

# JONAH

## 1

### God sends Jonah to the city of Nineveh

<sup>1</sup> The \*Lord talked to Jonah, who was the \*son of Amittai. The Lord said to Jonah: <sup>2</sup> ‘You must get up and go to the big city of Nineveh. Tell the people they must stop doing bad things. I have seen the many <sup>a</sup>sins that the people are doing there and I am going to <sup>b</sup>punish them.’

<sup>3</sup> But Jonah wanted to get far away from God. He went to the city of Joppa. There he \*got into a <sup>c</sup>boat that was going to <sup>d</sup>sail to the city of <sup>e</sup>Tarshish. Jonah paid the money to get into the boat. He wanted to get far away from God.

### The <sup>f</sup>seamen <sup>g</sup>throw Jonah into the sea

<sup>4</sup> Then God sent a very strong wind over the sea. The wind was so strong that it became a <sup>h</sup>storm on the sea and the <sup>i</sup>boat nearly broke

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<sup>a</sup>**sins:** bad things that people do \*which God hates.

<sup>b</sup>**punish:** to make someone \*suffer because he has done wrong or to make him stop doing it. [\*drawing # 54]

<sup>c</sup>**boat:** something that people get into when they go over a river or into the sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>d</sup>**sail:** to ride on a \*boat that moves forward when the wind blows. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>e</sup>**Tarshish:** a city that was near the \*land of Spain, far away from Nineveh.

<sup>f</sup>**seamen:** men who work on a \*boat at sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>g</sup>**throw:** when I throw a stone at you, it goes from my hand to you. [\*drawing # 110]

<sup>h</sup>**storm:** strong winds that blow and \*destroy everything. [\*drawing # 160]

<sup>i</sup>**boat:** something that people get into when they go over a river or into the sea. [\*drawing # 96]

into <sup>j</sup>pieces. <sup>5</sup> The <sup>k</sup>seamen who worked on the <sup>l</sup>boat were <sup>m</sup>afraid and everyone <sup>n</sup>prayed to the <sup>o</sup>god that he always prayed to and asked his god to help them.

They <sup>\*</sup>took everything that was on the boat and they threw it into the sea so that the boat was not so heavy. But Jonah was sleeping where the other people <sup>\*</sup>could not see him. <sup>6</sup> The <sup>p</sup>captain of the <sup>q</sup>boat <sup>\*</sup>saw that Jonah was sleeping and he asked Jonah: ‘Why are you sleeping? Get up and <sup>r</sup>pray to your God. Ask Him to help us. If your God will think about us and help us, then we will not die.’

<sup>7</sup> Then the men said: ‘We must find out why this <sup>s</sup>trouble came to us. Why did the <sup>t</sup>storm come? Let us <sup>u</sup>draw\_lots, then we will see who did something wrong.’

They <sup>v</sup>drew\_lots and it showed that it was Jonah who did something wrong and that was why the storm came to them. <sup>8</sup> The <sup>w</sup>seamen asked Jonah: ‘Tell us, is it you who made all these problems for us? What are

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<sup>j</sup>**pieces:** small parts that are <sup>\*</sup>left over after something is broken. [\*drawing # 103]

<sup>k</sup>**seamen:** men who work on a <sup>\*</sup>boat at sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>l</sup>**boat:** something that people get into when they go over a river or into the sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>m</sup>**afraid:** to worry because you think something bad will happen.

<sup>n</sup>**pray:** to ask an <sup>\*</sup>idol or one of the <sup>\*</sup>gods for help. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>o</sup>**god:** an <sup>\*</sup>idol that people made and <sup>\*</sup>prayed to. [\*drawing # 25]

<sup>p</sup>**captain:** the <sup>\*</sup>leader of the <sup>\*</sup>seamen who work on a <sup>\*</sup>boat.

<sup>q</sup>**boat:** something that people get into when they go over a river or into the sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>r</sup>**pray:** talk to God and ask Him for help. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>s</sup>**trouble:** big problems.

