

Switchzoo

Task 1

Go on to

<https://switchzoo.com/>

and try and create the animal you drew last week.

Experiment with a few different animals and see if you want to make any changes to your one.

# Task 2

You are now going to write about your animal. You can use the plan below to help you.

## Introduction

Name, name in Latin, 2 quick facts.

e.g. The Chorstrich, Latin name Chorstrihious, fastest flightless avian, largest carnivorous avian

## Appearance and adaption

4 features (one from each animal part) and explanation.

e.g. Jet-black, olive-sized eyes → spot prey in the dark

1 special feature, e.g. heightened sense of smell.

# Here is an example of the first 2 paragraphs

## The Chorstrich

The Chorstrich (Latin name Chorstrihious) is the fastest flightless avian, sprinting at an amazing 250mph. In addition to this, it is also the largest carnivorous avian, growing to an average height of 1 metre.

### Appearance and adaption

Jet-black, olive-sized eyes enable to Chorstrich to spot prey in the dark. They are 1 metre tall to the shoulder and weigh 20lbs, which enables them to sprint at incredible speeds. 10% have no tail so they can't hunt, but they have enhanced eyesight so they can alert their pack about predators. The ones without tails face a shortened lifespan of only 40 years, whilst ones with tails can live to approximately 80 years. They have thick, insulating feathers to keep their temperature constant: they must maintain a core temperature of 39 degrees throughout their life. Additionally, they have a mane of light, short and fine hair to keep their neck cool. A round body, which increases the animals' buoyancy, is helpful when they are swimming towards prey. To listen out for predators, they have sharp alert ears.

# Helpful Vocabulary

## Bodily Appearance

### PHYSIQUE

anorexic; gangling; gaunt; haggard; lanky; scrawny; skinny; spindly; withered / agile; athletic; lean; lithe; petite; rangy; reedlike; slender; slight; slim; sylphlike; thin; trim; willowy / barrel-chested; beefy; big-boned; brawny; buxom; chubby; fat; muscular; sinewy; well-muscled; voluptuous

### SKIN COLOUR

alabaster; albino; apricot; black; bronze; brown; caramel; cream; ebony; fair; ivory; lily-white; milky; nut-brown; olive; red; white; yellow;

### HAIR COLOUR (natural only)

**Black** - coal black; jet black; raven; sable; ebony; charcoal; ink-black; sooty;

**Dark Brown** - brunet/~~te~~ (male/female - male form rarely used); auburn; chestnut; chestnut brown; walnut;

**Light Brown** - ash brown; mousey; chocolate; sandy; tawny; golden brown; nutmeg; nut brown; cinnamon;

**Red** - fiery red; ginger; rusty; rust red; redhead; honey red; reddish brown; russet; copper; burnt sienna;

**Blond/e (male/female)** - ash blonde; strawberry blonde; platinum blonde; flaxen; honey-coloured; towheaded; light blonde; yellow-brown; fair-haired; champagne; tawny-gold; golden-haired; yellow-haired;

**White** - grey; silver; hoary; hoaryhead; snow-white; silver-grey;

## TEETH

buck; crooked; gap-toothed; gappy; gleaming; large; protruding; razor-like; small; sharp; shining; straight; white; yellow;

## NOSE

aquiline; beaky; broad; bulbous; button; button-like; curved; eagle-like; hatchet-like; hooked; prominent; straight; turned up;

## EARS

jug-like; protruding; tiny;

## NECK

short; long; swan-like; thick; gracious; elegant

## CHEST

barrel-chested; broadchested; flat-chested; solid; well-defined; well-muscled;

## STOMACH

chiselled; lean; pot-bellied; round;

## ARMS

long; thick; skinny; pudgy; strong; muscular

## FINGER NAILS

bitten; broken; claw-like; dirty; hooked; long; painted; sharp; talon-like;

## HAIR CONDITION

cowlicked; disarrayed; disheveled; ill-kempt; knotted; messed up; messy; mussed up; mussy; uncombed; unkempt; ragged; ruffled; shaggy; tangled; tousled; twisted; untidy; matted / combed; kempt; neat; neatly combed; thick; thinning; tidy; / greasy; oily / dry; split-ended / flecked; grizzled; wiry; receding; unshorn

## EYES (colour and shade)

**Blue** – bright blue; dark blue; light blue; luminous blue; piercing blue; sky blue;

**Brown** – dark brown; light brown;

**Green** – emerald; jade; light green; dark green; bright green; sea green;

**Grey** – light grey; dark grey; deep grey; stone; stone grey; cobalt; slate grey;

# Task 3

# You will now write the last 3 paragraphs about your animal.

## Lifecycle and reproduction

Eggs or live birth

Gestation period

New-born features/growing up

Parents' roles

Feeding

## Habitat and Climate

Where are they found?

What is it like there?

How are they adapted?

Anything special, e.g. hibernation, migration, etc

## Hunting and Diet

Carnivore/omnivore/herbivore

Prey – how they hunt, e.g. camouflage

How does it feed?

Predators how they hide, e.g. defences

Special dietary requirements

## Here is an example of the last 3 paragraphs

### Lifecycle and reproduction

When the female lays her eggs (usually 4-6) she hibernates with them until they are hatched, roughly 50 days later. In that time the male, who cares for the female and eggs, retrieves as many leaves as possible for the young.

The chicks are born fully reliant on their mothers. For 2 days, they are completely deaf and blind. However, they develop their independence speedily; after only 10 days they should be fully mobile. The chicks are fed regurgitated leaves by the male.

The burrow where they are born is their permanent habitat at this time and will already have been home to generations of Chorstrich.

### Habitat and Climate

At the start of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Chorstrich were found across three continents, however, due to deforestation, they migrated to South America where they now thrive. 60% of the total population inhabit South Guyana while the rest are in North Brazil, living in burrows where it is warm and humid. Predominately they inhabit the Amazon rainforest: in summer, they migrate to the Amazon River to stockpile food for winter.

### Hunting and Diet

Most Chorstrich are carnivores and thrive on a diet of small mammals and fish. However, some are omnivores and consume fish and leaves - especially banana leaves. Females hunt at night whilst the males care for the young. Rivers are the preferred choice for hunting, as fish and voles inhabit there. When hunting, the Chorstrich uses its eagle-like senses to pick up vibrations from the ground. If the creature is startled it will reveal a hooked, highly poisonous claw to act as a deterrent. Then, if the target moves closer, it will deliver a vicious kick whilst injecting lethal poison from its claw. Unless the victim, if human, receives treatment immediately, septic shock, cardiac arrest and even brain damage may occur. Most Chorstichs disembowel their prey: some also choose to suffocate it.