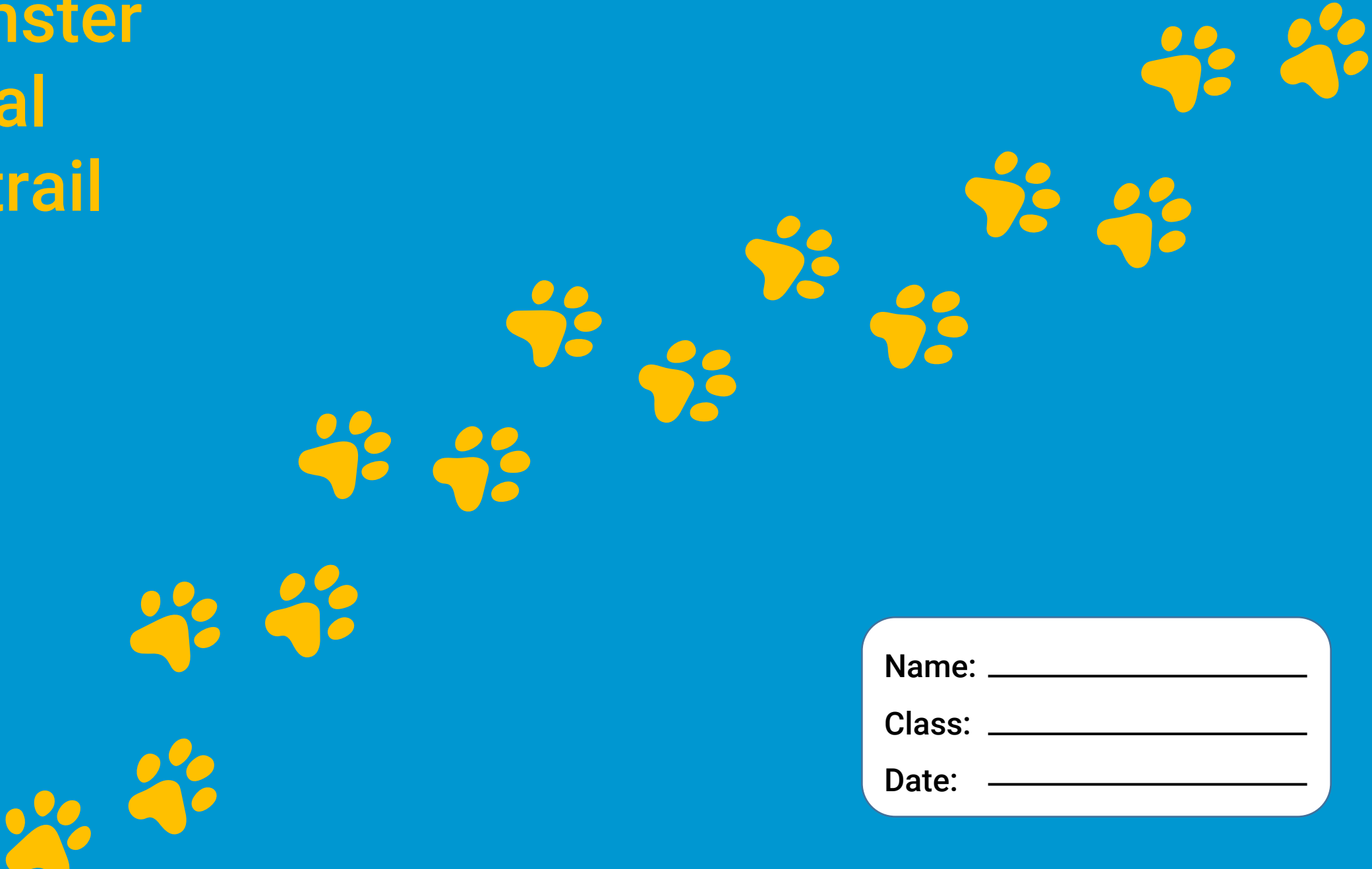


Westminster Cathedral Animal trail



Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____



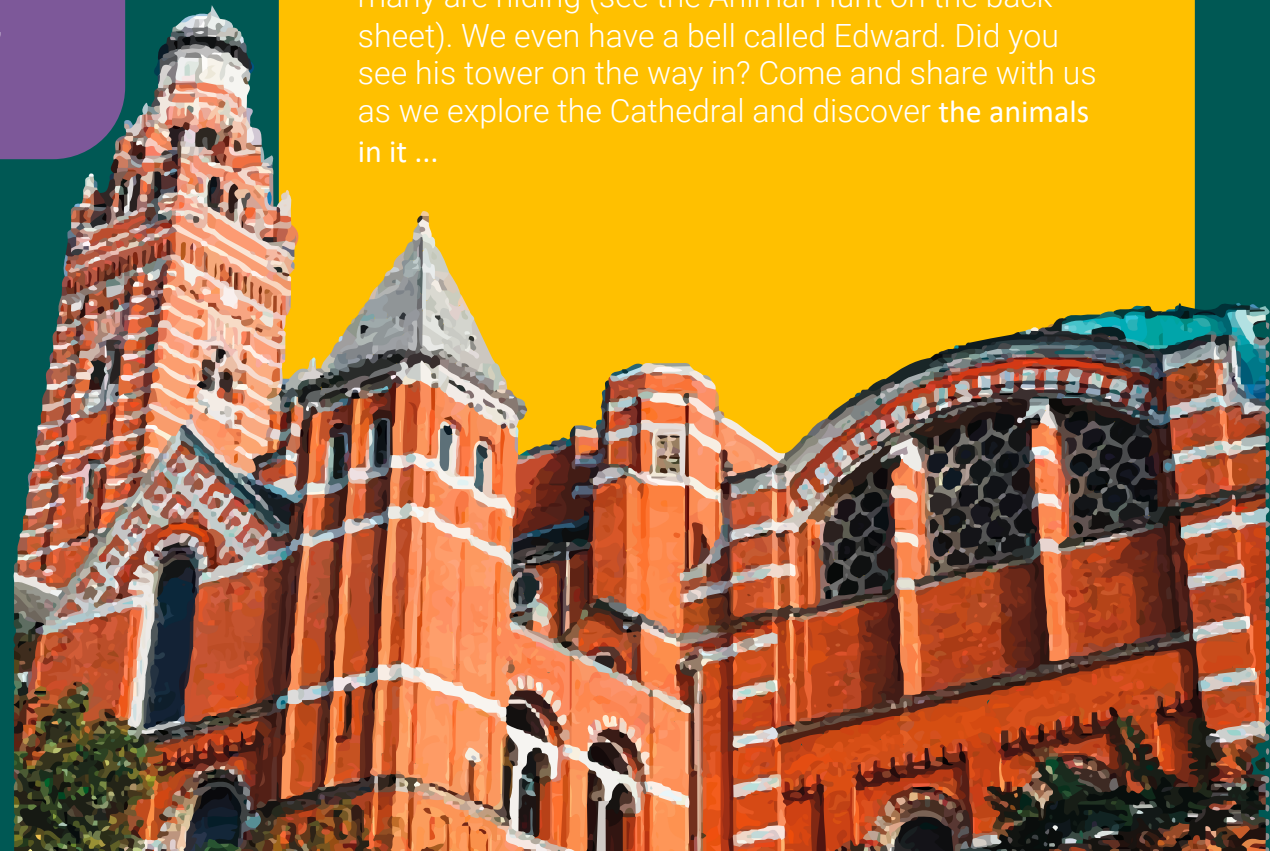
What is your
favourite
animal?

Welcome to Westminster Cathedral!

I'm a pelican and my name is Sang. This is short for 'sanguis' which means 'blood' in Latin. Westminster Cathedral is dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Come with me to find out more about pelicans, our cathedral and Our Lord.

Westminster Cathedral is a very special place. It is the house of God and we hope you can make it your home, too. God made all plants and animals, and loves them, so lots of plants and animals have their home here in the artwork. We are delighted you are with us today as we love to see children, it is really exciting for us! You might see some of us although many are hiding (see the Animal Hunt on the back sheet). We even have a bell called Edward. Did you see his tower on the way in? Come and share with us as we explore the Cathedral and discover the animals in it ...

Every animal here has a special job and tells us something different about Jesus and his life. Can you think of an animal that was important in the stories about him?



St Patrick's Chapel

Did you know?

St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. He was kidnapped when he was a boy and sold as a slave, then taken to work as a shepherd on Mount Slemish in Northern Ireland. There were many wild animals there and the weather was bad, so Patrick prayed many times a day and became a man of great faith.