<sup>t</sup>**storm:** strong winds that blow and <sup>\*</sup>destroy everything. [\*drawing # 160]

<sup>u</sup>**draw\_lots:** how people asked their <sup>\*</sup>gods to show them who did something wrong.

<sup>v</sup>**drew\_lots:** how people asked their <sup>\*</sup>gods to show them who did something wrong.

<sup>w</sup>**seamen:** men who work on a <sup>\*</sup>boat at sea. [\*drawing # 96]

you doing? Where do you come from? Where is your home, and your <sup>x</sup>land? Who are your people?’

<sup>9</sup> Jonah told the men: ‘I am a <sup>y</sup>Hebrew man. I <sup>z</sup>worship the \*Lord, the God of <sup>a</sup>heaven. He made the world, the sea and the <sup>b</sup>land.’

<sup>10</sup> Jonah also told them that he was running away from God. The <sup>c</sup>seamen became <sup>d</sup>afraid when they heard what Jonah said. They said to Jonah: ‘Do you \*know what you have done? You have done a very bad thing.’

<sup>11</sup> The wind and the <sup>e</sup>waves of the sea became bigger and bigger and the <sup>f</sup>seamen asked Jonah: ‘What must we do to make the sea still and <sup>g</sup>calm again?’

<sup>12</sup> Jonah told them: ‘You must <sup>h</sup>throw me into the sea, then the sea will become still and <sup>i</sup>calm again. I \*know that it is my <sup>j</sup>fault that this wind and big <sup>k</sup>storm has come to us.’

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<sup>x</sup>**land:** the \*country of \*Israel \*which God gave to his people. [\*map # 2]

<sup>y</sup>**Hebrews:** \*Israelites, the people of God in the \*Old Testament. [\*map # 2]

<sup>z</sup>**worship:** to \*pray to God, to \*praise and \*serve Him. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>a</sup>**heaven:** where the \*throne of God is, where his \*angels \*worship Him.

<sup>b</sup>**land:** the \*ground, the dry parts of the world, not the sea. [\*drawing # 98]

<sup>c</sup>**seamen:** men who work on a \*boat at sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>d</sup>**afraid:** to worry because you think something bad will happen.

<sup>e</sup>**wave:** the water in the sea that goes up and down near the \*beach. [\*drawing # 160]

<sup>f</sup>**seamen:** men who work on a \*boat at sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>g</sup>**calm:** still and \*peaceful, with no \*noise or problems.

<sup>h</sup>**throw:** when I throw a stone at you, it goes from my hand to you. [\*drawing # 110]

<sup>i</sup>**calm:** still and \*peaceful, with no \*noise or problems.

<sup>j</sup>**fault:** something that is wrong or a \*sin that someone has done.

<sup>k</sup>**storm:** strong winds that blow and \*destroy everything. [\*drawing # 160]

<sup>13</sup> But the <sup>l</sup>seamen did not want to <sup>m</sup>throw Jonah into the sea. They tried hard to get the <sup>n</sup>boat back to the <sup>o</sup>land, but the wind was too strong and the <sup>p</sup>waves on the sea were too big. The <sup>q</sup>storm \*got bigger and bigger and they \*could not get the boat to the land. <sup>14</sup> Then the <sup>r</sup>seamen who worked on the <sup>s</sup>boat <sup>t</sup>prayed and said: ‘O \*Lord, please do not <sup>u</sup>cause us to die because of this man. We are going to <sup>v</sup>throw him into the sea. Please do not <sup>w</sup>punish us if he is <sup>x</sup>innocent. We \*know that You are God. We know that You can do what You want to do.’

<sup>15</sup> Then they \*took Jonah and they <sup>y</sup>threw him into the sea. The wind

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<sup>l</sup>**seamen:** men who work on a \*boat at sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>m</sup>**throw:** when I throw a stone at you, it goes from my hand to you. [\*drawing # 110]

<sup>n</sup>**boat:** something that people get into when they go over a river or into the sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>o</sup>**land:** the \*ground, the dry parts of the world, not the sea. [\*drawing # 98]

<sup>p</sup>**wave:** the water in the sea that goes up and down near the \*beach. [\*drawing # 160]

<sup>q</sup>**storm:** strong winds that blow and \*destroy everything. [\*drawing # 160]

<sup>r</sup>**seamen:** men who work on a \*boat at sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>s</sup>**boat:** something that people get into when they go over a river or into the sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>t</sup>**pray:** talk to God and ask Him for help. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>u</sup>**cause:** to make something happen.

