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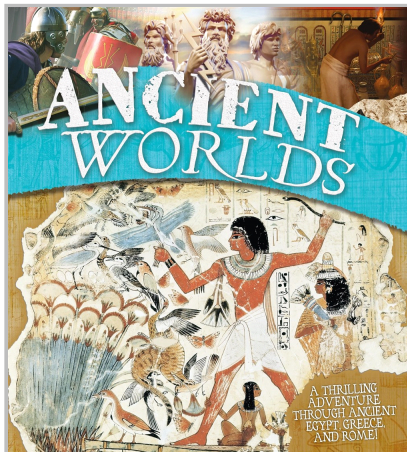
Winter 2016



MIRANDA SMITH AND PHILIP STEELE

Ancient Worlds

A thrilling adventure through the ancient worlds

**JANUARY**

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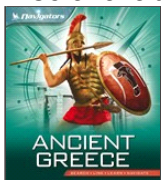
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This 80-page reference guide pulls together the very best material from the individual titles in the highly successful *Navigators* information book series. There are 16 *Navigators* titles covering topics from history, geography, the natural world, and technology.

Miranda Smith is a long-standing contributor to information books for both children and adults. She has particular interest in the field of natural history and has written books and articles for children on the subject. **Philip Steele** is an experienced writer and editor who has been writing books for children and adults on a wide range of topics including history, geography and cultural and social themes, for over 20 years. He lives in North Wales, United Kingdom.

MARKETING

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12 ANCIENT WORLDS

SCRIBE STORY

ANCIENT EGYPT 13

KEY

- Nebamun stands on a small papyrus boat, in his left hand is a snake-headed flowering stick, which is being used to beat waterfowl.
- Nebamun, Nebamun's wife, is dressed in her finest clothes and covered with lotus flowers and a perfume cone. She is ready for her journey into the afterlife.
- Nebamun's daughter sits between his legs, picking lotus flowers. Her youth is shown by the lack of clothes and the unbraided tangle of hair.
- A lotus cat attacks several birds. The gold leaf on the cat's ear suggests that it represents the sun-god Ra, who was reborn every day of dawn.
- Nebamun's white kilt and overalls are made of lotus stems to represent his wealth. His stomach has small rolls of fat to further indicate his prosperity.
- A red goose, an animal sacred to Amun, sits on the prow of the boat.
- On the top of a black clump of papyrus stands a small pharaoh that were used to make paper for coffins—see these men containing birds' eggs.
- The papyrus puffer fish is still found in the Nile River today.

Hieroglyphs
Egyptians created names for everything in their world using picture symbols called hieroglyphs. Here, Raibwag, a prince of the 4th Dynasty, is seated in front of a table on which there are offerings to sustain him in the afterlife. These gifts, including incense, eye paint, wine, and dates, are described in the hieroglyphs.

The Painter
These six cups were found by the side of a mummy nicknamed "the Painter" during an excavation at Hierakonpolis. They are made of clay from the Nile River. The paintbrush is made from fine palm fibers cut at one end, and there are traces of red pigment on the end of the brush.

"Egyptian blue" pigment is a human-made copper sulfate silicate.

The ancient Egyptians believed that carving a name could help a person live forever.

38 ANCIENT WORLDS

GODS OF OLYMPUS

ANCIENT GREECE 39

Hephaestus
god of fire, handicrafts, and forging

Athena
goddess of love and beauty, whose mother was a dove

Dionysus
god of wine and drama, who was worshipped at wild festivals

Ares
god of war and a bloodthirsty warrior, whose father was Zeus

Hera
wife of Zeus and queen of the gods, who was also the goddess of marriage

Posidon
god of the sea, earthquakes, and horses, often shown holding a trident

Zeus
king of the gods, god of the sky, and the commander of thunder and lightning

Apollo
god of light, who was also linked with music, poetry, and archery

Dionysus
worshiped for his ecstatic dancing, wine, and the theater

Athena
patron goddess of Athens, who became an heroic, and worshipped for her wisdom

Artemis
twin sister goddess and a huntress with a bow and arrow

Phaeton
son of the god, who was punished for his arrogance

Demeter
goddess of agriculture, farming, and the seasons

Persephone
daughter of Zeus and Demeter, who was kidnapped by the god Hades

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goddess of agriculture, farming, and the seasons

Persephone
daughter of Zeus and Demeter, who was kidnapped by the god Hades

POWER AND FATE
The most important gods and goddesses were said to live on the snowy summit of Greece's highest mountain, Olympus. They were ruled by Zeus, god of the sky, and were like humans, forever arguing among themselves. The gods and goddesses controlled the fate of human beings—they punished them, rewarded them, bewitched them, and sometimes even fell in love with them.

"THEN WE WENT TO THE GOD'S PRECINCT, AND THERE ON THE ALTAR OUR CAKES AND OFFERINGS WERE DEDICATED, FOOD FOR HEPHAESTUS' FLAME."
Aeschylus in *Agamemnon*, c. 458 B.C.

One myth tells that Athena was so jealous of Arachne the weaver's skills that she turned her into a spider.

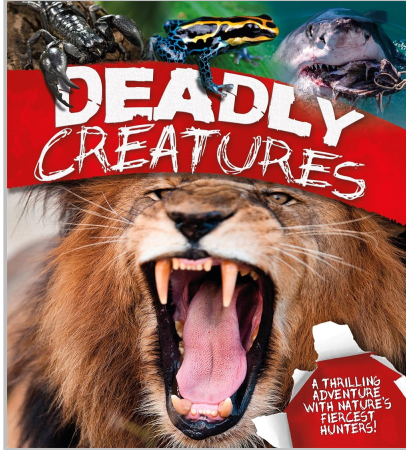
THE ORACLE AT DELPHI
Delphi was a religious site on the slopes of Mount Parnassus. It was sacred to Apollo, who killed Python, a snake goddess who guarded the earth. Delphi was famous for its oracle. A priestess would go into a trance and speak the words of Apollo. Rulers and the famous would visit Delphi for guidance about their futures.

TO THE TEMPLE
Greeks made offerings to the gods at their temples. Each year there would be a public procession to the temple in honor of a god or goddess, bringing an animal such as a sheep for sacrifice. At least one priest would have accompanied the procession on its journey.

CLAIRE LLEWELLYN, DAVID BURNIE, AND MIRANDA SMITH

Deadly Creatures

A thrilling adventure with nature's fiercest hunters

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The ultimate visual guide to the world's top predators, both alive and extinct.

Come face to face with the world's top predators. Discover the strangest facts, read incredible information and get up-close to teeth, fur, fins, claws, and feelers. Internet links on every page guide you to fascinating information about these killer creatures.

This 80-page reference guide pulls together the very best material from the following individual titles in the highly successful *Navigators* information book series: *Animals*, *Dinosaurs*, *Killer Creatures* and *Rainforests*. There are 16 *Navigators* titles in all, covering topics from history, geography, the natural world, and technology.

Claire Llewellyn is a prize-winning author of non-fiction for young readers, and has written more than 100 children's books on a range of subjects. **David Burnie** studied zoology and botany at the University of Bristol in England, and has worked as a nature reserve ranger and biologist. He has written and contributed to many award-winning books, and has acted as a consultant and scriptwriter for natural history programs. **Miranda Smith** has a particular interest in the field of natural history and has written many books and articles for children on this subject.

MARKETING

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10 **KILLER CREATURES**
TACTICS **11**

HUNTING SKILLS

There are no more expert hunters than the birds of prey. They hunt from the air, using their keen senses of sight and hearing to target prey – eagles can spot a moving rabbit at a distance of 3km. Peregrines stoop at an incredible 320km/h, striking with sharp talons and killing by impact. The nocturnal barn owl is able to find its mouse prey in complete darkness.

Powerful scavenger
Like vultures, Marabou storks have naked heads and necks, adaptations for scavenging. These large birds are up to 140cm high and weigh up to 18kg. They seek out all kinds of prey, both alive and dead, and if their heads were covered in feathers, it would be difficult to keep them clean.

