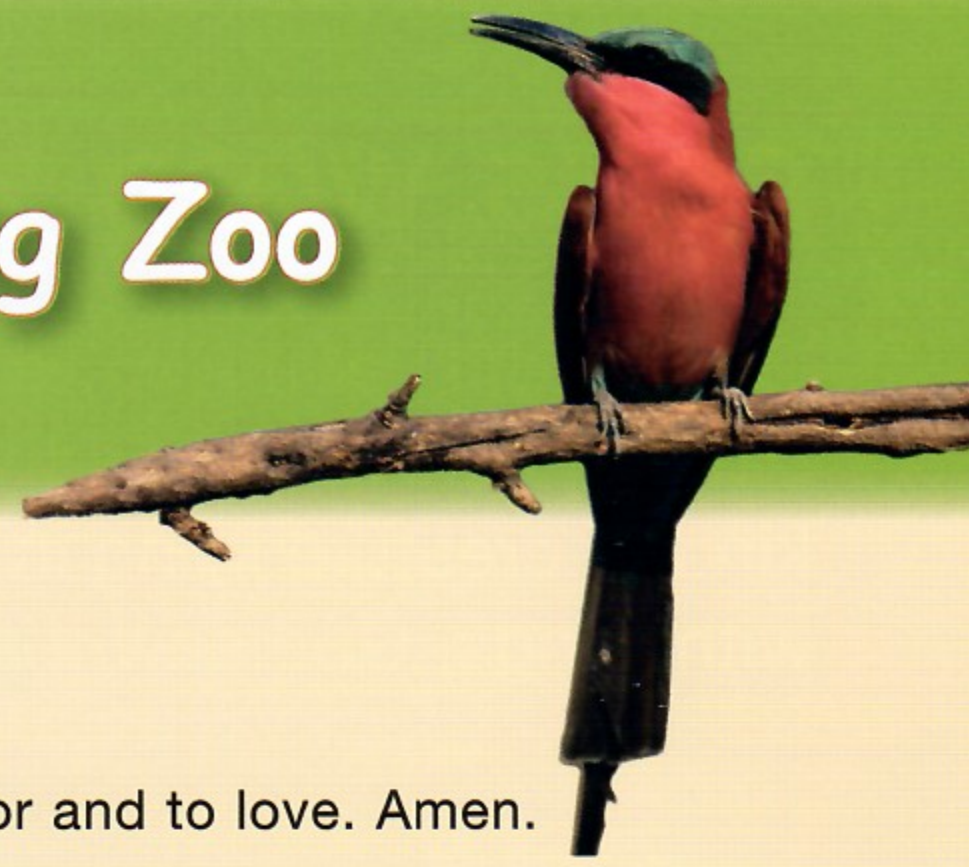


God's Amazing Zoo



WE PRAY TOGETHER



Hanoon Hor yev Vortvo yev Hokvooyn Srpo.
Thank you, God, for making animals for us to care for and to love. Amen.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER



Animals live in many places on this planet Earth. They live in jungles. They live at the North Pole. They live in the oceans and lakes. They live on farms. They live in our homes.

Let us take a pretend visit to some of these places. Here we are at a zoo. What kinds of animals can we see here?

Now let us go to the ocean. What kinds of animals can we find here?

Next let us go to a farm. What kinds of animals can we see here?

Last let us visit a home. What do we see here?

God created the animals. He wants us to take care of them.



GOD'S WORD TO US

God said, "Let the waters be filled with living creatures and let birds fly above the earth." And so it was. God created every kind of creature living in the water and every kind of creature with wings. God saw that it was good and he smiled.

God said, "Let there be every kind of living creature: cattle, reptiles and every kind of wild beast." And so it was. God saw that it was good and he smiled.