<sup>v</sup>**throw:** when I throw a stone at you, it goes from my hand to you. [\*drawing # 110]

<sup>w</sup>**punish:** to make someone \*suffer because he has done wrong or to make him stop doing it. [\*drawing # 54]

<sup>x</sup>**innocent:** when a person has not done anything wrong, he is not \*guilty.

<sup>y</sup>**threw:** today I \*throw a stone at you, yesterday I threw a stone. [\*drawing # 110]

and the <sup>z</sup>storm stopped. The sea became still and <sup>a</sup>calm again. <sup>16</sup> When the <sup>b</sup>seamen \*saw this, they started to <sup>c</sup>fear the \*Lord. They <sup>d</sup>sacrificed\_offerings to the Lord and they <sup>e</sup>promised to <sup>f</sup>pray to Him and to <sup>g</sup>serve Him.

<sup>17</sup> God sent a big fish to <sup>h</sup>swallow Jonah and Jonah was inside the fish for 3 days and 3 nights.

## 2

### Jonah <sup>i</sup>prays to the \*Lord

<sup>1</sup> Jonah was inside the fish and he <sup>j</sup>prayed and talked to the \*Lord his God. <sup>2</sup> Jonah said:

‘I was in big <sup>k</sup>trouble.

I asked the \*Lord to help me,

and He listened to me and He answered me.

I was <sup>l</sup>almost dead,

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<sup>z</sup>**storm:** strong winds that blow and \*destroy everything. [\*drawing # 160]

<sup>a</sup>**calm:** still and \*peaceful, with no \*noise or problems.

<sup>b</sup>**seamen:** men who work on a \*boat at sea. [\*drawing # 96]

<sup>c</sup>**fear:** to \*respect God, \*obey and \*worship Him.

<sup>d</sup>**sacrifice\_offering:** to give a \*gift to God to thank Him or \*pray to Him.

[\*drawing # 1]

<sup>e</sup>**promise to God:** to tell God that you will do something for Him.

<sup>f</sup>**pray:** talk to God and ask Him for help. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>g</sup>**serve:** to \*believe in God and do what He says.

<sup>h</sup>**swallow:** to make your food go from your mouth down to your \*stomach when you eat.

<sup>i</sup>**pray:** talk to God and ask Him for help. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>j</sup>**pray:** talk to God and ask Him for help. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>k</sup>**trouble:** big problems.

<sup>l</sup>**almost:** to be near something, but you are not there \*yet. [\*drawing # 176]

but I asked You to help me, o Lord,  
and You heard what I said.

<sup>3</sup> You <sup>m</sup>threw me into the deep water.

I went down to the deepest part of the sea,  
and the water was all <sup>n</sup>around me.

Big and strong <sup>o</sup>waves of water came over me.

<sup>4</sup> It looked to me as if You had <sup>p</sup>thrown me away  
and that You did not want to see me again.

But I was sure that I <sup>\*</sup>would see your <sup>q</sup>holy <sup>\*</sup>temple again.

<sup>5</sup> The water was <sup>r</sup>around me,  
and I was <sup>s</sup>drowning.

I <sup>t</sup>fell deep down into the sea,  
and the water was over me.

<sup>u</sup>Seaweed was round my head.

<sup>6</sup> I was in the deepest part of the sea,  
where the <sup>v</sup>mountains <sup>w</sup>begin.

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<sup>m</sup>**threw**: today I <sup>\*</sup>throw a stone at you, yesterday I threw a stone. [\*drawing # 110]

<sup>n</sup>**around**: on all sides of something or someone. [\*drawing # 7]

<sup>o</sup>**wave**: the water in the sea that goes up and down near the <sup>\*</sup>beach. [\*drawing # 160]

<sup>p</sup>**throw away**: when you don't keep something, you don't want it anymore. [\*drawing # 110]

<sup>q</sup>**holy**: someone or something that <sup>\*</sup>belongs only to God, He can use it in a <sup>\*</sup>special way.