Absolute control
The smaller a hummingbird is, the faster its wings beat. When a 10cm long bull tailed hummingbird sips nectar from a flower, its wings beat at an amazing 40 times per second. These birds' wings allow them to fly forwards, up and down, sideways and backwards.

Hummingbirds have such control that they can hover on the spot.

The Australian pelican has the longest beak at up to 47cm.

Snatching prey
The poise and control of the hunting bird can be seen clearly when the magnificent osprey catches its favourite fish food. It flies low over the water's surface, then plunges feet first, sometimes right into the water, its talons outstretched to snatch up a fish.

BEAK SHAPES

All birds have beaks that are specially adapted to find the food that will enable them to survive in a particular environment. For example, some have hard tips to kill prey or crack nuts, while others have sensitive tips to locate food by touch.

A parrot's strong, curved beak breaks into nuts and fruit to extract the seeds.

A pelican dives, using its pouch as a fishing net. It tips its beak to drain the water then cuts the fish whole.

The flamingo swings its spoon-shaped beak from side to side to wade, filtering out small food items.

Flight feathers are long and stiff, giving the bird lift and allowing it to manoeuvre.

Clearly defined feather gaps facilitate a smooth surface for flight.

secondary flight feathers give the bird lift

strongly curved hook used to tear fish apart

The Eurasian Kingfisher has dazzling blue and orange plumage.

primary feathers propel the bird through the air

Dividing for food
Kingfishers have a dramatic hunting method. They sit still on a branch above a stream, waiting for signs of movement. Then they dive swiftly and stealthily into the water, capturing the fish in their dagger-shaped beak at a depth of no more than 25cm. They beat their wings to resurface, returning to their perch to eat their prey.

26 **KILLER CREATURES**
OCEAN BATTLE **27**

SAVAGE SHARKS

If any animal has the reputation of 'killer creature', it is the shark. Sleek and efficient predators with tip-top senses and massive jaws, sharks hunt prey as large as elephant seals and squid. Some sharks circle their prey and disable it before killing. Others attack by surprise from below.

Man-eater?
A survivor of a great white shark attack displays his stitches. Great whites are more feared than any other creature in the sea – and with good reason. They carry out more attacks than any other kind of shark.

Shark senses
Sharks use many senses to find their prey. They detect vibrations (movement) and even faint trails of blood from wounded creatures. They also sense the weak electrical signals given out by all living things.

The apparatus on a shark's snout that detects electrical signals.

scalloped hammerhead shark

TEETH

A shark's jaws are lined with rows of teeth. Some species have long, narrow, needle-like teeth for impaling fish and other small prey. Those that feed on larger animals have broad, serrated teeth to tear off chunks of flesh. Like disposable razor blades, shark teeth have a short life and are replaced as they break or wear out.

Strength and speed
A great white slashes into its prey at around 48km/h. In the split second before the impact, it lifts its snout and leads with its upper jaws. The force of the attack carries the shark out of the water with 100kg of meat in its mouth.

What we are dealing with here is a perfect engine, an eating machine.

Matt Hooper
National marine biologist in the late 1970s

Cells able to regenerate their own

serrated edge for cutting

muscular tail fin

gill flaps

snout

interconnected fins

Large blue tiger shark in attack

In 2006, there were 62 unprovoked shark attacks on humans.

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Beastly Bugs

Everything you want to know about minibeasts in one amazing book



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Packed with up-to-date information, facts and stats on the mini-world of bugs- -and a great read too!

Beastly Bugs tells you everything you want to know about the world of bugs, from insects such as ants, wasps, butterflies and beetles to creepy crawlies such as spiders, woodlice and centipedes.

Beastly Bugs is part of a great new collectible series called It's all about... It is packed with facts and stats, and there are eight amazing collector cards to tear out and keep. You can access a free downloadable audio of Beastly Bugs by logging onto the special URL address on page 3.

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Beastly Bugs is written by a team of experienced children's authors and editors, working alongside subject specialists and literacy consultants.

Insect or spider?

Every insect has six legs and a three-part body. Most insects have wings and can fly.

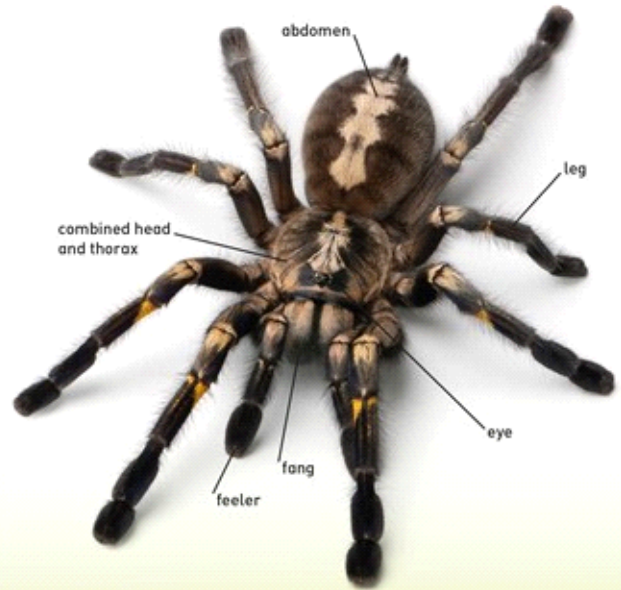


FACT...

A honeybee flaps its wings about 250 times a second to stay in the air.

8

A spider has eight legs and a two-part body. Most spiders have eight eyes. Spiders do not have wings.



FACT...

Spiders can't see very well. They use the hairs on their body to help them find their way.

9

Lunchtime

Many minibeasts eat plants but some eat meat, blood and each other!

Bees visit flowers to drink nectar and to collect pollen for their young.



A leech sticks onto an animal with its sucker, then starts to drink.



7

FACT...

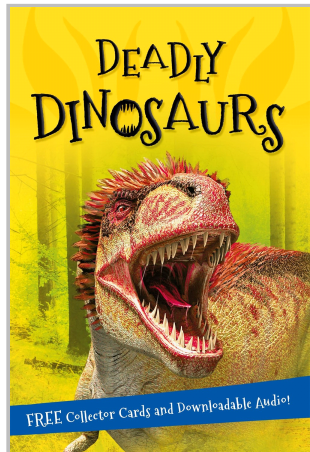
Cockroaches aren't fussy eaters. They eat almost anything, from plants to the rubbish you throw in the bin.



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Deadly Dinosaurs

Everything you want to know about these prehistoric giants in one amazing book

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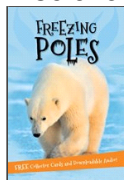
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Deadly Dinosaurs is written by a team of experienced children's authors and editors, working alongside subject specialists and literacy consultants.

Ancient reptiles

Dinosaurs were reptiles that lived between about 230 and 65 million years ago. They were the most important land animals of their time.

Most dinosaurs ate plants, but some were the deadliest meat-eaters the world has ever seen. Some dinosaurs were as long as three houses; others were the size of a chicken.

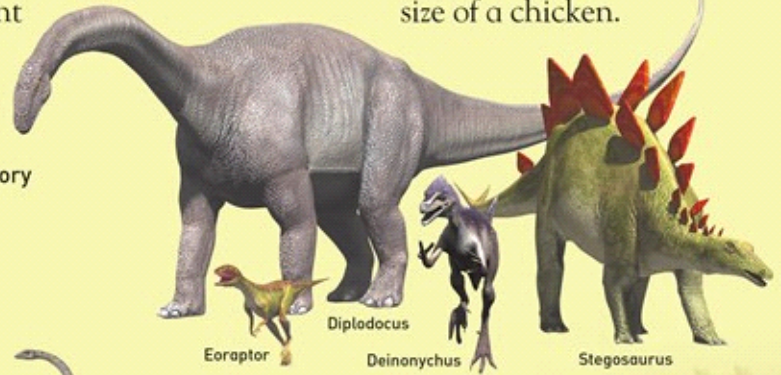
FACT...

