

# handout

# Flee Distance



Exploring your world,  
one mission at a time  
[pbskids.org/plumlanding](http://pbskids.org/plumlanding)

## What Is This Activity?

### How well do wild animals in the city get along with people?

Test and compare how close you can get to pigeons, sparrows, seagulls, squirrels, chipmunks, lizards, and other city critters.

**Big Science Idea:** City animals learn to live with people by hiding, by fleeing from them, or by getting used to being around them.



### Activity Time

15–30 minutes

### Materials

- Pen or pencil
- Any city animals you spot: Pigeons, sparrows, starlings, squirrels, lizards, etc.
- Optional: Video or phone camera to document your experiment

## Go Outside

1. **Choose an area** not too close to other people.
2. **Look for an animal at rest** or not too active. Track its location in relation to a tree or another object so you will be able to easily identify the spot it flees from.
3. Whisper to your child to slowly **Ninja Walk (walk quietly) toward it.**
4. **The moment the animal flees,** tell your child to freeze.
5. **Stand on the spot** (or near it) from which the animal fled and measure the distance between you and your child by walking heel-to-toe.  
**Ask an older child** to take charge of the measuring or to take pictures. They can also record and later draw a comparison of the flee distances of each animal, or make a photo slide show or album of the animals at rest and fleeing.
6. **Write the name of the animal and the distance** on the back of this paper.
7. **Test the flee distance** of as many animals as possible; the more data, the better!

## Explore Some More

### Leg Up

“2, 4, 6, 8, who do you appreciate?” With this cheer, launch a city scavenger hunt with your child to find at least one animal with each of these numbers of legs:

- Zero (worms, snakes)
- Two (an easy one since humans are animals!)
- Four (many mammals and reptiles)
- Six (adult insects)
- Eight (spiders)
- More than eight (centipedes, millipedes, roly-poly bugs)

### Outdoor Family Fun with Plum APP

This app gets families outdoors exploring the world. Every day, the app offers five outdoor missions to get everyone thinking and talking about nature and the science that's all around us.

Find the app and more fun resources on [pbskids.org/plumlanding](http://pbskids.org/plumlanding).



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