

9 The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle

- A** Read the passage from *Doctor Dolittle* by Hugh Lofting and then answer the questions.

The Voyages of Doctor Dolittle – Chapter VIII

"Well that," said Polynesia, brushing some crumbs off the corner of the table with her left foot, – "that is what you call powers of observation – noticing the small things about birds and animals: the way they walk and move their heads and flip their wings; the way they sniff the air and twitch their whiskers and wiggle their tails. You have to notice all those little things if you want to learn animal language. For you see, lots of the animals hardly talk at all with their tongues; they use their breath or their tails or their feet instead. That is because many of them, in the olden days when lions and tigers were more plentiful, were afraid to make a noise for fear the savage creatures heard them. Birds, of course, didn't care; for they always had wings to fly away with. But that is the first thing to remember: being a good noticer is terribly important in learning animal language."

- 1 Which things does Polynesia say must be noticed about animals?

Tick the boxes.

- 1 the way animals walk ☐
- 2 the way animals move their tails ☐
- 3 the way animals move their heads ☐
- 4 the way animals blink their eyes ☐
- 5 the way animals twitch their whiskers ☐

- 2 Why do lots of animals hardly talk with their tongues?

- 3 Why did birds not mind so much?