The long stretch of the Earth's early history is split into three eras, or periods: Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous.

Triassic era
251–200 million
years ago



Eoraptor



Diplodocus

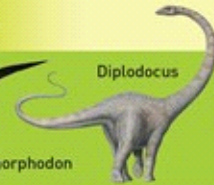
Deinonychus

Stegosaurus

Jurassic era
200–145 million
years ago



Dimorphodon



Diplodocus



Stegosaurus



Allosaurus

Cretaceous era
145–65 million
years ago



Parasaurolophus



Deinonychus



Maiasaura



Tyrannosaurus rex

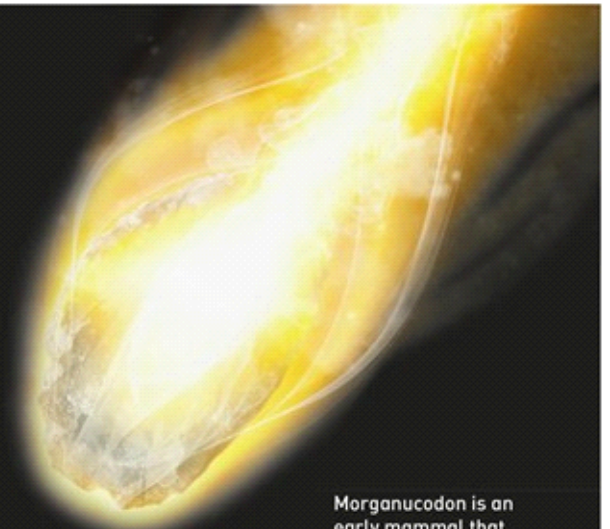
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5

The end

Dinosaurs lived on Earth until they died out quite suddenly 65 million years ago. At this time something terrible happened on Earth that wiped out all the dinosaurs, pterosaurs and the large sea reptiles. Probably a large asteroid hit the Earth and created dust and huge floods.

When the asteroid hit, so much dust went up into the sky that it was winter for many years on Earth.



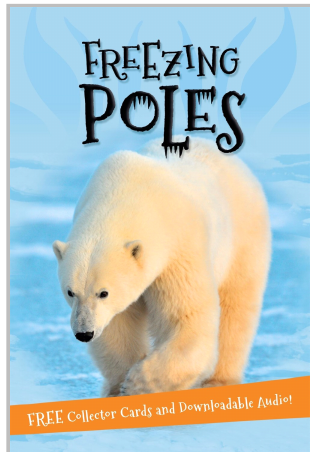
Morganucodon is an early mammal that lived during the late Triassic period.



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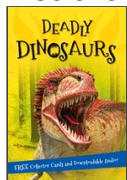
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Freezing Poles is written by a team of experienced children's authors and editors, working alongside subject specialists and literacy consultants.

The frozen North

There is no land underneath the North Pole – it is an area of frozen ocean and moving ice. Further south, the sea ice melts each summer and freezes again each winter. The Arctic Ocean is surrounded by land covered in plains, called tundra, and mountains.



The ice near the North Pole never melts.



Icy mountains covered by snow drifts lie on the coast of Greenland.

Grasses, mosses and wildflowers grow on the tundra in the summer.

No trees can grow here because deep down the soil remains frozen all year round.

tundra mushrooms, plants and moss



FACT...

The most northern patch of land on Earth is an island called Kaffeklubben in Greenland.



Peoples of the Arctic

People settled on the land around the Arctic Ocean thousands of years ago.

They learned the skills needed to survive in the harsh climate. They wore skins and furs to keep warm and were expert at fishing and hunting seals.



The Inuit people travel across the ice on snowmobiles.



FACT...

Reindeer herders hold spring festivals where there is reindeer racing, reindeer lassoing competitions and snowmobile races.



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Remarkable Rain Forests

Everything you want to know about the world's rainforest regions in one amazing book

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The noisy canopy

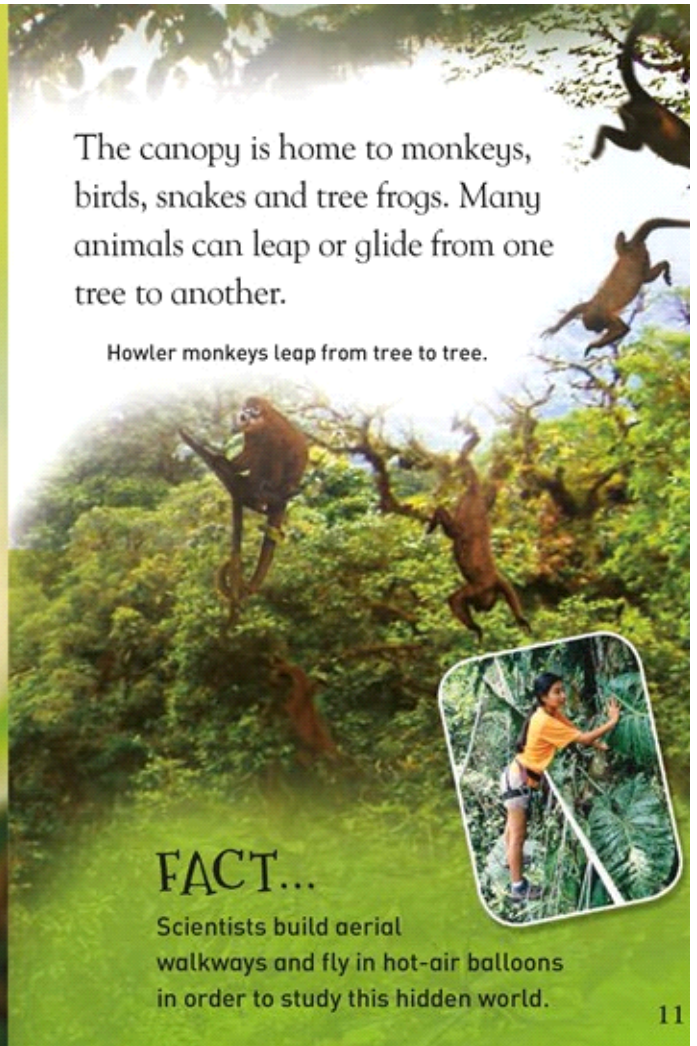
The busiest and noisiest part of the rainforest is the canopy layer. More animals live in the canopy than anywhere else in the rainforest.



The grey-headed lovebird is native to the island of Madagascar.

SPOTLIGHT: Madagascar

Famous for: unique wildlife, including lemurs
Size: 5000 km²
Home to: thousands of unique animals
In danger from: illegal logging



The canopy is home to monkeys, birds, snakes and tree frogs. Many animals can leap or glide from one tree to another.

Howler monkeys leap from tree to tree.

FACT...

Scientists build aerial walkways and fly in hot-air balloons in order to study this hidden world.

The understory

The rainforest understory is humid and dark. The plants that grow here have large, dark-green leaves to catch the small amounts of light.

There is very little wind in the understory, so plants rely on insects and animals to pollinate their flowers. There are more insects here than anywhere else in the rainforest.

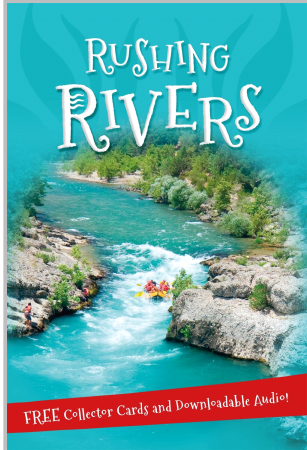


This veiled chameleon likes the warm, wet conditions of the rainforest.

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Rushing Rivers

Everything you want to know about rivers great and small in one amazing book

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Packed with up-to-date information, facts and stats on the world's rivers--and a great read too!