<sup>r</sup>**around**: on all sides of something or someone. [\*drawing # 7]

<sup>s</sup>**drown**: to go down into water and not come up again, and die. [\*drawing # 160]

<sup>t</sup>**fell**: today something falls to the <sup>\*</sup>ground, yesterday it fell. [\*drawing # 81]

<sup>u</sup>**seaweed**: a long <sup>\*</sup>plant that <sup>\*</sup>grows in the sea. [\*drawing # 161]

<sup>v</sup>**mountain**: where the <sup>\*</sup>ground is not flat, it goes up high. [\*drawing # 156]

<sup>w</sup>**begin**: start, when something happens for the first time.

It looked to me as if the <sup>x</sup>earth had <sup>y</sup>tied me up  
and it <sup>\*</sup>would keep me there <sup>z</sup>forever.

But you, o <sup>\*</sup>Lord my God,  
<sup>a</sup>saved me and I did not die.

<sup>7</sup> I did not <sup>b</sup>hope that I <sup>\*</sup>would live anymore,  
but then I remembered You  
and I talked to You and <sup>c</sup>prayed to You, o <sup>\*</sup>Lord.

And in your <sup>d</sup>holy <sup>\*</sup>temple,  
You listened to my prayer.

<sup>8</sup> People who <sup>e</sup>bow down before  
other <sup>f</sup>gods and <sup>g</sup>worship\_idols  
do not love You, o <sup>\*</sup>Lord.

<sup>9</sup> But I will give an <sup>h</sup>offering to You.

I will <sup>i</sup>pray to You,  
and I will thank You.

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<sup>x</sup>**earth:** the world, the <sup>\*</sup>land and sea. [\*drawing # 172]

<sup>y</sup>**tie:** to put <sup>\*</sup>ropes <sup>\*</sup>around something or a person so that he can not go away.  
[\*drawing # 84]

<sup>z</sup>**forever:** it will go on and on, it will never stop.

<sup>a</sup>**save:** when God or someone helps you when you have big problems.

<sup>b</sup>**hope:** to wish that something <sup>\*</sup>would happen, something that you want to happen.

<sup>c</sup>**pray:** talk to God and ask Him for help. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>d</sup>**holy:** someone or something that <sup>\*</sup>belongs only to God, He can use it in a  
<sup>\*</sup>special way.

<sup>e</sup>**bow:** to bend your body down to the <sup>\*</sup>ground to <sup>\*</sup>worship an <sup>\*</sup>idol. [\*drawing # 25]

<sup>f</sup>**gods:** <sup>\*</sup>idols that people made and <sup>\*</sup>prayed to. [\*drawing # 25]

<sup>g</sup>**worship\_idols:** to <sup>\*</sup>pray to <sup>\*</sup>idols or <sup>\*</sup>false <sup>\*</sup>gods and think they will help you.  
[\*drawing # 25]

<sup>h</sup>**offering:** a <sup>\*</sup>special <sup>\*</sup>gift that people give to God to thank Him or <sup>\*</sup>pray to Him.  
[\*drawing # 1]

<sup>i</sup>**pray:** talk to God and ask Him for help. [\*drawing # 16]

I have made a <sup>j</sup>promise  
and I will do what I have said.  
It is the \*Lord who <sup>k</sup>saves people.’

<sup>10</sup> Then the \*Lord told the fish to <sup>l</sup>spit Jonah out on the <sup>m</sup>land and the fish did what the Lord said.

### 3

#### Jonah goes to the city of Nineveh

<sup>1</sup> The \*Lord talked to Jonah again and said: <sup>2</sup> ‘You must go to the big city of Nineveh. You must tell those people what I said to you.’

