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# ARCTIC GROUND SQUIRREL ACTIVITY PACKET

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## Fun and Educational Arctic Ground Squirrel Activities

For preschool and elementary grades

Based on the book *Sik-Sik's Summer*



[arcticgroundsquirrel.fathompublishing.com](http://arcticgroundsquirrel.fathompublishing.com)

Comprehension

Creative  
Writing

Crossword

Mazes

Word Search

&

MORE

Read the book that inspired these activities  
and learn more about Arctic ground squirrels.



A photographic  
story of an Arctic  
ground squirrel's  
summer.



One spring day on a hillside in Alaska, an Arctic ground squirrel woke up from her long winter's hibernation. Spring turned to summer and the mountains bloomed. There were only a few months of summer to enjoy in the Arctic and Sik-Sik would be busy.

Available to  
order from:

- Amazon
- Barnes and Noble

For more information,  
including videos & teacher's guide:

[arcticgroundsquirrel.fathompublishing.com](http://arcticgroundsquirrel.fathompublishing.com)











# Sik-Sik's Summer

by Constance Taylor & Wendy Kenny

## An Arctic Ground Squirrel Maze

Help Sik-Sik find her way through the colony tunnels to reach her den.



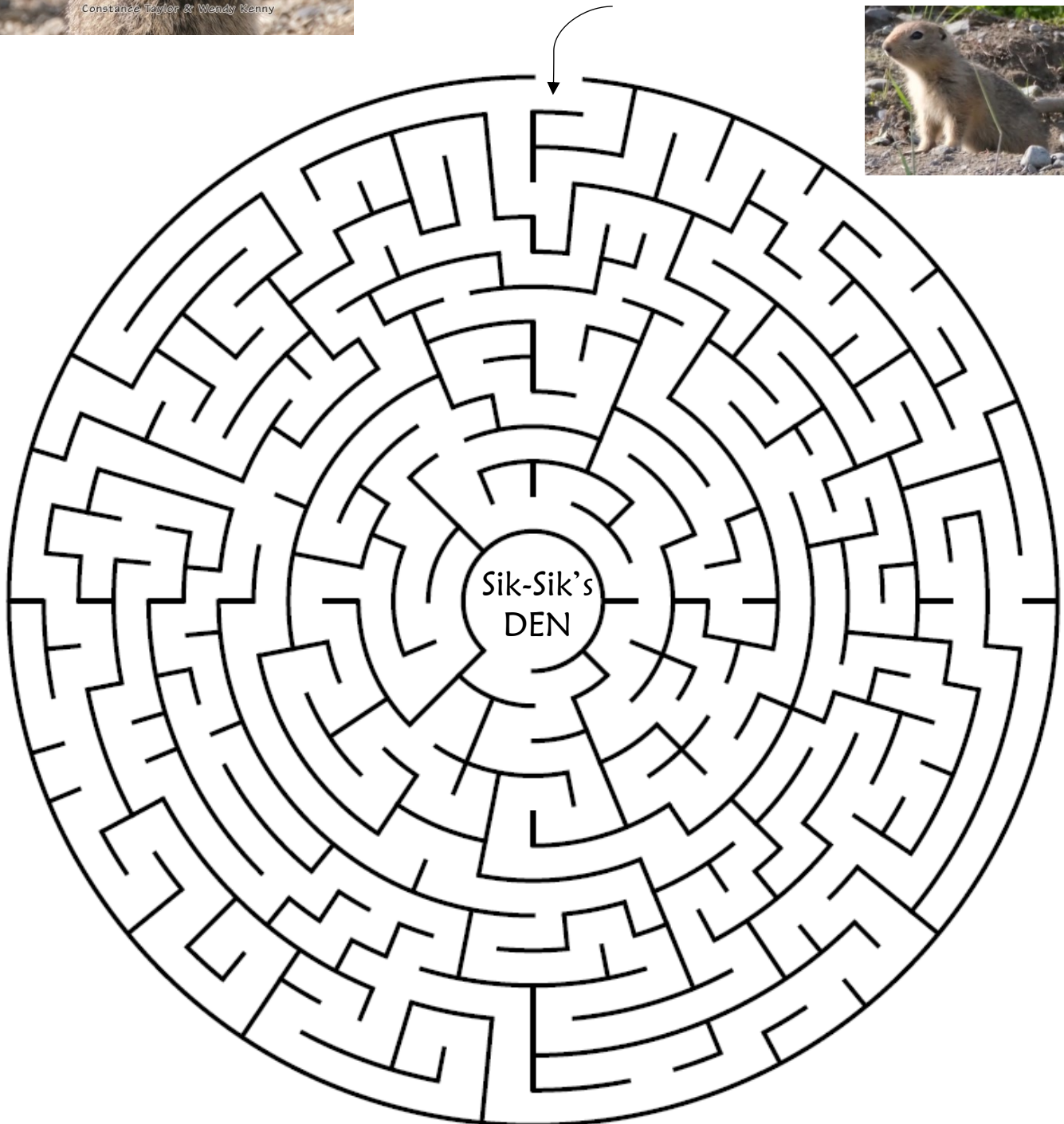


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## An Arctic Ground Squirrel Maze