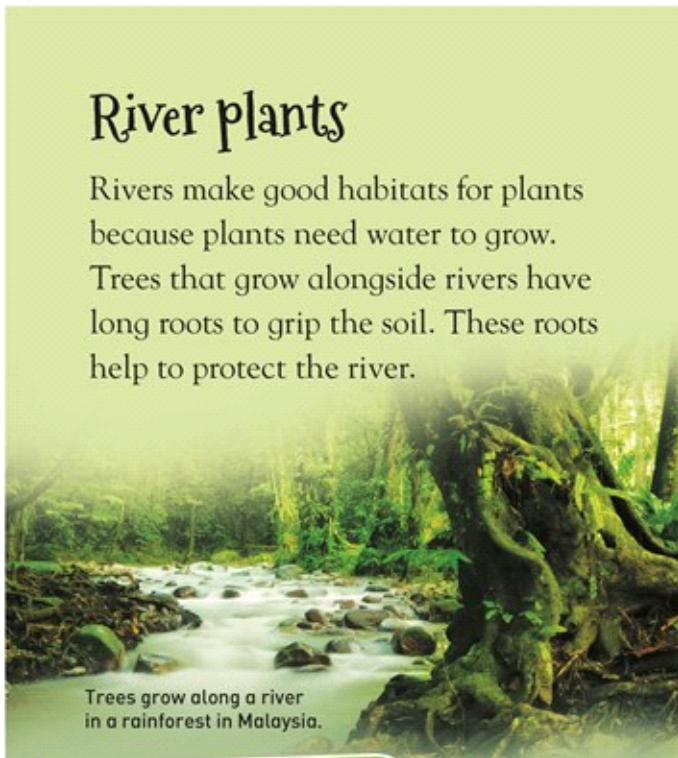
Rushing Rivers tells you everything you want to know about rivers. What are the most famous rivers? Which animals live in and around rivers? Discover the longest river and the largest, what the beginning of a river is called, and so much more.

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River plants

Rivers make good habitats for plants because plants need water to grow. Trees that grow alongside rivers have long roots to grip the soil. These roots help to protect the river.

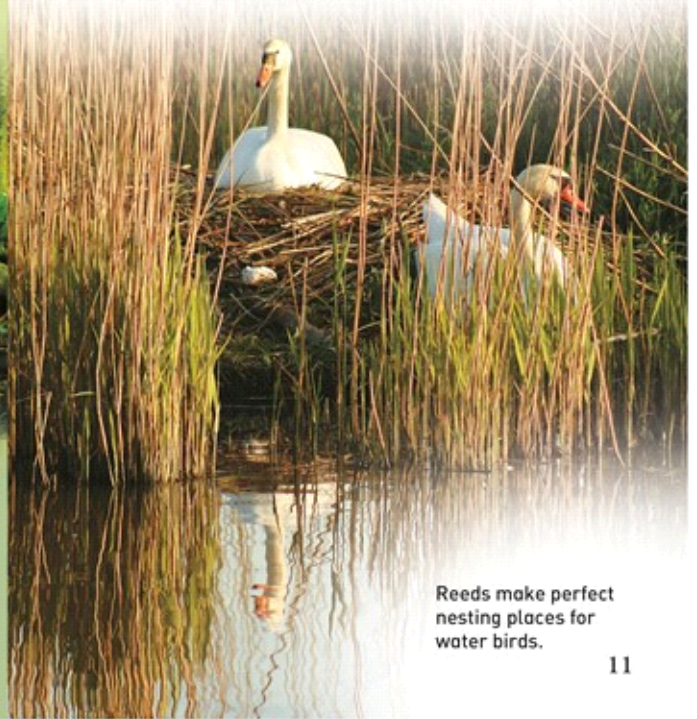


Trees grow along a river in a rainforest in Malaysia.



Giant water lilies have roots underwater.

Plants are important to the life of the river. Their leaves give off a gas called oxygen, which fish and other river life need to breathe. Plants also provide food for animals and safe places to nest or hide.



Reeds make perfect nesting places for water birds.

11

River animals

Rivers are home to many kinds of fish, frogs and newts. In hot countries reptiles such as turtles, crocodiles and snakes live in rivers.

Most rivers worldwide are home to snails, shrimps, beetles and worms. Many insects, such as dragonflies, live in the water for the first stage of their life.

Crocodiles live in rivers in Africa and North and South America.

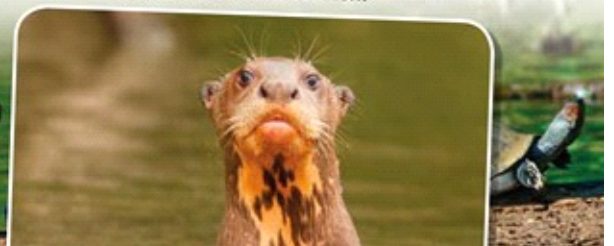


Water voles nest in holes in river banks. Water birds look for plants to eat, while otters and kingfishers hunt for fish.

A giant otter hunts for fish.



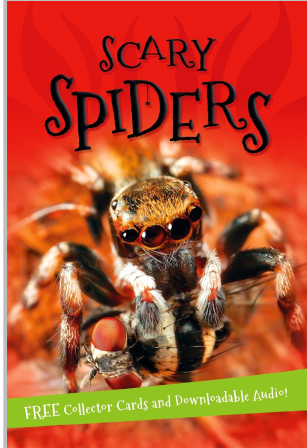
river turtles



KINGFISHER

Scary Spiders

Everything you want to know about these eight-legged creepy-crawlies in one amazing book



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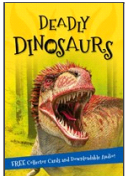
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Scary Spiders is part of a great new collectible series called It's all about... It is packed with facts and stats, and there are eight amazing collector cards to tear out and keep. You can access a free downloadable audio of Scary Spiders by logging onto the special URL address on page 3.

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Spider silk

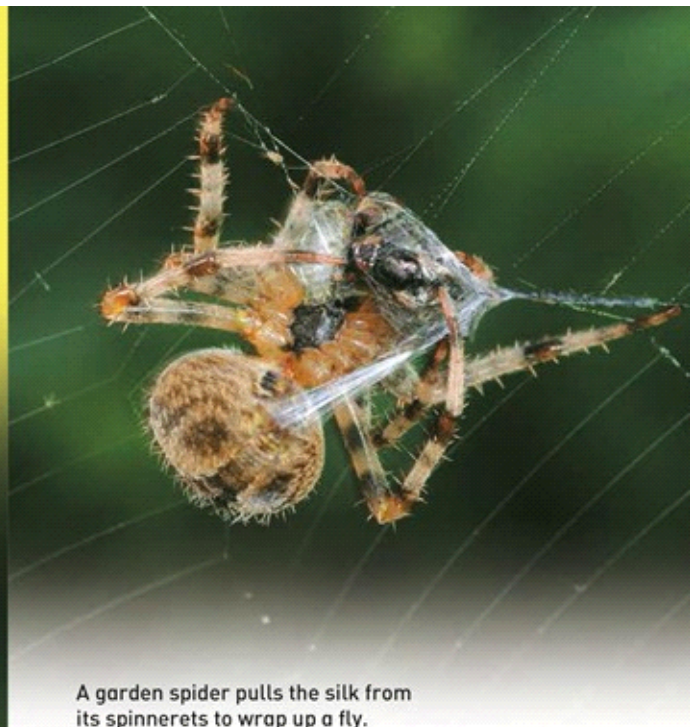
Spider silk is stronger than steel and stretchy like elastic. It is waterproof and light enough to float.

Spiders use silk to build their webs, line their burrows, protect their eggs and wrap up their prey.



A jumping spider leaps into the air from its safety line of silk.

10



A garden spider pulls the silk from its spinnerets to wrap up a fly.

