

The Tale of the Mandarin Duck



Discover wonder
with your own two eyes!



Dear Reader,

How do you get people to appreciate what's right in front of them? Well, in *The Tale of the Mandarin Duck*, it takes a mysterious, beautiful duck and a clear-eyed kid to point out the obvious! You'll find lots of exciting activities in this packet that'll make you want to discover wonder in your OWN community!

Inspired by the real-life rainbow-colored Mandarin duck who appeared in New York's Central Park, *The Tale of the Mandarin Duck* by **Bette Midler** celebrates the connections people make with each other and the world around them. It features striking photos of the duck by **Michiko Kakutani** and charming black-and-white drawings by **Joana Avillez**.

Happy reading!

Your friends,



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What Duck?

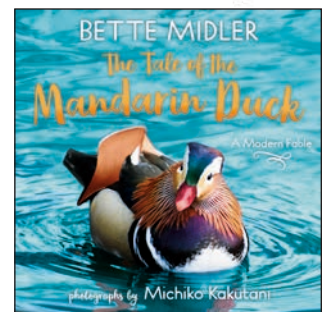
The New Yorkers are hustling and bustling through Central Park, and they don't even see the Mandarin duck in front of them! Can you spot it? Once you have found the duck, color the scene!



Answer:



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Art by Joana Avillez © 2021 by Miss M. Productions.

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Wonder in Your Own World

In *The Tale of the Mandarin Duck*, New Yorkers look up from their devices and discover the beauty of their surroundings.

What does your community look like?

Are there lots of wide-open fields or tall buildings?

Bumblebees buzzing around or peculiar pigeons people-watching from fire escapes?

Ask a grown-up to join you on this scavenger hunt and mark off what you find!



☐ A fluffy cloud



☐ A green leaf



☐ Grass



☐ A stop sign



☐ A tiny dog



☐ A fallen tree branch



☐ A big rock



☐ A bug



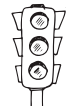
☐ A sidewalk



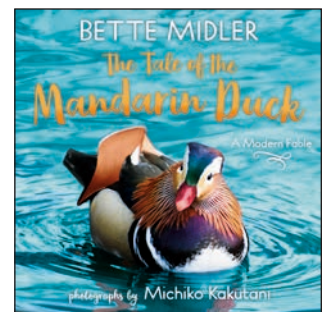
☐ A bird (or duck!)



☐ A tall tree



☐ A traffic light





Whose Habitat?

As you walk around a park, you will notice many animals living near each other, but they don't all share the same habitat. Some live in the pond; some live in the trees; others live in the grass. Draw a line between each animal and its habitat.

Ask your family and friends what their surroundings look like—what animals are there, etc.—to encourage the human connection that is so important.



Duck



Grass



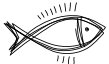
Squirrel



Ant



Pond



Fish



Worm

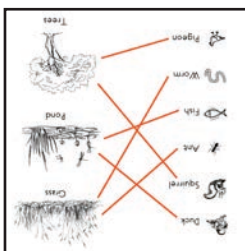


Trees

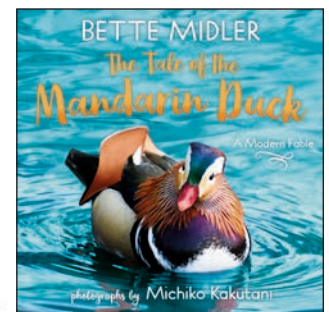


Pigeon

Answer:



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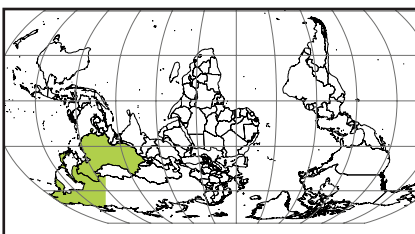


Around the World with the Mandarin Duck

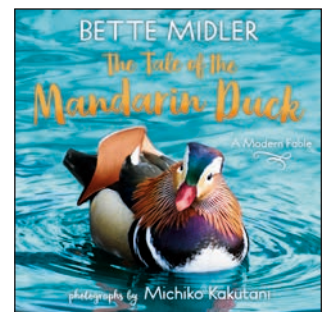
The Mandarin duck took a long journey to the pond in Central Park! Its native habitat is in China, Japan, and eastern Russia. With the help of a grown-up, find those countries on the map and color them in. Then find New York and notice the distance. How do you think the Mandarin duck got to New York?