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# Sik-Sik's Summer

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## An Arctic Ground Squirrel Word Search

Search for the words forwards and backwards, up and down, side to side, or diagonally.

D	S	E	G	H	Y	S	Q	W	Y	K	I	F	O	P	F
X	H	K	B	R	T	K	I	M	N	U	T	S	G	W	T
V	E	I	C	N	W	E	E	V	O	N	O	Q	F	Q	S
N	S	T	B	Q	Z	E	Q	T	L	V	I	U	T	E	Z
F	B	T	H	E	F	H	S	H	O	S	Y	I	S	D	X
S	C	E	N	A	R	C	T	I	C	Z	H	R	C	R	V
L	Z	N	Q	S	T	N	E	E	R	B	D	R	U	Y	B
D	E	S	E	D	F	H	A	D	T	A	T	E	Y	F	G
D	Z	A	A	H	H	E	F	T	B	L	Y	L	Y	O	J
F	C	W	V	W	Q	F	H	J	E	P	E	G	J	R	U
G	B	D	G	E	D	V	Y	N	K	I	S	F	E	A	O
K	H	G	B	W	S	B	N	H	P	N	H	U	G	G	P
L	M	B	U	Q	G	U	N	L	B	E	R	R	I	E	S
P	P	C	R	R	T	B	D	F	S	B	F	W	Q	R	S
I	K	Q	R	Y	O	Q	W	M	F	V	R	S	E	H	Q
H	S	T	O	O	R	G	B	N	Y	G	U	K	A	P	W
R	V	H	W	E	P	T	Y	U	H	R	N	S	B	V	V
X	H	U	O	U	O	M	N	I	V	O	R	E	Z	X	Z
Q	T	U	N	D	R	A	J	H	C	U	Z	S	A	W	N
E	N	G	J	G	D	S	V	N	Y	N	S	G	R	W	G
S	F	W	E	Y	U	J	S	E	E	D	S	U	R	D	F