A spider makes silk inside its body. The spider then uses one of its legs to pull and twist the different silk strands into a single, strong thread.

11

Hunting prey

Not all spiders spin webs; some hunt for a meal. Jumping spiders are deadly hunters. They have brilliant eyesight and can jump up to 50 times their body length to catch their prey.



17

The fishing spider rests its legs on the surface of the water, feeling for the movement of tadpoles, frogs and fish in the water below.



A fishing spider feels for prey in the water.

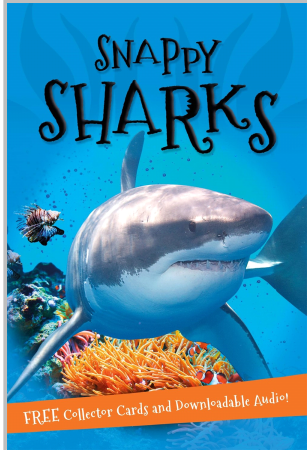
FACT...

Net-casting spiders hold a small

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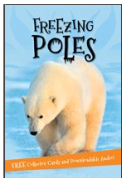
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Snappy Sharks tells you everything you want to know about sharks: who's who in the shark world, how predator sharks attack, which shark weighs more than three adult elephants and so much more.

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Made for speed

Many sharks have a streamlined shape for fast swimming.

jaws – for crushing

teeth – very sharp and always growing

gills – for breathing



dorsal fin – for balance

tail – for power

skin – covered in teeth-like scales

pectoral fin – for steering

A shark's skeleton is not bony – it is made from rubbery cartilage. This makes the shark's body very flexible (bendy) as it swims.

FACT...

In the past, shark skin was used like sandpaper to make wood smooth.

10

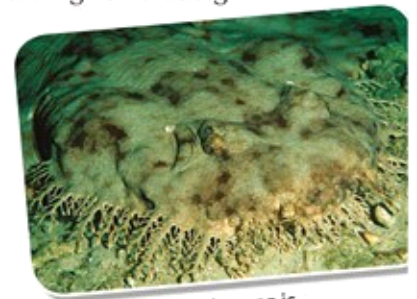
11

Hide and seek

Most sharks are sea coloured. This helps them to hide from their prey. Look at this blue shark. From above, it blends in with the dark seabed. From below, it is hidden against the bright surface of the water.



The wobbegong lies completely still on the seabed waiting for a tasty fish to swim by. Its shape and colours blend in with the sand, rocks and seaweed.



This wobbegong is perfectly hidden.

FACT...

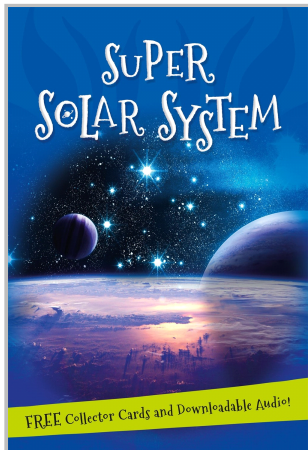
The spots on a leopard shark get lighter as the shark grows older.



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Super Solar System tells you everything you want to know about space and our galaxy. Read about our rocky moon and how we travelled there, stunning star constellations and the International Space Station. Discover each of the planets in our solar system, from Mercury to Uranus.

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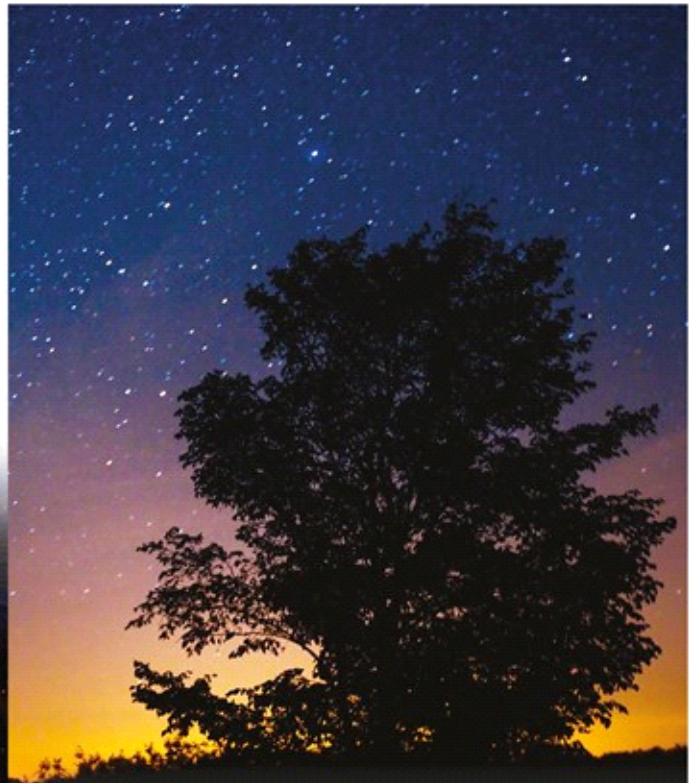
Super Solar System has a Contents page as well as a Glossary and Index. You can check out the other titles in the series at the back of the book.

Super Solar System is written by a team of experienced children's authors and editors, working alongside subject specialists and literacy consultants.

Starry night

Look up at the sky at night. Can you see the Moon? It is a huge ball of rock that travels round the Earth. Can you see any stars? Each star is a giant ball of hot, glowing gas further away than you can imagine.

Our closest star
is the Sun!



FACT...

Our galaxy may contain 500 thousand million stars.

Moon landings

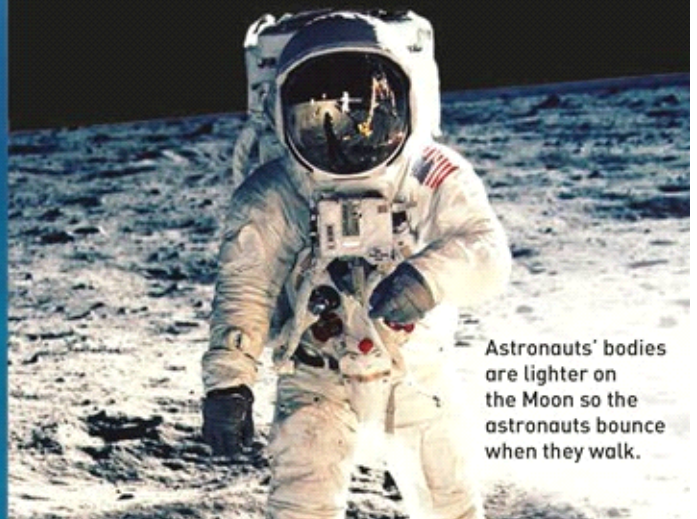
On 20 July, 1969, American astronauts Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first people to stand on the Moon.

They travelled across the Moon's surface in a moon buggy and collected rock samples. A total of 12 men have walked on the Moon so far.



FACT...

Footprints left on the Moon by the astronauts will last for millions of years because there is no wind or rain to remove them!

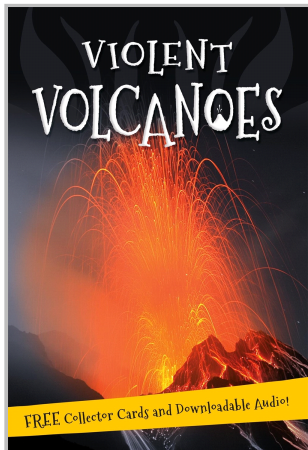


Astronauts' bodies are lighter on the Moon so the astronauts bounce when they walk.

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Violent Volcanoes

Everything you want to know about these mountains of fire in one amazing book

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Packed with up-to-date information, facts and stats on the world's volcanoes-- and a great read too!

Violent Volcanoes tells you everything you want to know about volcanoes. From how they are formed to how much damage they can cause. Read about the most famous volcanic eruptions and find out where the active volcanoes are today.