Genesis 1:20-25

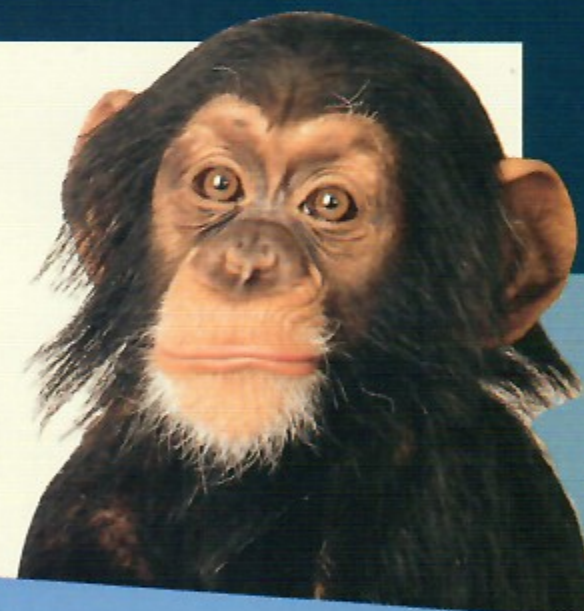
WE LEARN ABOUT GOD

God created the animals. Each one is special.

Watch a bird fly. See a horse gallop. Listen to the roar of a lion. Laugh as a monkey swings on a branch. Enjoy the gentle kisses of a puppy and listen to the happy sounds a kitten makes.

Thank God for all these amazing animals! From the lowly worm that wiggles in the wet grass to the gigantic whale swimming in the ocean – each tells us about God. God has given us the animals and asks us to take care of them. We should always treat them kindly and never hurt them.

What is your favorite animal?



OUR ARMENIAN WAY

A very long time ago in Armenia, artists decorated pages in books with drawings from nature, such as fish, leaves, plants, animals and birds. Even letters of the Armenian alphabet were made to look like birds. These were called *turchnakeer* (bird letters).



WE CELEBRATE

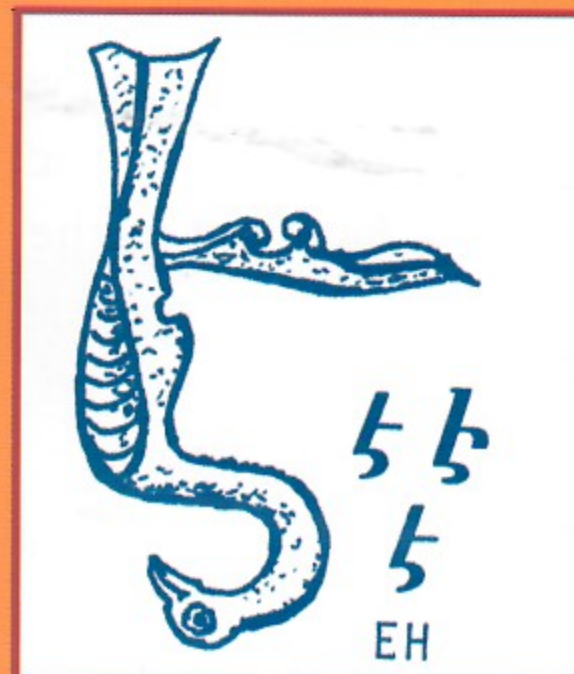
Here are some bird letters.

This is the first letter of the Armenian alphabet.



This letter can be found in Armenian churches.


It means that God is always with us.





FAMILY PAGE


SHARING OUR FAITH



Today, in our lesson, the children learned that God created the animals for us, and it was his wish that we care for them. It says in Scripture that he created them and then he blessed them.

The animals remind us of God's wondrous work – the Creation.

LIVING OUR FAITH



Whether or not there is a pet in your household, you can teach your child the importance of caring for domestic animals or pets and treating them with kindness.

With your child, plan to do one of the following:

1. Visit the local library to take out picture books and non-fiction books about animals.
2. Plan a visit to a zoo with your family. God, the Giver of all life, created these wild creatures as well. He has given us the gifts of creation – the earth, the sky, the water, stars, the sun and the moon and, especially the animals.
3. Bird Letters (*turchnakeer*) and other drawings from nature have decorated ancient Armenian manuscripts since early times. Bird Letters flourished in the 12th-14th centuries. In class, the children were each given a Bird Letter to correspond to the first letter of their names. Ask your child to tell you about it.

