

Imaginary Animal Creation Activity

During an educational workshop led by Payal Molur, we participated in a creative and engaging activity: designing our own imaginary animals. This exercise encouraged us to visualize and illustrate fictional creatures, allowing us to bring to life unique traits and characteristics from our imagination. It was an exciting opportunity to explore creativity and give form to our envisioned creations.

Each fellow is tasked with creating a fictional animal using their creativity. They must provide detailed information about their creation, including:

- The animal's name.
- Its habitat (where it lives).
- Its diet (what it eats).
- Its predators (who preys on it).
- Its defence and attack mechanisms (how it protects itself and how it attacks).

The description should comprehensively explain the characteristics and behaviours of the created animal.

Species: *Spinachirus viridisus* (Spiny Greenhunter Lizard)

Creator: Koshik V Rao*

The *Spinachirus viridisus*, commonly known as the Spiny Greenhunter Lizard, is a fascinating imaginary creature that thrives in grassy, green landscapes where it can easily blend into its surroundings, providing effective camouflage. Its vibrant green colouration helps it remain nearly invisible to predators in its natural habitat. This lizard has a unique and diverse diet, feeding on nectar, termites, ants, and various other insects. To attract its prey, the Spiny Greenhunter Lizard secretes a sweet syrup from a sugary sac located at the tip of its tail. This sugary substance attracts insects and other small creatures, luring them



closer to the lizard's reach. Additionally, the lizard employs its long, sticky tongue to capture prey, allowing it to strike with precision. Despite its hunting skills, the *Spinachirus viridisus* faces constant threats from predators such as birds and wild cats. To protect itself, it has evolved spiny hairs along its upper abdomen. These sharp, stiff spines deter potential predators by causing discomfort and acting as a physical barrier against attacks. This lizard was created imagining a monitor lizard, anteater and porcupine.

Species: *Capra lightning* (Hengal Kastoor)

Creator: Mohsin Ahmad*

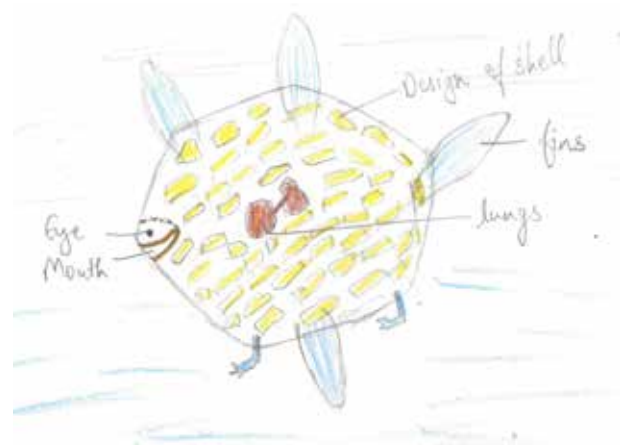
The imagined species, locally known as Hengal Kastoor and scientifically named *Capra lightning*, is a high-altitude ungulate uniquely adapted to life in rugged, forested terrains. This creature inhabits steep edges, relying on its distinct physical features for survival. It has a rusty-brown body, a long tail, and striking red eyes that may enhance vision under low-light conditions. The animal primarily feeds on grasses and shrubs, making it an herbivore well-suited to the vegetation available in its habitat. For defence, it possesses large, robust horns, which likely serve to deter predators or engage in intraspecific competition. A remarkable adaptation is its wings, enabling it to navigate steep cliffs and escape threats with ease. Despite these traits, it is a prey species for high-altitude predators, contributing significantly to the ecological dynamics of its environment.