Answer:



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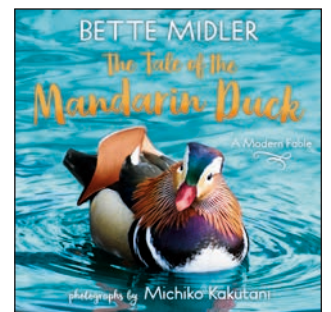
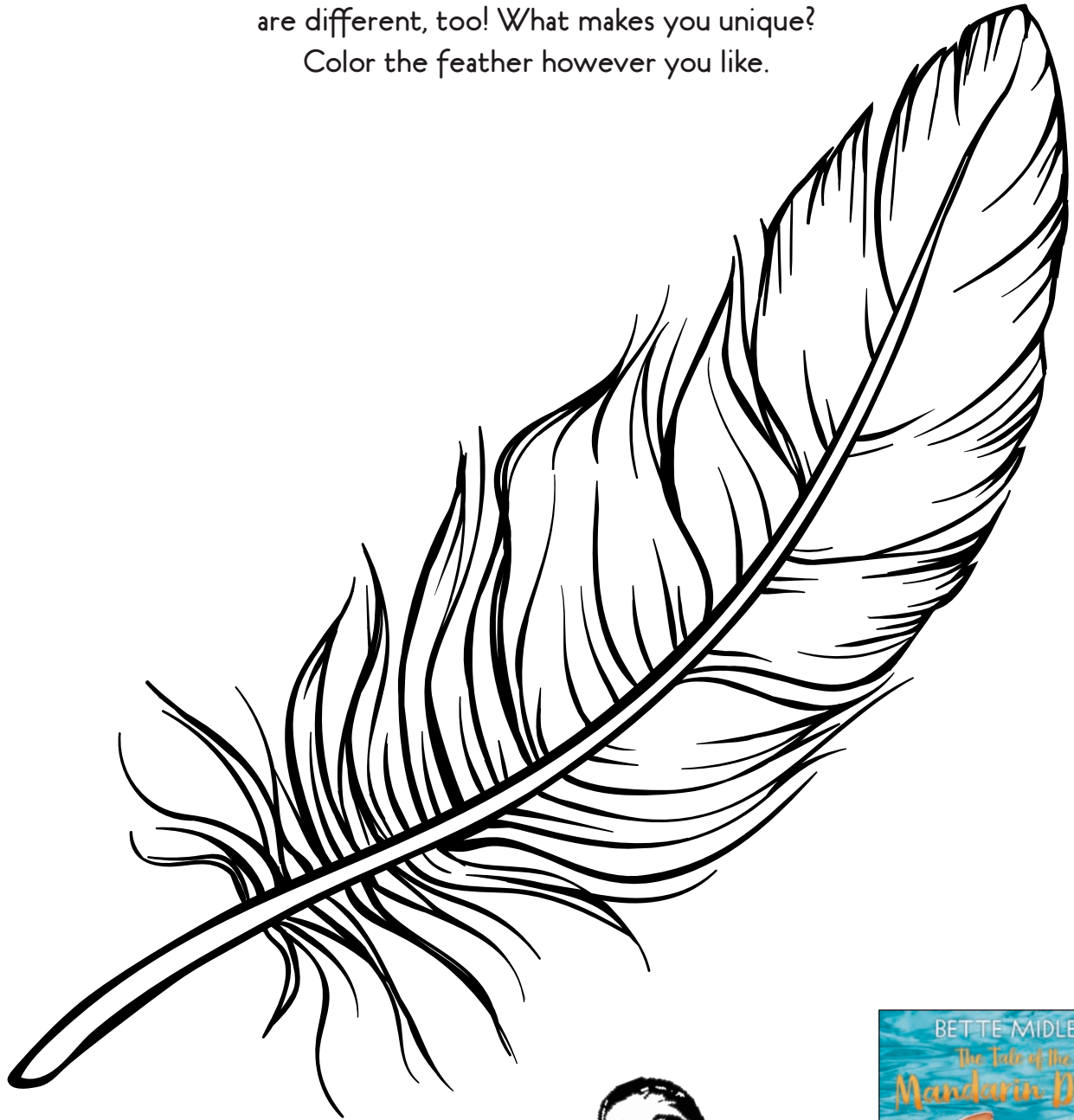
Art by Joana Avillez © 2021 by Miss M. Productions.

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Uniquely You

All ducks are different, but the Mandarin duck stands out because of its unique feathers. All people are different, too! What makes you unique?
Color the feather however you like.



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