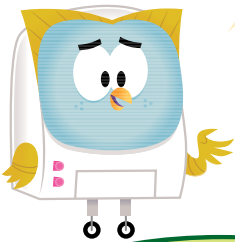


# Play It Safe

by Tracy Vonder Brink art by Mary Rojas

I'm not so good at the other moves. But I'm a champ at standing still!



**A**nimals have many ways to stay safe. Some run or hide. Others have special ways to protect themselves. Can you pretend to do what these animals do?

## Hold Still



A rabbit freezes in place when it senses danger. Its color helps it blend in so a hawk on the hunt can't spot it.



A walking stick is even better at blending in. It looks like a branch when it holds still.



# Leap Away



Springy back legs help a frog leap far. It jumps to move from place to place—and to escape from snakes and birds.



A grasshopper's knees work like springs too. The grasshopper bends its knees to store up energy. Then it relaxes its legs, and BOING! The energy launches it into the air.



An impala's jump can be almost as long as a school bus. The herd leaps together to confuse enemies. A hungry lion can't decide which one to catch.



## Roll Up



The three-banded armadillo curls up into a ball. Only its bony plates show, and they're too hard for an enemy to bite.



A pill bug rolls up like an armadillo. It's sometimes called a roly-poly. We like that name because a pill bug isn't really a bug. It lives on land but is related to lobsters, crabs, and shrimp.

A hedgehog also rolls into a ball, but it's covered in sharp prickles. Nothing wants a mouthful of spikes!



# Puff Up

A puffer fish gulps water into its stomach. The extra water makes its body up to four times larger than normal. Now it's too big for another fish to swallow.



A puff adder sucks in air to make itself look bigger and scarier. It also hisses a warning. S-s-stay away!