Violent Volcanoes is part of a great new collectible series called It's all about... It is packed with facts and stats, and there are eight amazing collector cards to tear out and keep. You can access a free downloadable audio of Violent Volcanoes by logging onto the special URL address on page 3.

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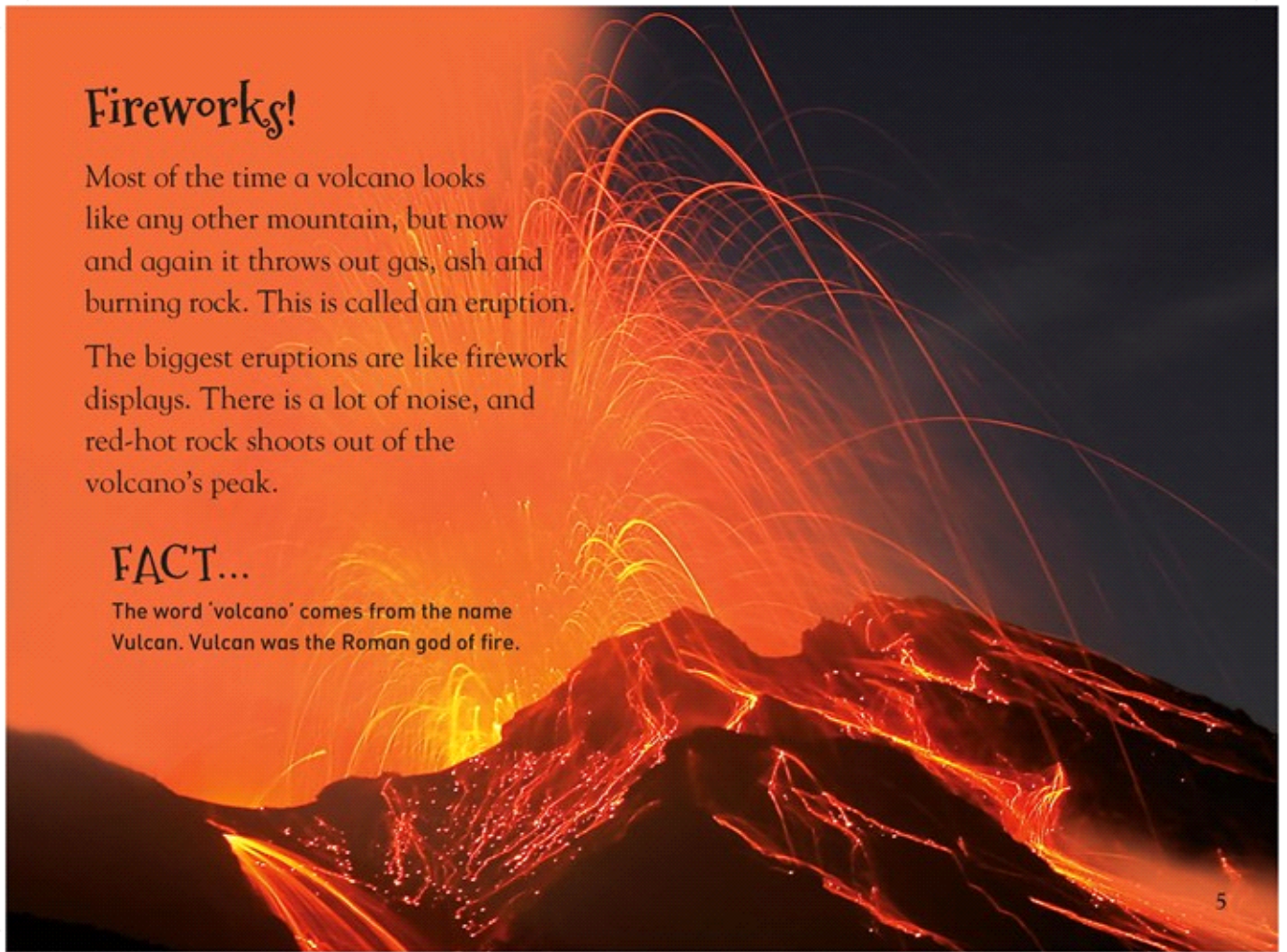
Fireworks!

Most of the time a volcano looks like any other mountain, but now and again it throws out gas, ash and burning rock. This is called an eruption.

The biggest eruptions are like firework displays. There is a lot of noise, and red-hot rock shoots out of the volcano's peak.

FACT...

The word 'volcano' comes from the name Vulcan. Vulcan was the Roman god of fire.



5

Run for your life!

Each volcanic eruption is different. Sometimes, lava seeps out slowly and gas comes out in puffs.

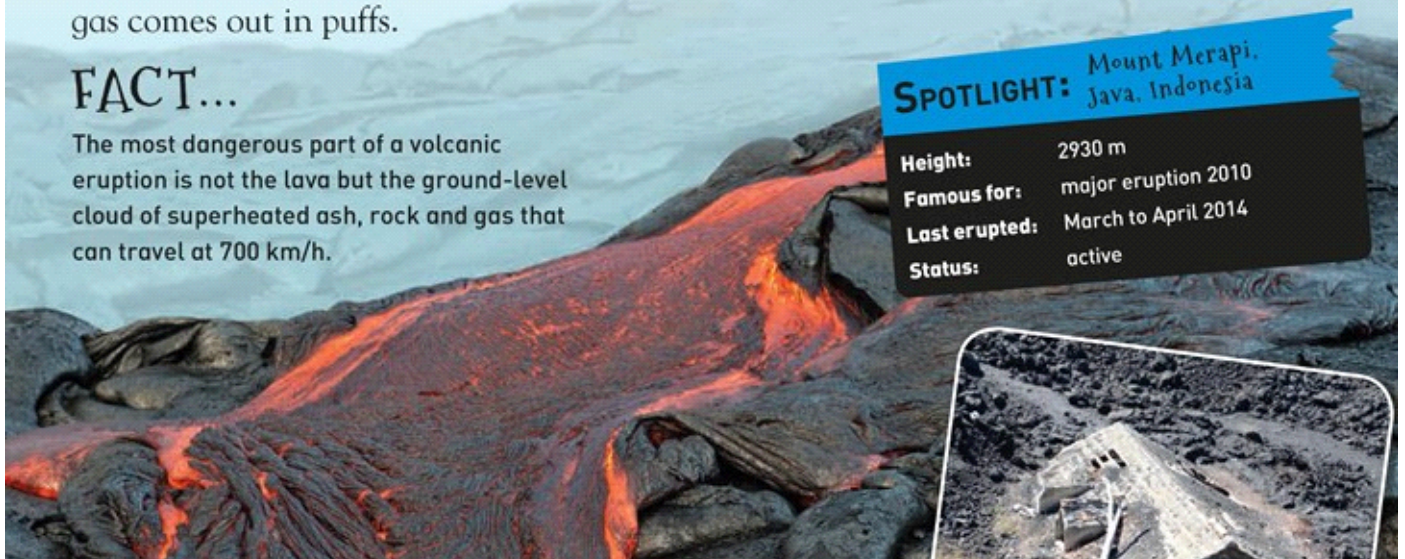
FACT...

The most dangerous part of a volcanic eruption is not the lava but the ground-level cloud of superheated ash, rock and gas that can travel at 700 km/h.

Sometimes an eruption is like a bomb going off! Farms, villages and roads are destroyed by shooting rocks, fast-moving hot ash and burning lava.

SPOTLIGHT: Mount Merapi, Java, Indonesia

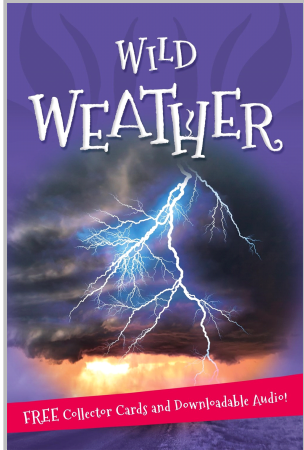
Height: 2930 m
Famous for: major eruption 2010
Last erupted: March to April 2014
Status: active



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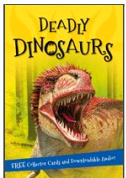
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Wild Weather tells you everything you want to know about the world's weather. Read about twisting tornadoes, ferocious floods and dusty drought. The wildest weather can cause the most extreme places - deserts, rainforests and polar lands. Discover how we use science to measure and predict the weather, and how we cope when natural disasters strike.