<sup>3</sup> Jonah did what the \*Lord said and he went to Nineveh. Nineveh was a very big city. If a person walked from one side of the city to the other side, he walked for 3 days. <sup>4</sup> Jonah walked into the city for one day, and he told the people: ‘After 40 days God will <sup>n</sup>punish all the people of Nineveh and He will <sup>o</sup>destroy the city.’

<sup>5</sup> The people of Nineveh <sup>p</sup>believed the words and the <sup>q</sup>message that God gave to Jonah. They stopped doing things that are wrong and they <sup>r</sup>fasted. They \*took off their clothes and put on <sup>s</sup>sack-cloth. This was to

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<sup>j</sup>**promise:** your words when you say that people can \*believe you.

<sup>k</sup>**save:** when God or someone helps you when you have big problems.

<sup>l</sup>**spit:** to blow out the water and things in your mouth.

<sup>m</sup>**land:** the \*ground, the dry parts where the sea stops.

<sup>n</sup>**punish:** to make someone \*suffer because he has done wrong or to make him stop doing it. [\*drawing # 54]

<sup>o</sup>**destroy:** to kill the people and break everything. [\*drawing # 103]

<sup>p</sup>**believe:** to think that someone is telling the \*truth and not \*lying.

<sup>q</sup>**message:** the words of God that a \*prophet or someone tells people.

<sup>r</sup>**fast:** when people do not eat or drink for a few days, to \*pray.

<sup>s</sup>**sack-cloth:** a dress made of \*rough \*material that people put on to show that they were \*sad. [\*drawing # 50]



show that they felt sorry because they had <sup>t</sup>sinned so much. All the people in the city, <sup>u</sup>even the <sup>v</sup>important people, felt sorry because they had done wrong. <sup>6</sup> The \*king of Nineveh heard what Jonah said. He <sup>w</sup>got up from his <sup>x</sup>throne, and he <sup>\*</sup>took off his beautiful <sup>y</sup>royal clothes. He put on <sup>z</sup>sack-cloth and he sat on the <sup>a</sup>ash-heap. <sup>7</sup> Then the \*king and his <sup>b</sup>important people made a <sup>c</sup>law and he told all the people of Nineveh: ‘No person may eat food or drink anything. All the people and their animals must <sup>d</sup>fast. <sup>8</sup> All the people must put on <sup>e</sup>sack-cloth. Their animals must also have on sack-cloth. All the people must <sup>f</sup>pray to God and they must stop all the bad things and <sup>g</sup>sins that they are doing. <sup>9</sup> Maybe God will change his plan and feel sorry for us. Maybe He will stop being angry with us and not <sup>h</sup>punish us, so we will not die.’

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<sup>t</sup>**sinned:** when someone has done bad things \*which God hates.

<sup>u</sup>**even:** also or more than the other.

<sup>v</sup>**important:** people who can tell other people what they must do.

<sup>w</sup>**got up:** today you stand or get up, yesterday you got up. [\*drawing # 49]

<sup>x</sup>**throne:** the beautiful chair that a \*king sits on. [\*drawing # 27]

<sup>y</sup>**royal:** the things that \*belong to a \*king or \*queen are royal. [\*drawing # 27]

<sup>z</sup>**sack-cloth:** a dress made of \*rough \*material that people put on to show that they were \*sad. [\*drawing # 50]

<sup>a</sup>**ash-heap:** a place where people \*throw away and burn things they do not want. [\*drawing # 110]

<sup>b</sup>**important:** people who can tell other people what they must do.

<sup>c</sup>**law:** a \*rule that a \*king has made, everyone must do what the law says.

<sup>d</sup>**fast:** when people do not eat or drink for a few days, to \*pray.

<sup>e</sup>**sack-cloth:** a dress made of \*rough \*material that people put on to show that they were \*sad. [\*drawing # 50]

<sup>f</sup>**pray:** talk to God and ask Him for help. [\*drawing # 16]

<sup>g</sup>**sins:** bad things that people do \*which God hates.

<sup>h</sup>**punish:** to make someone \*suffer because he has done wrong or to make him stop doing it. [\*drawing # 54]

<sup>10</sup> God \*saw that the people of Nineveh had stopped doing bad things and then God felt sorry for them and He did not <sup>i</sup>punish them as He had planned.