ALPINE

ARCTIC

BERRIES

BURROW

CHEEKS

COLONY

DEN

FORAGER

FUR

GROUND

HIBERNATE

KITTENS

LEAVES

NUTS

OMNIVORE

ROOTS

SEEDS

SQUIRREL

TORPOR

TUNDRA

TUNNELS

### FUN FACTS

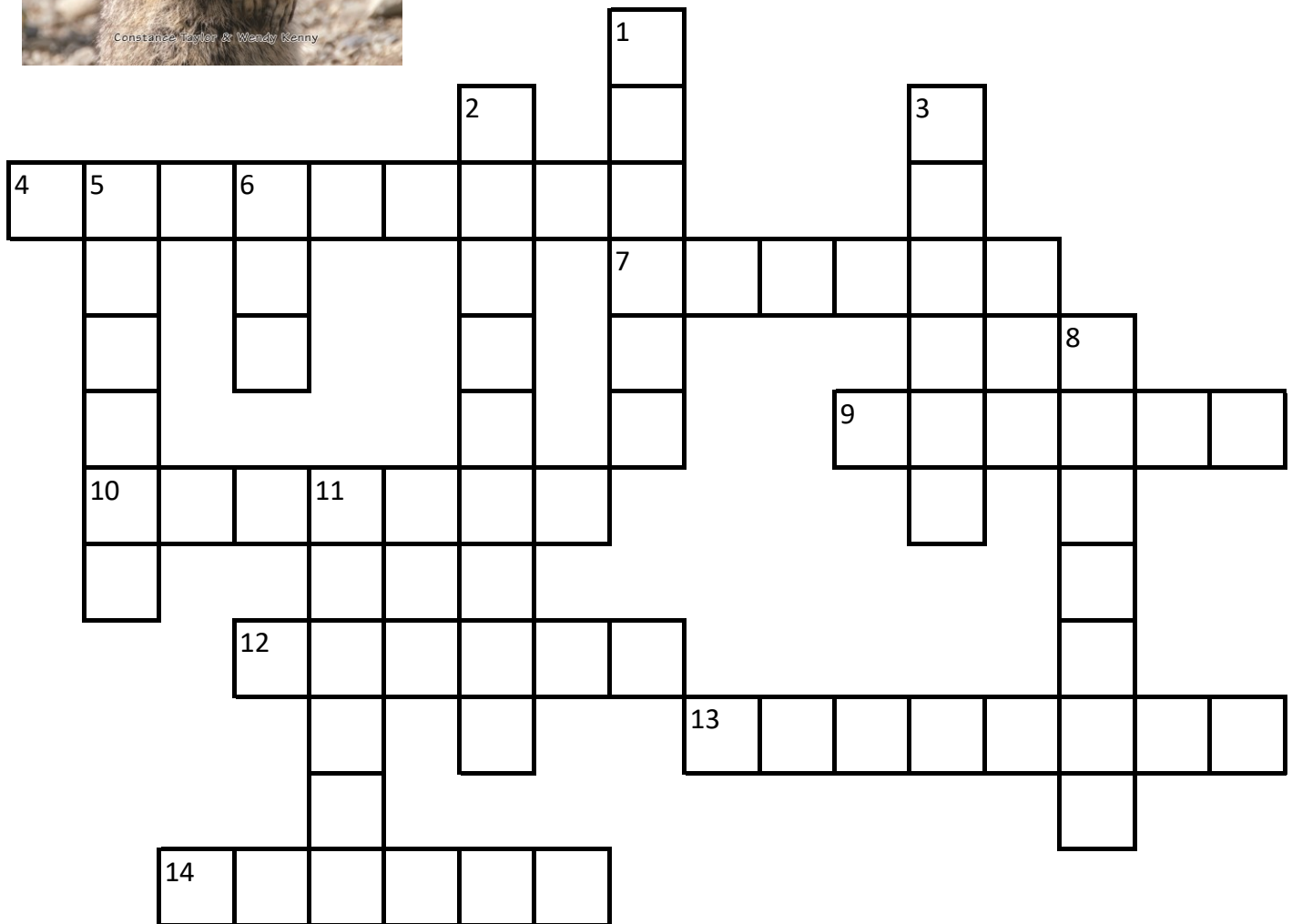
- A baby ground squirrel is called a **kitten**.
- Ground squirrels are **omnivores** – they eat plants and meat.
- When a ground squirrel **hibernates**, its body enters a state called **torpor** which lowers the body temperature and reduces the amount of energy used.



# Sik-Sik's Summer

by Constance Taylor & Wendy Kenny

## An Arctic Ground Squirrel Crossword Puzzle



### DOWN:

1. Sik-Sik hibernated all \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ground squirrels \_\_\_\_\_ longer and deeper than any other animal.
3. Ground squirrels \_\_\_\_\_ underground to build their homes.
5. Sik-Sik lives in this U.S. state.
6. Sik-Sik stays warm and cozy in her \_\_\_\_\_.
8. Sik-Sik can carry food in her cheek \_\_\_\_\_.
11. The body state during hibernation where body temperature drops below freezing is called \_\_\_\_\_.

### ACROSS:

4. This yellow flower is a spring treat.
7. Sik-Sik's home is in the Alpine \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Ground squirrels live in a large group called a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Baby ground squirrels are known as \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Sik-Sik is an \_\_\_\_\_ Ground Squirrel.
13. When this plant's leaves turn red, it's a warning that winter is approaching.
14. Sik-Sik will wake up when \_\_\_\_\_ comes again.





# Sik-Sik's Summer

by Constance Taylor & Wendy Kenny

## Comprehension Worksheet

Draw a picture of an Arctic ground squirrel and answer the questions below.

What does Sik-Sik do all winter?

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What are some of the foods Sik-Sik eats?

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What are some of the predators Sik-Sik has to watch out for?

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Where does Sik-Sik live?

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# Creative Writing

A photograph of two young ground squirrels on a rocky, sandy slope. The squirrel on the left is facing right, and the one on the right is facing left, with their heads touching in a social interaction. They have light brown, fluffy fur. The ground is covered with small rocks, sand, and some sparse green vegetation. A thin, light-colored stick lies across the foreground.

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This image shows a full page of handwriting practice paper. It features five identical sets of horizontal guidelines arranged vertically. Each set includes three lines: a solid top line, a dashed middle line, and a solid bottom line, providing a structured space for practicing letter formation and alignment. The paper is otherwise blank, with no margins or additional markings.







