

# Purple



**HAVE YOU EVER** seen a **purple** rock? One that you may see someday is a very beautiful rock called amethyst. Each amethyst crystal usually has six sides, which gives it a glittery look.

Something interesting about amethyst is that if it gets very hot, its **purple** color can change to yellow! Sometimes people find plain, round rocks called geodes; and when they cut them open, sometimes they find **purple** amethyst crystals inside.



There are several **purple** fruits, but one that is especially good is grapes. Purple grapes can actually be bluish-**purple, purple**, or reddish-**purple**, but they're all good. Of course grapes are delicious to eat fresh, and they can be used for many other things, too. You've probably had grape jelly on a peanut butter sandwich. Grapes can also be made into a very good juice, and the seeds from grapes can even be used to make oil. You probably like raisins, too. Do you know where they come from? Raisins are dried grapes.



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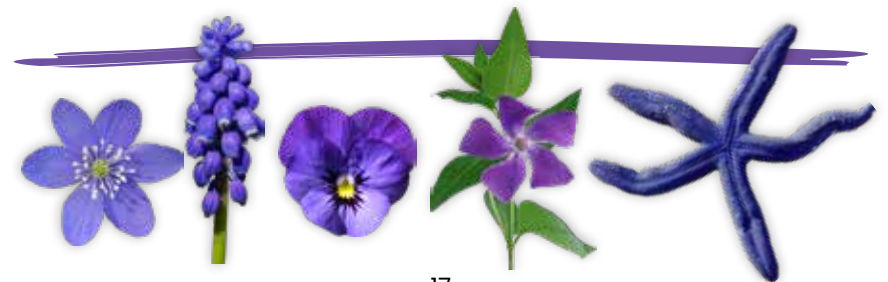
Another **purple** fruit is the plum. Plums are very sweet and juicy. And, like grapes,



plums are very good when they are dried. Do you know what we call dried plums? Prunes!

**There are many other purple things. There are purple starfish, purple butterflies, and many, many different kinds of purple flowers. In some places the purple crocus is one of the first flowers that blooms as winter is ending. Sometimes it even comes up when snow is still on the ground.**

Another **purple** flower that is many people's favorite is the violet. It's a small flower which doesn't grow very big or very high. It's also a simple flower; it doesn't have bright, flashy colors. But it does have a special beauty all its own, and we can learn a lesson from this. Instead of wearing fancy or expensive clothes or jewelry to make ourselves beautiful, the Bible says that our beauty should come from "the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God" (1 Peter 3:4). That kind of beauty lasts forever.



# Rabbits

**IT PROBABLY WASN'T** hard to guess the last animal foot, was it? **Rabbits** are animals we all love. Maybe you have seen wild **rabbits** outside or have pet them in a pet store.



Did you know that besides **rabbits**, there are also animals called hares? Hares are very similar to **rabbits** in many ways, but they are not the same. **Rabbits** are usually smaller than hares, and hares usually have bigger ears.



**Rabbits** and hares are the most different when they are just born. When baby **rabbits** are born, their eyes are closed, and they have very little hair or none at all. Their mother takes care of them for several weeks until they are able to take care of themselves. But baby hares are quite different when they are born. Their eyes are already open and they can

see. They have fur, too; and in just a short time they are ready to leave their nest and take care of themselves.


Both **rabbits** and hares like to eat the same kinds of things like grass, flowers, leaves, buds, bark, and small twigs. Next time you see a **rabbit**, you might like to watch it eat. Can you tell what it is eating?



Have you ever tried to get close to a **rabbit** or a hare? It's hard to do, isn't it? And why is that? Because they have ears that can hear very well and eyes that can see very well. So they can easily see and hear you even before you get very close. That's a good thing. **Rabbits** have many enemies, and being able to see and hear so well helps them to stay safe.



**But just knowing that danger is near isn't enough. If they are not already in a safe place, they need to run very quickly to a place that is safe. Even though they are not very big animals, rabbits and hares have long back legs; and this helps them to run very quickly.**

We can learn a very important lesson from this. When we are in trouble and Satan is tempting us to do something wrong, it is very important to ask Jesus right away to help us. We are not strong enough or wise enough to win against Satan by ourselves. But Jesus is, and He will always help us if we ask Him. 

