

This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. To celebrate the second week of the Summer Reading program, we are going to make our own game of Tic Tac Toe. Sometimes, we look at many different animals without really looking at the different parts of the animal. Animal tails have very important uses to protect, propel, or even fan away insects. Fish tails help in moving through the water, some lizards can detach their tail to distract predators, and some deer will flash their tails to warn other deer of danger. If you see the tail of a skunk go up, you had better run away-fast!



1-Begin by making a rectangle on a piece of cardboard or heavy paper. Draw two lines evenly spaced across the rectangle and two lines from top to bottom evenly spaced. You should have three boxes across and three rows of boxes down. Do the same on another piece of cardboard or paper. Draw a border around the edges of one board and decorate or color as you like. The second board will be cut into nine smaller rectangles. Now, choose two different animals with very distinct tails. Draw the first one on five of the rectangles and draw the second tail choice on the other four. Color each one. You can write the word of the animal on the card also. Some good choices are monkey, skunk, rabbit, horse, or even pig.

2-You are ready to play **Tic Tac Tail**! You can decide who will go first-maybe the youngest person. Choose your tail and keep all the same tails in a pile in front of you. The first player lays a tail on the one of the nine boxes. The second player has the other set of tails in front of them. After the first player has laid a tail down, the second player lays one of their tails on the board. They will try to either block the first player from creating a row of three, or focus on creating three in a row themselves. Continue to take turns laying down cards until someone can get three in a row or all pieces of been used without a winner. The player who is able to fill three boxes in a row across, up and down, or diagonally through the center box to get **Tic Tac Tail**, must report the win by yelling, "Tic, Tac, Tail" and the name of the animal on their cards. If you had the last card in the picture above, you would yell, "**Tic Tac Tail Lizard**"!

Have a wild time!

Ms. Susan