At that time, Ireland had not heard of Jesus. Although Patrick escaped slavery, he heard the voice of the Irish calling him to return, so he did. He brought Christianity to Ireland and taught the people about God as the Trinity. When we bless ourselves we say 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit' which describes the Trinity. Patrick explained this using a green plant called a shamrock, which has one stem and three leaves. He is often seen standing on snakes which he drove out of Ireland. Can you see any snakes or shamrocks in St Patrick's chapel?

Design your own symbol here:

Circle your favourite symbol of the Trinity:



Jesus is always present in the Cathedral so you can talk to him about anything, or just listen, just like St Patrick did. He is your good friend.

Design your own snake here:



St Andrew's Chapel

Did you know?

Jesus said to Andrew (the patron saint of Scotland) 'Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.' The fish is an ancient symbol of Christianity. The first Christians knew where Mass was being held in secret when they saw this symbol. Look at the ceiling in St Andrew's chapel which is like scales of a fish. The floor beneath your feet is like a rough and agitated sea with different water creatures.

In persecuted Rome, a Christian might draw the outline of the fish – a harmless doodle – but if the unknown person who was with them put the eye in the correct place, you knew you were in the company of another Christian! **What could your secret Christian code be?**



The Greek work for fish is ICHTHUS. This is an acronym for Jesus Christ, Son of God Saviour. Can you translate the Greek words below and add the English words correctly?

Initials	Greek	English
I	Iesous	
CH	Christos	
TH	Theou	
U	Uios	
S	Soter	

Draw a sea-life creature and colour it in uniquely:

Our Lord Jesus called St Andrew and other Apostles. He calls you too to follow him and share his teachings with others. Can you hear his call?



The Lady Chapel

Write a prayer/song to Mary, the mother of Our Lord and our mother too, telling her what is in your heart and asking for her help to grow closer to Jesus. Decorate it if you wish:

Mary is a loving mother to all of us. She listens with her heart and brings all our prayers to Jesus.



Did you know?

Mary can help us to get to Jesus. Look at the mosaics all around and on the ceiling of the Lady Chapel. Can you see the Tree of Life (the Cross) above the altar? This symbolises eternal life brought to us in Jesus through Mary. The branches from this tree produce fruit and provide shelter for birds and other animals. We too can provide care and shelter for others. How does this space make you feel?



Blessed Sacrament Chapel

Can you write the name of the animal with its description/symbolism in the correct box?

Lamb Pelican Peacock Phoenix Dragon

Animal	Description/symbolism
	It was believed that these animals do not decay after death and so are a symbol of immortality. This is like Jesus who cannot die. They grow new feathers every year.
	This animal is said to get new life after dying in flames and rising reborn from its own ashes. Jesus rose from death to new life.
	This animal is said to pierce its breast to feed blood to its young. Christ is self-sacrificing. He gave up his blood/life for us because he loves us.
	This animal is a symbol of evil/sin. Jesus came to defeat evil/sin through his death and resurrection.
	Christ is spotless and innocent like this animal. He was a sacrifice for our sins. He is called the 'Lamb of God'.



I have a special job in the cathedral – I watch over Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel during Adoration. Can you see the bronze figure of me on the gate? Take care - people who pray around me like to be very quiet. Shhhh!!!



Did You Know?

As humans we eat plants and animals to feed our bodies.
Christ feeds us spiritually with his body and blood.

In Westminster Cathedral there are signs and symbols of Christ all around, especially around the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. The animals symbolise Jesus' life, death and resurrection in different ways.

Time to Pray

Lots of worshippers visit Jesus every day to pray
Who/what would you like to pray for?

Holy Family / St Joseph's Chapel

Did you know?

Above the mosaic of the Holy Family there is a dove which is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. The dove is also a symbol of peace.

On the floor there are different Christian symbols including the lamb, fish, peacock and chi-rho (a monogram of Jesus Christ made from the first two letters of Christ in Greek).

How can you be more peaceful/helpful with your family at home?

Draw a Christian symbol here:



It can be really challenging to get on with members of our family, even though we love them. When it is difficult, breathe slowly and say 'Come Holy Spirit'. Pray for your family.



St George and the English Martyrs

Did you know?

Many saints and martyrs were willing to offer their lives in service to Our Lord. These include St Thomas More and St John Fisher.

