

# National Animals

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Hi, everyone! For today's English Extravaganza, I will be talking about national animals from around the world. For example, as some of you may know, the Bald Eagle is the national animal of the United States. Well, did you know that the lion is the most popular national animal in the world, with at least a dozen countries claiming it as their national animal?



Each country usually picks an animal that can only be found in that area. Many African countries pick elephants, lions, or gazelle(ガゼル) as their national animal. Tanzania's is the giraffe! In colder climates, like some parts of Europe, countries choose animals that are built for the cold weather, like wolves and foxes. Russia, for example, picked the bear! Countries that have a tropical climate usually choose colorful birds or even leopards(ヒョウ), like Brazil!

Some animals can only be found in a particular country so it's easy for those places to pick their national animal. For instance, Australia's national animal is the kangaroo and China's is the giant panda. There's the camel in Saudi Arabia and the humpback whale(ザトウクジラ) in Bermuda. New Zealand has the kiwi bird and Indonesia has the komodo dragon!



Some countries chose mythical(神話の、架空の) creatures as their national animal, meaning that we have never seen a real one. The unicorn is Scotland's national animal and it looks like a horse with a horn(角) growing from its head. Nearby, in the country of Wales, the dragon is used as the national symbol. Finally, in North Korea is the Chollima, which looks like a horse with big wings. Well, I hope you enjoyed learning about some of the national animals from around the world! I'll be back next week!

