Free animal stories for kids

Peabody · checked 2026-10-19

Peabody has 101 free animal stories for kids, from pets, cats and dogs to wild animals and true facts. They run from levels 1 to 17 and each opens at once with no sign-up. The table shows every story's level and length, so a grown-up can pick one that fits the reader. Free through the end of 2026.

- Story: Pup in the Tub · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 31
- Story: Can Ted Hop? · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 29
- Story: Bev Has a Pet · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 37
- Story: The Red Bus · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 30
- Story: Six Cats, Six Hats · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 31
- Story: Dots in the Hut · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 40
- Story: Rat's Hut · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 44
- Story: Fox and the Hen · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 37
- Story: Zed and the Rug · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 41
- Story: Bed Is Full · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 51
- Story: Tab Can Not Nap · Level: Level 1 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 52
- Story: Stop, Bus! · Level: Level 2 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 40
- Story: The Black Cat · Level: Level 2 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 67
- Story: The Plum · Level: Level 2 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 57
- Story: Fish in a Dish · Level: Level 2 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 44
- Story: In My Bag · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 36
- Story: The Hat Cat · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 70
- Story: At the Farm · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 37
- Story: Where Is the Cat? · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 63
- Story: Moss and the Box · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 65
- Story: The Hat That Slid · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 44
- Story: Ben and the Blocks · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 72
- Story: I See a Boy · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 56
- Story: Kip and the Crab · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 57
- Story: Duke Hides a Bone · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 74
- Story: Bump, Bump, Bump · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 56
- Story: A Cat and a Dog · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 61
- Story: Jake and the Snake · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 52
- Story: The Red Hat · Level: Level 3 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 55
- Story: Can I Pet It? · Level: Level 4 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 64
- Story: Mort and the Storm · Level: Level 4 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 78

• Story: Go, Go, Go · Level: Level 4 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 68
• Story: Snail Wins the Race · Level: Level 4 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 69
• Story: Goat and the Boat · Level: Level 4 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 75
• Story: The Dog and the Bone · Level: Level 4 · Kind: Classic · Words: 63
• Story: Who Eats the Lettuce? · Level: Level 4 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 62
• Story: Where Is Ned's Hat? · Level: Level 5 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 63
• Story: Who Lives Under the Log? · Level: Level 5 · Kind: True story · Words: 94
• Story: Pim and the Mitten · Level: Level 5 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 208
• Story: Frogs Are Amazing · Level: Level 5 · Kind: True story · Words: 100
• Story: The Hamster Who Went Out · Level: Level 6 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 212
• Story: The Little Lantern · Level: Level 6 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 167
• Story: Look at Ants · Level: Level 7 · Kind: True story · Words: 327
• Story: The Dog in the Manger · Level: Level 7 · Kind: Classic · Words: 336
• Story: The Book That Came Back · Level: Level 7 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 275
• Story: Crunch Goes the Panda · Level: Level 7 · Kind: True story · Words: 386
• Story: Mia and the Two Rabbits · Level: Level 7 · Kind: True story · Words: 390
• Story: Jonah and the Night Hamster · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 574
• Story: Looking After a Cat · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 514
• Story: Penguins Up Close · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 754
• Story: Hum Under My Hand · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 726
• Story: Looking After Cocoa and Nibs · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 636
• Story: Looking After a Leopard Gecko · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 457
• Story: Kai and the Little Blue Fish · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 646
• Story: Looking After a Dog · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 453
• Story: The Tooth on the Beach · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 746
• Story: How the Leopard Got His Spots · Level: Level 8 · Kind: Classic · Words: 699
• Story: The Frog That Freezes · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 441
• Story: The Run to Nome · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 572
• Story: The Chimp Who Fished for Termites · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 590
• Story: Unicorns and Real Horses · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 859
• Story: Goodbye, Waffles · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,121
• Story: Mavis and the Greedy Mayor · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,072
• Story: Biscuit and Ask, Wait, Stroke · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 900
• Story: The Boxcar Children · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,395
• Story: Eight Arms · Level: Level 9 · Kind: True story · Words: 770
• Story: The Cat That Walked by Himself · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,069