# Creative Writing

A photograph of two prairie dogs standing upright on a sandy, rocky mound. The prairie dog on the left is facing slightly left, while the one on the right is facing right. They have light brown fur with darker patches. The background consists of dry grass, twigs, and small green plants.

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[illegible]

# Sik-Sik's Summer

by Constance Taylor & Wendy Kenny

## A Tale of Two Squirrels

Arctic ground squirrels and tree squirrels might be part of the same animal family, but they are two different species. Draw lines to match the facts below to the correct squirrel.



- Tree Squirrel
- Longer, bushier tale
- Live in underground burrows
- Climb the nearest tree when scared
- Stand up on their back legs
- Shorter legs
- Stand on four legs, sit on back legs
- Shorter, less bushy tale
- Ground Squirrel
- Do not hibernate during winter
- Longer legs
- Run inside burrow when scared
- Live in trees
- Hibernate all winter

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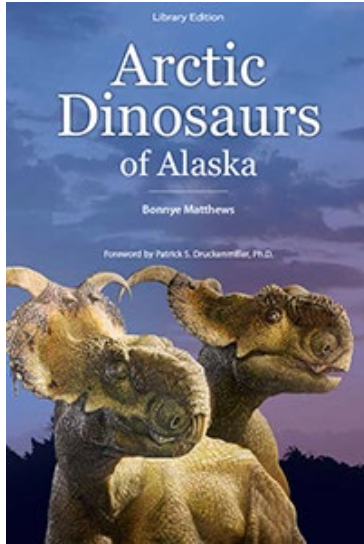
Here are some of the ways ground squirrels and tree squirrels are alike:

- Both are omnivores – they eat plants and meat.
- They have almond shaped eyes on the side of their heads, small ears, short fur and short necks.
- They are diurnal – they sleep at night and are active during the day. For Arctic ground squirrels this is only the case during summer when they aren't hibernating.

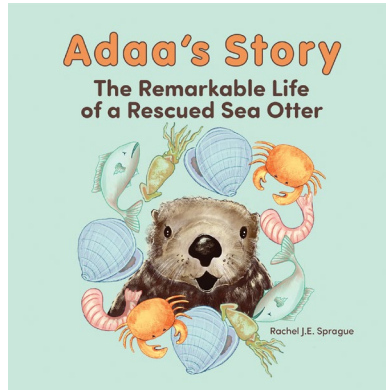


# More Books for Kids

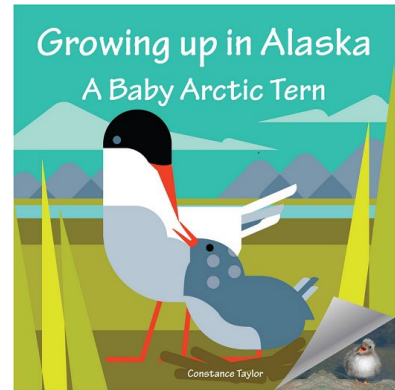
by Fathom Publishing Company



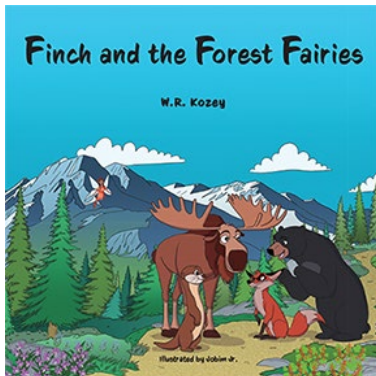
The story of a young Pachyrhinosaurus as she experiences her first winter.



The true story of a rescued baby sea otter.



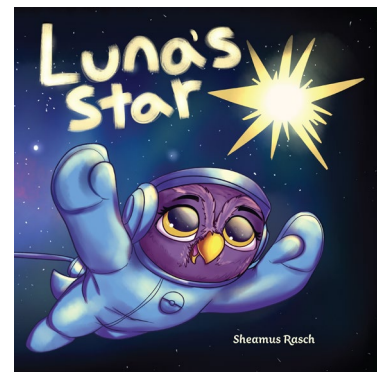
A photographic story of a baby Arctic Tern learning, growing and stretching his wings.



A tale about friendship, caring for nature and learning valuable lessons.



A sweet story about the bond between a little girl and her grandpa.



Fly with a determined owlet as she reaches for the stars.



A modern-day mystery of pirates and buried treasure.



A graphic novel about one cat's journey on the Alaska Highway.

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