## 4

### Jonah is angry because God did not <sup>j</sup>punish the people

<sup>1</sup> Jonah was very angry and <sup>k</sup>upset. <sup>2</sup> He said to the \*Lord: ‘Lord, before I went away from my home, I <sup>l</sup>knew that You \*would do this. I knew that You would <sup>m</sup>forgive these people and You would not think of all the bad things that they had done. That is why I went away to the city of Tarshish. I knew that You are a good and <sup>n</sup>patient God. I knew that You are full of love and You do not want to <sup>o</sup>punish people. I knew that You would be ready to change your plans and that You would not punish these people. <sup>3</sup> Now, Lord, You must let me die. It is better for me to be dead than to live. I do not want to live anymore.’

<sup>4</sup> But God said to Jonah: ‘Do you think it is right for you to be angry? No, you are wrong.’

<sup>5</sup> Jonah went out of the city. He sat down <sup>p</sup>east of the city. He made a

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<sup>i</sup>**punish:** to make someone \*suffer because he has done wrong or to make him stop doing it. [\*drawing # 54]

<sup>j</sup>**punish:** to make someone \*suffer because he has done wrong or to make him stop doing it. [\*drawing # 54]

<sup>k</sup>**upset:** to be angry or \*sad because something bad has happened.

<sup>l</sup>**knew:** today I \*know, I have seen it or learned about it, yesterday I knew.

<sup>m</sup>**forgive:** when God \*decides not to \*punish people for the \*sins that they have done.

<sup>n</sup>**patient:** when you don't get angry or \*discouraged \*quickly.

<sup>o</sup>**punish:** to make someone \*suffer because he has done wrong or to make him stop doing it. [\*drawing # 54]

<sup>p</sup>**east:** the side where the sun comes up in the morning. [\*drawing # 180]

<sup>4</sup>shelter of <sup>1</sup>branches for himself. He sat in the <sup>5</sup>shade of the shelter and he waited to see what \*would happen to the city. <sup>6</sup> God made a <sup>1</sup>plant \*grow up near Jonah. This plant made better shade and Jonah did not have to sit in the hot sun. Jonah was very happy that the plant came to give him some shade. <sup>7</sup> But the next morning when the sun came up and started to shine, God sent a <sup>u</sup>worm that started to eat the plant and the plant died. <sup>8</sup> When the sun started to get hot, God sent a hot <sup>v</sup>eastern wind. The hot wind and sun on Jonah's head made him feel very sick. Jonah felt he wanted to die. He was not happy and he said: 'It is better for me to be dead than to live.'

<sup>9</sup> But God said to Jonah: 'Do you think it is right to be angry about the <sup>w</sup>plant that died?'

Jonah answered and said: 'Yes, I am very angry. I am so angry that I want to die.'

<sup>10</sup> Then God said: 'You did not work to make that plant \*grow. The plant started to grow up in the night and it died in the night and now you say you feel sorry that the plant has died. <sup>11</sup> But you say I must not feel sorry for all the people of Nineveh. You are wrong. It is a very big city. More than 120 000 people live here and they do not \*know what is right and what is wrong. There are also a lot of animals that live here and I feel sorry for them all.'

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<sup>4</sup>**shelter:** a few \*branches of a tree put together to give \*shade. [\*drawing # 92]

<sup>1</sup>**branch:** part of the tree that the \*leaves and \*fruit hang from. [\*drawing # 170]

<sup>5</sup>**shade:** where you are away from the light of the sun, like under a tree.

[\*drawing # 102]

<sup>1</sup>**plant:** something that \*grows out of the \*ground, like a flower. [\*drawing # 166]

<sup>u</sup>**worms:** small \*insects, some eat \*plants or \*fruit, some eat meat. [\*drawing # 123]

<sup>v</sup>**eastern:** the side where the sun comes up in the morning. [\*drawing # 180]

<sup>w</sup>**plant:** something that \*grows out of the \*ground, like a flower. [\*drawing # 166]