• Story: Dumpling Takes the Lead · Level: Level 9 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 968
• Story: The Emperor Penguin Dads · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 787
• Story: The Case of the Missing Mangoes · Level: Level 10 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,210
• Story: Why Does My Leopard Gecko Hide? · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 790
• Story: A Hard Nut to Crack · Level: Level 10 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,705
• Story: Why Does My Rabbit Thump? · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,068
• Story: The Honey Bee · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 881
• Story: Why Guinea Pigs Need a Friend · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 995
• Story: What Did Jane Goodall Discover at Gombe? · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 996
• Story: Why Do Cats Purr? · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 937
• Story: Seven Days With Pickle · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 721
• Story: Why Do Hamsters Sleep All Day? · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 980
• Story: Otto and the Spell That Counted Backwards · Level: Level 10 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,129
• Story: How Does a Betta Breathe Air? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,123
• Story: Slow Motion Animals · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 972
• Story: What Do Pandas Eat? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,041
• Story: The Small Hunter on the Sofa · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 867
• Story: How Are Horses and Ponies Different? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,551
• Story: The Wind in the Willows · Level: Level 11 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,818
• Story: Chameleons Up Close · Level: Level 12 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,050
• Story: Black Beauty · Level: Level 13 · Kind: Classic · Words: 1,883
• Story: A Rabbit Is Not a Small Cat · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,244
• Story: The Desert Animal in the Glass Box · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,119
• Story: A Predator at the Window · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,095
• Story: Bats After Dark · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,266
• Story: Five Needs, One Dog · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 967
• Story: Field Notes and the Long Study at Gombe · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,383
• Story: Four Hooves Off the Ground · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,591
• Story: The Hamster's Wild Design · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,366

- Story: The Bamboo Bargain · Level: Level 13 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,315
- Story: Built for Puddles, Bred for Beauty · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,156
- Story: What a Guinea Pig's Body Expects · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,409
- Story: The Problem With a Purr · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,230
- Story: Naked Mole-Rats · Level: Level 17 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,432

Picking one for your child

Every story here is sorted by Peabody's reading level, which is worked out from the text and never from the child. A lower level means shorter sentences and easier words, so start where your child can read about half of a story alone and read the rest together. If it is too hard, go down a level. If they race through it, go up.

For the youngest readers

36 are at levels 1 to 4: Pup in the Tub, Can Ted Hop?, Bev Has a Pet, The Red Bus, Six Cats, Six Hats, Dots in the Hut and more. These suit a child just learning to read, or a grown-up reading aloud.

For growing readers

32 are at levels 5 to 9: Where Is Ned's Hat?, Who Lives Under the Log?, Pim and the Mitten, Frogs Are Amazing, The Hamster Who Went Out, The Little Lantern and more. Longer stories, with more going on in each one.

For confident readers

33 are at levels 10 to 17: The Emperor Penguin Dads, The Case of the Missing Mangoes, Why Does My Leopard Gecko Hide?, A Hard Nut to Crack, Why Does My Rabbit Thump?, The Honey Bee and more. These are for children who read chapters and longer passages on their own.

Reading them together

A grown-up can read any of these aloud from a phone or tablet, one page at a time, and a child who reads can take over. Where a device can speak, the story page has a Read to me button that reads each page aloud in the device's own voice. Every story page has a Print link too, if you would rather read on paper.

More free stories

- The whole library: free stories by reading level, no account needed.
- Classic stories retold short: fables, fairy tales, myths and legends.
- Free Aesop's fables for kids, with the lesson of each
- Free folk tales, tall tales and legends for kids
- Free nonfiction books for kids, one topic at three levels
- Free beginning reader books for kids just learning to read
- By level: Level 1 · Level 2 · Level 3 · Level 4 · Level 5 · Level 6 · Level 7 · Level 8 · Level 9 · Level 10 · Level 11 · Level 12 · Level 13 · Level 14 · Level 17

Questions parents ask

What reading level are these animal stories?

They run across levels 1 to 17. Peabody works each level out from the story's text: how long the sentences are, how many words fit on a screen and how common the words are. The table shows the level of every story, so you can pick a lower or a higher one.

Are any of these stories scary?

None carries a mark above gentle, and none is on the scary stories shelf. The short description on each story's page says what it covers, so read it first if your child is sensitive.

Do the stories cost anything?

No. Every story on this page is free to read through the end of 2026, with no account and no card.

Free at peabody.kids/animal-stories-for-kids