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A warm blanket

The Earth is covered by a layer of air called the atmosphere. It stretches for hundreds of kilometres above the Earth.

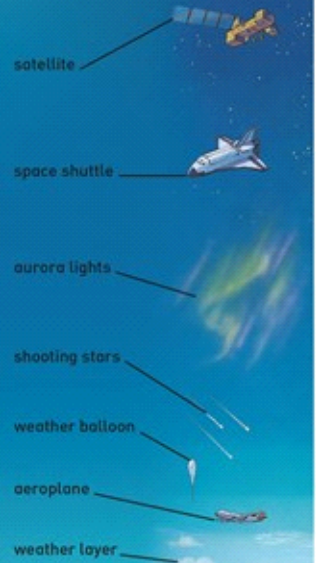
The weather happens in the lowest part of the atmosphere nearest the Earth's surface.

The thin layer of atmosphere around the Earth can be seen from space.

FACT...

The atmosphere traps in warm air like a blanket. The Earth would be much colder without its atmosphere.

Weather balloons collect information about temperature, wind speed and air pressure.



This picture shows what happens at different heights inside the Earth's atmosphere.

Lightning strike

Lightning comes from giant storm clouds. Inside a storm cloud, the water droplets and bits of ice crash into each other, making electricity.

When there is too much electricity for the cloud to hold, the electricity jumps to the ground as lightning.



Lightning strikes the Eiffel Tower in Paris, France in 1902.

SPOTLIGHT: Catatumbo, Venezuela

Record breaker: most lightning strikes
Frequency: 160 nights per year
Rate per hour: up to 280 strikes
 stopped January to April 2010

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Awesome Knights

Come face to face with these fearsome fighters



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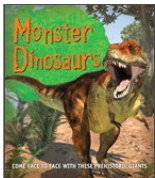
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Quick and easy access to fascinating information on the exciting topic of medieval knights and their lives

Who were the men of mail, and where did they build their homes? What is a cavalry? How were the first castles built? Why did knights joust?

Travel back in time to an age of battles and bloodshed, crusades and chivalry, battles and sieges.

Fast Facts is a new series of high-interest, lower reading ability books aimed at fact-hungry children who enjoy information books but may be less confident readers or have difficulty with the usual quantity and level of text aimed at their age group.

This exciting series has been created by using the stunning visual images from the best-selling *Navigators* series and rewriting the text with simpler sentence structure, easier vocabulary, and larger type size.

This series has been produced with the approval of experienced literacy consultants.

MARKETING

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Middle Ages
The period from the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 AD until about 1500.

A double-edged longsword was often used by a knight to bring down his enemy.

Loarre Castle in Aragon, an old kingdom in Spain, was built between about 1020 and the 1200s.

TOP FIVE BITESIZE FACTS

- The first castles were built from wood.
- A ditch surrounding a castle is called a moat.
- Windsor Castle, just outside London is the oldest and largest inhabited castle in the world.
- There are about 1500 castle sites in Britain, of which only 300 are still standing.
- The largest castle in the world is Prague Castle, which is big enough to fit 13 soccer pitches.

Knights and castles

A knight was a noble armored warrior who fought on horseback during the Middle Ages. He served his lord in battle and defended his lord's castle—a stone fortified building that protected a town or a region. Castles were used both as private homes and as military bases for knights.

Age of knights

Some knights became powerful and famous, as loyal friends or as fierce enemies, as champions of the king—or even as traitors.

Knights carried banners displaying their **coat of arms**. The coat of arms represented the knight's noble family name, so his opponent would know who he is.

Homes of stone

By the 1100s, stone castles had replaced early wooden structures and round towers had replaced square ones. The **keep**, or stronghold, was surrounded by huge walls and sometimes by a **moat** full of water, crossed by a drawbridge.

Roof tiles were made from slate (shown here) or ceramic (baked clay).

Wooden scaffolding helped the stonemasons to build the gatehouse.

The battlements had low **embrasures** and high **merlons**, so that archers could fire or take cover.

This crane was powered by a worker walking inside a treadwheel.

drawbridge
A bridge over a castle moat that could be raised to stop enemies entering the castle.

Tools of the trade
Medieval craftsmen used basic metal tools and muscle power. Carpenters sawed and hammered, while masons chiseled the stone and checked that the walls were strong and straight.

TOP FIVE BITESIZE FACTS

- Quarried stone was delivered by river barges and then on ox carts.
- Stones were held together using a cement made from sand, lime and water.
- Castle walls could be 33 feet (10 meters) thick—about half the length of a bowling lane.
- The tops of the walls were called **battlements**, from where defenders could shoot missiles.
- A spiked metal barrier called a **portcullis** could be lowered by chains to protect the castle's thick main door.

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Awesome Knights

Come face to face with these fearsome fighters



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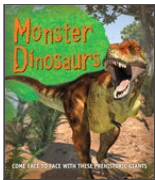
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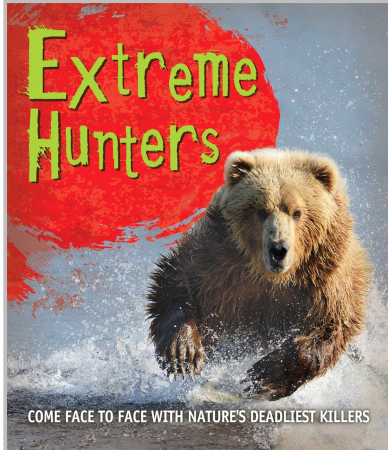
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Come face to face with nature's deadliest killers

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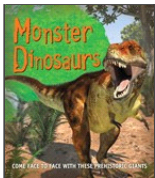
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An unforgettable tour of the deadliest and scariest predators of the natural world

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8 **WOLVES OF THE NORTH**

Wolves are fierce hunters. Sometimes up to 30 wolves hunt together in a pack. Once they smell their prey – perhaps a caribou or an elk – they close in and attack. The wolves bite at the prey's heels to pull it down. They then tear off the flesh to eat.

CAPTIVITY
 When an animal that usually lives in the wild is kept in a zoo or as a pet.



Bear trouble
 Grey wolves in Alaska USA, are trying to stop a hungry bear from snatching their dinner. Wolves and bears don't always get on. Bears are big and dangerous, but wolves can kill young bear cubs.



- TOP FIVE BITESIZE FACTS**
- Wolves live for about 6–8 years in the wild, or about 16 years in captivity.
 - In Alaska and Canada, one pack's territory can cover 800–2,500 square kilometres.
 - A wolf has 42 teeth. The sharpest are the fangs and canines at the front of the jaw.
 - Wolves' favourite food includes elk, caribou, bison, deer and moose.
 - The wolf's main predators are humans.

Feeding time
 The top male and female wolves are called the alpha pair. They feed first and then give the signal for the rest of the pack to join in.



How fast?
 Wolves are very fast runners. They have a top speed of 56 kilometres per hour. At other times wolves prefer to trot, covering 1 metre with each step. They can keep up this pace for hours, and cover 100 kilometres in a single night.

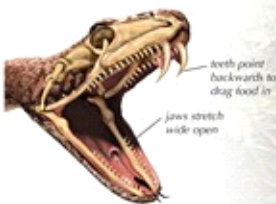


20 **CRUSHING SNAKES**

Boas, pythons and anacondas coil themselves tightly around their prey's body and crush it to death. These snakes are called constrictors. Each time the victim breathes out, the coils tighten a little more. The tight squeeze breaks bones and stops the prey breathing so that it suffocates and dies.