**Can you guess which animal we will learn about next?**



# Parrots



**DID YOU FIGURE** out what kind of animal has a long, red and blue tail like the one in the picture in the last story? It's one you've probably seen if you've ever been in a pet store. It's a **parrot**.



There are more than three hundred different kinds of **parrots**, and they come in many different sizes. The smallest **parrot** is just three and a half inches long, and the tallest **parrot** is more than three feet long. Another kind of **parrot** called the Kakapo is special because it's the only kind of **parrot** that can't fly, and it's also the heaviest **parrot**. It can weigh as much as a newborn baby!

Many **parrots** are green, but they can have yellow, red, or blue feathers, too. You may have seen different-colored **parrots** in a pet store. Or maybe you have a **parrot** as a pet or know somebody who does. Lots of people have budgies and cockatiels as pets. Budgies are smaller; and they are usually green, yellow, or blue.



Cockatiels are often gray with some yellow and orange on their head.




**All parrots have strong, hooked bills. Do you know why God gave them bills like that? Parrots eat mostly nuts and other seeds, and they need strong bills to crack these things open so they can eat them. Try watching a parrot eat sometime, and you'll be amazed at how strong its bill is.**



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Have you ever heard a talking **parrot**? Some **parrots** may only learn to say a few words, while others may learn lots of words. It can be very strange to hear a bird saying words that people use! How do you think that these **parrots** learned to talk? They learned to say words by trying to copy what people were saying to them. We call that imitation.



Did you know that we need to be imitators, too? The Bible tells us that we should "be imitators of God" (Ephesians 5:1). That means that we should learn all we can about how kind and loving and obedient Jesus was, and then we should try to be just like Him. Do you want to imitate Jesus today? 

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# Honey Bees

**DO YOU LIKE** honey? Probably you do, and so do many other people. The animal's house shown at the end of the last story was not made by the animals that live in it, but by people. And because people like honey, they often make houses like that for those animals.



Can you guess what animal we're talking about? It's honey **bees**. And we call their house a **bee** hive.

Honey **bees** don't live by themselves; lots and lots of them live together in the same **bee** hive. We call that a colony. All the **bees** in the colony work together to do what needs to be done, but they don't all have the same jobs.

You already know that honey is very sticky. So how do the **bees** keep the honey they make without making a big mess? They certainly can't just put their honey in a big, sticky pile on the floor of the hive. That's why some of the **bees** have the job of building something called a comb inside the hive. The comb is made of wax and has lots of little holes or cells where the **bees** can put the honey. As each little cell is filled with honey,



the **bees** put a little cap on it to keep the honey inside.

But where does the honey come from? Other **bees** have the special job of going outside and finding flowers. From the flowers they gather sweet nectar, which they take back to the hive. There the nectar is turned into honey.



**Not all the cells in the comb are used for storing honey, though. Other cells are used as places for the queen bee to lay her eggs.**




**After the eggs hatch, other bees feed and tend the baby bees until they become adults, ready to help the colony.**



There's a lot of work that has to be done in a **beehive**, isn't there?

And all the **bees** have

their part to do. There's a lot

of work to be done in your home, too. And your daddy and mommy need your helping hands. Can you think of ways that you can help? Have you learned to fold the laundry, rinse the dishes, or set the table? Those are things you can do, and how nice it is when everybody works together to do what needs to be done! 

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# Nature Treasure Hunt

## Creation Alphabet

Can you find some things in nature that start with each letter of the alphabet?

<b>A</b>	<b>F</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>G</b>
<b>C</b>	<b>H</b>
<b>D</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>J</b>

“The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the firmament shows His handiwork.”

Psalm 19:1

<b>K</b>	<b>S</b>
<b>L</b>	<b>T</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>U</b>
<b>N</b>	<b>V</b>
<b>O</b>	<b>W</b>
<b>P</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Q</b>	<b>Y</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>Z</b>