If you look carefully at the picture you will be able to see them at either side of Christ on the cross. You might also be able to see the outline of the monkey of St Thomas who was known to have kept a small zoo. However the monkey was later removed. Do you think it should have been kept? Why?



Who is your favourite saint?

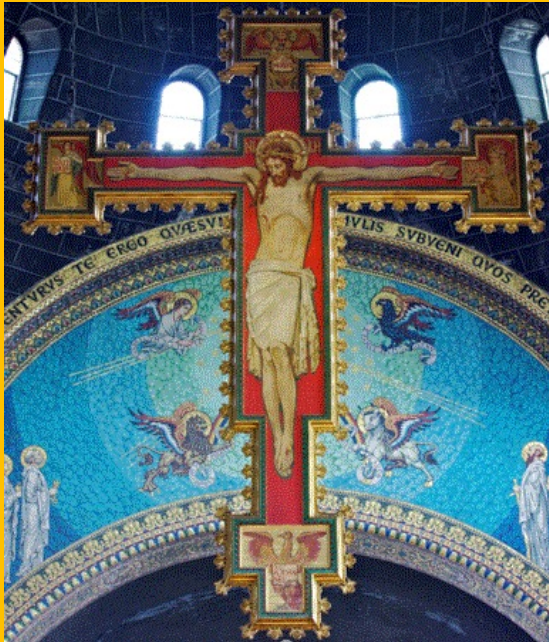
What can you do to live a life in service to Christ and others?

Being a Christian is not easy. In fact, it can be very challenging and involve sacrifice. Jesus is always there to help us with our difficulties, no matter how big or small. Talk to him and ask for his help.

The Cathedral Rood

Gospel writer	Symbol
Matthew	Ox/bull
Mark	Winged man
Luke	Eagle
John	Lion

What animal would best represent you? Why?



Did you know?

This very large cross/crucifix is known as the Great Rood. The figure of Christ is painted canvas on a wooden frame. Symbols of the four Evangelists appear in the end panels. Can you name the Evangelists and then match them to the symbols in the table above? Usually INRI (which is Latin for Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews) is written above Jesus' head on a crucifix. On the Rood, the letters NIKH are written which refer to Jesus being the victor and conquering sin and death on the cross.
What do you think of the Rood?

Our Lord loves us so much that he shed his blood on the cross to save us. The Bible is God's love story for his people. Spend time reflecting on God's immense love for you.

What is your favourite Gospel story or quote? Why?



Goodbye!

Did you know?

Pelicans are known to be kind and charitable, putting others before themselves. According to legend, in times of famine a mother pelican feeds her young with her blood to prevent starvation or to bring them back to life. This cathedral was built to take care of others spiritually. There are charities linked to it including the Passage which takes care of their physical needs too.

As you leave, have a look at the Latin prayer above the door and its meaning (see above) . Offer this prayer to Jesus



It's time to say goodbye...
I hope you enjoyed your time in the cathedral and discovered more about us and Our Lord. Maybe you could come back to visit us and bring some of the other members of your school and family? Animals LOVE to see children, so does Jesus. We can't wait to see you again!

What did you enjoy most about your cathedral visit?

Latin	English
DOMINE JESU REX ET REDEMPTOR PER SANGUINEM TUUM SALVA NOS	Lord Jesus, King and Redeemer, save us by your blood



The Unfinished Ceiling

Imagine you were instructed to design this ceiling or part of it. What would it look like? Write/draw your ideas below:

Animal Hunt

Each animal/plant is a symbol and has a special meaning. Perhaps you could find out about the meaning of some of these at home/in class? Some animals are very well hidden so you need to look carefully! You may even find others that are not included on these lists. Don't worry if you don't find all of them - you can always look another time!

In total there are 74 reptiles, 151 fish, 79 mammals and 224 birds = 573 animals!

Other mammals & birds in the cathedral:

Bear	Blue-tit	Bull/ox
Camel	Cockerel	Deer
Donkey	Dove	Geese
Griffon	Kingfisher	Lamb
Lark	Lion	Magpie
Moorhen	Owl	Pigeons
Sheep/ram	Squirrel	Stork

Other insects, reptiles & fish in the cathedral:

Anemone	Bee	Beetle
Butterfly	Caterpillar	Cod
Crab	Dolphin	Dragonfly
Eel	Grasshopper	Jellyfish
Ladybird	Lobster	Plaice
Ray	Salmon	Sea urchin
Snake	Starfish	Swordfish