Species: *Piscefin shell* (Hexagonal leg swimmer)

Creator: Shivangi Kanwar Chouhan*

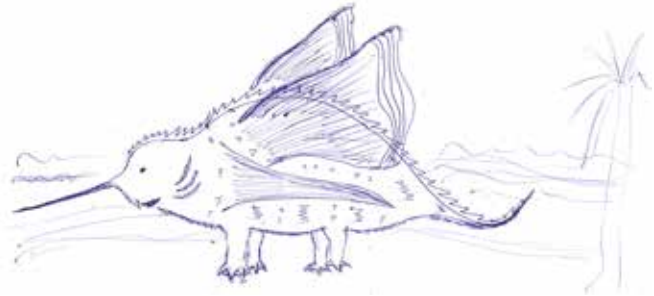
The Hexagonal Leg Swimmer is an extraordinary imaginary aquatic creature that thrives in freshwater and coastal areas. This unique species is equipped with a single eye and mouth, along with lungs that allow it to breathe while basking in the sun. It is protected by a hard, hexagonal shell that not only acts as armour but also emits light as a defence mechanism to deter predators. The Hexagonal Leg Swimmer is an agile swimmer, thanks to its four powerful fins that enable it to glide swiftly through the water when pursued by predators. Additionally, it possesses two small legs that allow it to run across the water's surface—a remarkable adaptation for evading threats. This species primarily feeds on small fish and sea grasses, while its natural predators include larger fish, whales, and sharks. Interestingly, the Hexagonal Leg Swimmer harnesses energy from the sun during its basking periods and uses this energy to power its swimming, making it both efficient and fascinating in its behaviour.



Species: *Avohydrosaurus squamarii* (Long-Snouted Scaly Avohydrosaur)

Creator: Himangshu Kalita*

This imaginary species is a fascinating blend of adaptations, allowing it to thrive in multiple environments. Predominantly terrestrial, the Long-Snouted Scaly Avohydrosaur can also fly with its featherless wings and swim underwater, thanks to its gill slits and webbed feet. It possesses a narwhal-like pointed snout made of hardened shell material, which it uses to hunt prey.



Its body is covered with thorny scales, providing excellent defence against potential attackers, while its pointed, highly mobile tail and two-side fins enhance its agility in the water. The Avohydrosaur is a large-bodied creature, roughly the size of an elephant. It is usually solitary, coming together in pairs only during the mating season. A viviparous species, it gives birth to up to two offspring after an 18-month gestation period. This omnivorous apex predator feeds on a wide range of marine species, terrestrial animals, birds, and even plants. It attacks almost anything for food and has no known natural predators. However, its legs are considered its weak point, potentially making it vulnerable to determined carnivores. The Long-Snouted Scaly Avohydrosaur is thought to inhabit the unexplored islands of the Galapagos, where its unique adaptations allow it to dominate the ecosystem.

Species: *Serpentine macaca*

Creator: Gupta Priya*

Serpentine macaca is an animal found in the forests near water bodies on Sentinel Island. It feeds on blood, flesh, and occasionally plants. This creature grows up to 7 meters, and has a monkey-like head and a snake-like body from neck to tail covered with thick and smooth scales. It uses its two hands to climb trees for food and sleep. With plus-shaped lenses, its vision is distorted and weak, but it compensates with a strong sense of hear thanks to its big ears. Equipped with two large canines, helps it to hold on prey, although its own predators are yet to be discovered.



Species: *Goatris spikensis* (Spikey goat)

Creator: Jain Zeal

It is a grassland species with great peripheral vision because of its ability to move its round pupil 360 degrees. It develops a striped body and low height as an adaptation to save itself from the vision of the predator in the grass and run fast. Due to the low height, it's most possible for it to be attacked on its neck, hence the spikes. It is a herbivore and feeds on tussock grasses and perennial herbs is predated by top predators such as hyenas, wild dogs and snakes.



Species: *Aethera iridans* (Iridescent Glider)

Creator: Ananditha Pascal

The Iridescent Glider is a species inhabiting the evergreen and moist deciduous forests of South India. As a herbivore, it primarily feeds on the fruits of seasonal plants, ensuring a steady food supply throughout the year. The species possesses exceptional vision and the ability to sense vibrations, aiding in survival and navigation. Its iridescent plumage serves as effective camouflage. Additionally, its flesh has an unpleasant taste, deterring many potential predators.



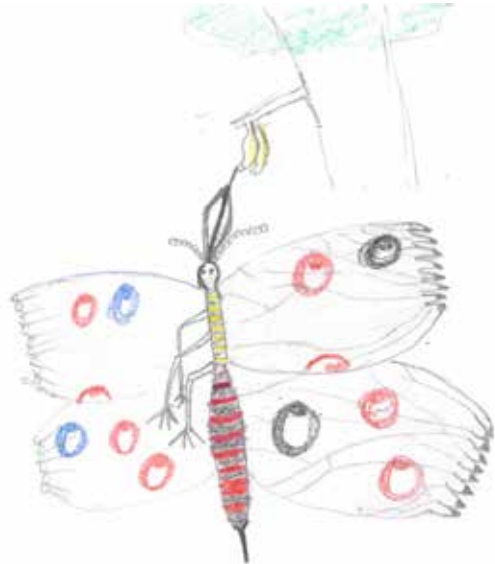
An adept flier, the Iridescent Glider has a streamlined body and a distinctive triangular tuft on its head, which minimizes air resistance and makes flight efficient. This combination of physical adaptations and behavioural traits would make the Iridescent Glider a successful animal of the wild.

This activity was both fun and enriching, allowing us to unleash our artistic and creative sides with childlike enthusiasm. It provided a unique platform to merge creativity with ecological thinking, making it an unforgettable and enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

Species: *Mobile eyespotfruista*

Creator: Diya Banerjee*

The species *Mobile eyespotfruista*, described by Diya Banerjee in 2024, is an imaginary butterfly evolved for survival. Urbanization led to plant loss, prompting it to develop long legs for fishing by riverbanks. Feeding on both fruit and fish, it possesses teeth and a proboscis for nectar. To combat predators like lizards and birds, it evolved a stinging abdomen with black-and-red stripes to deter threats. Its wings are adorned with vibrant blue, red, and black eyespots, confusing and beguiling predators. Living in forests, this butterfly showcases remarkable adaptations, embodying the concept of survival through innovation and resilience in a changing world.



Species: *Animalia autotropha*

Creator: Sidharthan*

Animalia autotropha is a marvel of evolution, a mammal that defies all conventional boundaries. With powerful wings enabling graceful flight and agile legs for unparalleled speed on land, it is untouchable by predators. A carnivore by instinct, it can devour anything it encounters, showcasing unmatched adaptability in diverse ecosystems. Yet, its most extraordinary trait is its ability to photosynthesize, thanks to chlorophyll-rich cells embedded in its fur. Thriving equally on land and in water, *Animalia autotropha* is the ultimate survivor, harnessing sunlight for energy while hunting with precision. This luminous being is a symbol of resilience and ecological ingenuity. Similar to the golden age of reptiles, now we will have a golden age of autotrophs in the Anthropocene era once they flourish and establish their dominance.



Species: *Slythene aqua*

Creator: Dupati Poojitha*

Slythene aqua is an imaginary creature inhabiting islands and thrives on a diet of fish and aquatic and terrestrial plants, making it an omnivore. As the top predator in its ecosystem, it sits at the apex of the food chain. However, its plant-based diet ensures an optimal energy intake with minimal energy loss through the



food chain. *Slythene aqua* has a long, slender body covered in shimmering scales. It has four clawed appendages and unique elongations on its forehead - modified scales used to attract mates. Adding to its striking appearance, feathers on the anterior dorsal side of its body enable it to fly. These feathers are supported by specialized oil glands that keep them waterproof, ensuring the creature can seamlessly transition between water and air. By day, *Slythene aqua* rests in burrows near the seashore and becomes active at night as a skilled nocturnal hunter. Under moonlight, its scales reflect light, causing the creature *Slythene aqua* was drawn from the Os to glisten—a feature that not only dazzles but also plays a crucial role in mate selection. The inspiration for car-winning film *Spirited Away*, which sparked the idea for its design and characteristics.

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