded toward the tip. The small, rounded wings allow the bird to travel quickly for short flights.

Toucans are found in pairs or flocks in the forests of South America. They build their nests in small, deep cavities in tree trunks. When they sleep, toucans fold their tails over their back and tuck their bills under their wings. Toucans are noisy members of the jungle society and their unpleasant screams can be distinguished easily.

Even though the toucan favours juicy fruits, it will eat insects, small plants, reptiles, birds, and even eggs. They are generally friendly birds, but they become upset easily and may bite their adversaries.

Because toucans are very clever, they are easily tamed and used in zoos, or as pets. Indians also use them for food. Many are captured for their beautiful plumage which is used in making decorations and baubles.

## Art (Large Group/Class Activity)

1. Choose an animal. Make a giant paper mache model.
2. Mural depicting animal life in South America.
3. Bulletin Board Display

An exciting and colourful bulletin board on South American animal life can be created and on-going throughout the duration of the unit.

Here are a few ideas the students have enjoyed.

**Reptiles:** Boa- Stuff a green stocking with batten or paper, glue on large spots.

**Birds:** Use a cardboard base for a body shape. Cut feathers from felt, construction paper, velour, tissue and overlap as you glue onto the shape.

**Mammals:** Monkeys- Cover a cardboard shape with burlap or brown felt or velour. Paint large animals on mural paper then cut out.  
Armadillo- Glue macaroni armour onto cardboard shapes.

**Fish:** Use silver paper or foil.

Trees can be made of corrugated paper folded into tubular shapes and stapled to the bulletin board. Add huge leaves and flowers made of construction and tissue paper.

4. Bottle Cap Snakes

Cut a length of wire (approximately 60 cm) and bend one end in a loop. Hammer a nail through the bottle caps to make a hole and "string" them through the wire. Add a plasticine head. The finished snake can be coiled.

