

THE WILDLIFE ART OF GUY COHELEACH

Family Guide



© Guy Coheleach, *What Have We Here?*, oil on linen, 2014, Collection of the artist

As a young man Guy Coheleach was fascinated with animals. During visits to local museums and zoos Guy would fill his notebooks with **drawings** of the animals he saw. The artist remembers his parents being supportive of his interests even though they had a large family of nine children! Guy's parents taught him the importance of animal care and also made sure he could attend art classes and drawing lessons.

⇒ **Discuss: Do you have any hobbies (an activity a person does for fun)? Do any of your hobbies involve animals?**

When he grew up, Guy Coheleach went on to become an **illustrator**. While working, he met another artist named Don Eckelberry, a man who was known for his **paintings** of wild birds. This artist convinced Guy that he too could paint **wildlife** and even helped Guy find a job painting pictures of birds for a calendar. The calendar job helped Guy Coheleach become a popular artist for animal magazines and galleries worldwide.

⇒ **Discuss: Have you made any friends who enjoy the same hobbies as you? If so, do they make your hobbies more enjoyable? If not, how could you meet people who are interested in your hobbies?**

To this day Guy Coheleach enjoys traveling the globe, seeing animals in their **natural habitats**, and painting them to show the world. He is a supporter of wildlife **conservation** and is a member of Artists for Conservation. He has had many adventures during his travels, including being chased by an elephant in Africa! On a recent trip to Alaska, Guy remembers seeing whales surfacing beside his boat. "It scares the day-lights out of you, but... it is amazing. I'd love to paint that."



© Guy Coheleach, *Cooling Off*, 2013, oil on linen, Collection of the artist

⇒ **Discuss: Have you ever seen something scary and beautiful at the same time? Do you think it would make a good painting?**

THINGS TO TRY DURING YOUR VISIT:



- ⇒ **DISCUSS:** Which animal in this exhibit is your favorite? Why? Do you know where it lives, or what it eats?
- ⇒ **FIND:** Find this painting in the exhibit: What is happening here? Did you know that Bison are able to withstand freezing temperatures and snow? Look in the *Habitats and Inhabitants* galley to find a photograph taken by artist Tom Murphy that is very similar to this painting. How is his photograph similar? How is it different?



© Guy Coheleach, *Winter Whiteout*, oil on linen, 2011, Collection of the artist



© Guy Coheleach, *Cheetah*, pencil on paper, 1988, Collection of the artist

DRAW: Try drawing a wolf like the one on the right. Start with simple shapes to make up the body, then fill in with details like fur, eyes, etc.

THEN TRY: Wildlife artists like Guy Coheleach like to draw animals **from life**—which means they draw while watching them in person. Find an animal you can safely observe, like a family pet. With a pencil and paper, sketch the animal. Remember to use simple shapes when starting, like the wolf you drew earlier. Alternatively you can use a photograph to draw from instead.

TO TRY AT HOME:

