

FALL

The days are getting shorter and the weather is getting cooler. But for the red fox, that is just fine. It likes to hunt before sunrise and after sunset. Its thick, soft **coat** will keep it plenty warm.





In fall, a red fox hangs out mostly by itself. Its babies have grown up and are on their own. Now is the time for it to focus on food. That's because, even for a master hunter such as a fox, winter can mean slim pickings. And winter is just around the corner.

Make a Splash!

Some animals ignore the rain. Others try to avoid it. And then there are those who love the wet stuff! For these animals, a rainy day brings a chance to mate, a fun mud bath, or a quick trip around the neighborhood.

Crocodiles don't typically seem to mind a good rainstorm. Is it because of their thick, scaly skin, or because they're used to being around so much water? Maybe they just enjoy splashing in the puddles!



These *elephant* calves play happily in a patch of dirt a rainstorm turned into an ooey, gooey mud puddle. Mud helps elephants shed pesky pests.





Have you ever noticed that *earthworms* pop out of the ground when it rains? (You probably try not to squish them when you are walking along the sidewalk.) Earthworms spend most of their lives underground because their bodies dry out in the air. But when rain is falling, they slither up to the surface. Up there, they can travel much faster than underground while still keeping their bodies moist. Of course, being out in the open is risky for juicy worms: robins and other birds may pluck them up for a delicious “tweet.”

UH-OH!
THIS EUROPEAN
ROBIN LOOKS READY
FOR A RAINY-DAY
SNACK!