Down in one

A boa gulps down its prey headfirst, so that the legs do not get stuck in its throat. The snake covers its dinner with slippery saliva. It then uses strong muscles to push the food down into its stomach.



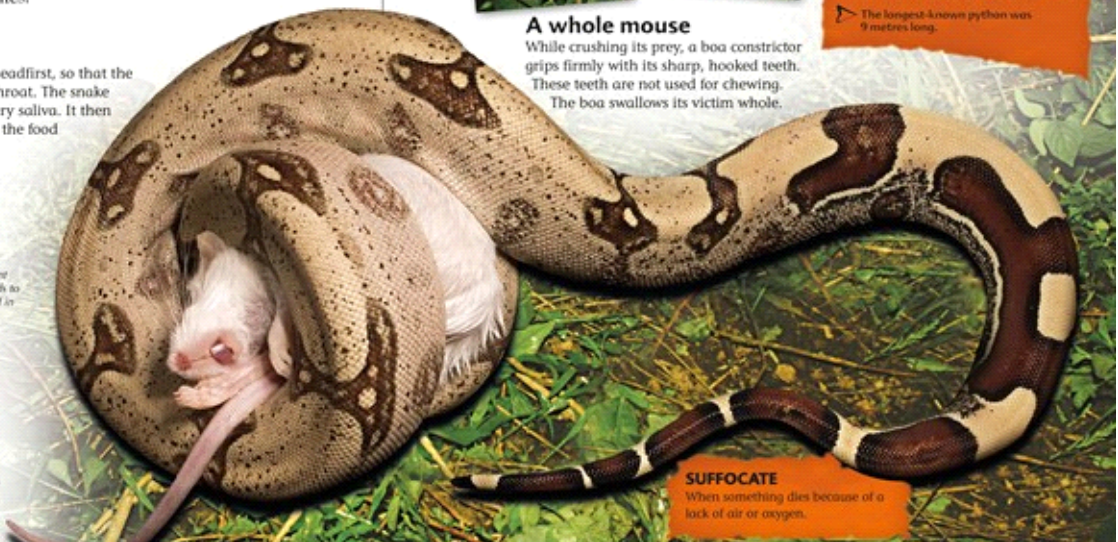
Stretchy jaws
 A snake's jaws can stretch wide enough to swallow its supersize dinners. A tube at the front of its lower jaw lets the snake breathe, even when its mouth is full.



A whole mouse

While crushing its prey, a boa constrictor grips firmly with its sharp, hooked teeth. These teeth are not used for chewing. The boa swallows its victim whole.

- TOP FIVE BITESIZE FACTS**
- Boas grow throughout their life. They can reach 4 metres in length.
 - Boas are excellent swimmers and can climb high into trees.
 - A large meal will keep an anaconda full for several weeks.
 - Anacondas live for 10–12 years in the wild and for up to 30 years in captivity.
 - The longest-known python was 9 metres long.

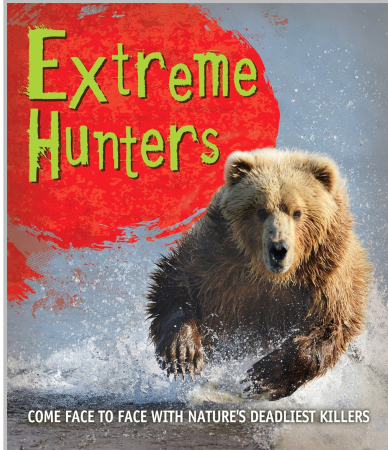


SUFFOCATE
 When something dies because of a lack of air or oxygen.

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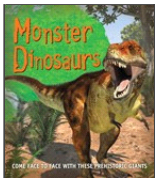
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Pack hunters

Hyenas hunt in packs and work together to bring down large prey such as antelope and zebra. These fast hunters chase prey over long distances to tire it out before killing it. Other pack hunters include Australian dingoes and African wild dogs.

Dog meat
 Once an animal has been caught by a pack of wild dogs, it is ripped apart. The dogs eat their kill very quickly before hyenas, lions and vultures can steal any food.

this spotted hyena is carrying the remains of an impala in its mouth

Night prowlers
 The hyena looks like a dog but belongs to a different animal family. Hyenas are good scavengers and skillful predators. They hunt at night in small groups, killing much larger prey. They have strong jaws and powerful guts which let them eat all of their prey - even the teeth and bones.

Crushing jaws
 Hyenas have massive jaws powered by strong muscles. Their sharp canine teeth tear at a victim's skin, while the molars are so powerful that they can chew through a zebra's thigh bone to reach the tasty marrow inside.

Wild dog down under
 Australian dingoes are descended from wolf-like dogs. They have been known to attack children, so in dingo country parents need to be aware of this danger.

Dingoes kill kangaroos, wallabies and smaller prey, such as this monitor lizard.

TOP FIVE BITESIZE FACTS

- Hyenas live in groups called clans, which can have up to 80 members.
- Female hyenas are bigger than males and they can grow to weigh more than 80 kilograms - that's heavier than an adult human.
- Female African wild dogs can give birth to a litter containing up to 20 pups.
- Dingoes were introduced to Australia between 3,000 and 4,000 years ago.
- Australian farmers have built a 'dingo fence' to protect their sheep from the wild dogs.

Pack
 A group of animals hunting together.

Swarming piranhas

Piranhas are small fish that live in the rivers of South America. They have strong jaws and very sharp teeth. When piranhas are hungry, they gang up in a shoal and work together to attack prey, such as birds, rodents, frogs and young caimans.

Feeding frenzy
 This young heron has fallen from its nest into the river. Within seconds, a shoal of piranhas detects the bird. Smaller fish take a few test bites, before larger piranhas drag the bird below the surface.

Shoal
 The name given to a group of fish.

Killer jaws
 A piranha's teeth fit together so neatly that they can remove a perfect, crescent-shaped chunk of flesh. Amazonian Indians have used the razor-sharp teeth for cutting, shaving and sharpening hunting darts.

TOP FIVE BITESIZE FACTS

- In the excitement of a feeding frenzy, piranhas may turn on each other.
- Scientists discovered that some piranhas make sounds like a dog's bark.
- In the dry season, piranhas can be stranded in small lakes with little food. This makes them more aggressive.
- Their nostrils are so sensitive that they can detect a single drop of blood in 200 litres of water.
- Some piranhas don't eat meat at all. They feed on seeds and river weeds.

one piranha attacking another

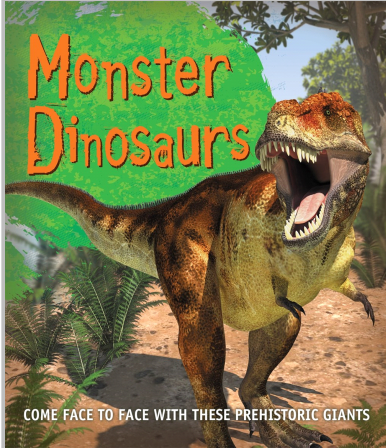
sensitive nostrils

jaw packed with triangular teeth

KINGFISHER

Monster Dinosaurs

Come face to face with these prehistoric giants



MARCH

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Early dinosaurs

The world's first dinosaurs appeared about 230 million years ago. At first, they were quite small. One of the oldest dinosaurs found so far is a creature called *Eoraptor* ('ee-oh-rap-tor'). It was a fast-moving, lightweight **theropod**, and was about one metre long.

flexible
Able to bend or move easily, in order to grasp or catch with fingers, for example.

Treasure trove
Eoraptor lived alongside another early dinosaur called *Herrerasaurus* ('heh-reh-ra-sau-rus'). Both dinosaurs lived about 228 million years ago. *Herrerasaurus* was much bigger than *Eoraptor*, and measured up to six metres long.

Fast hunter
Eoraptor sprinted on strong back legs. It stood upright and had small arms. This dinosaur died out about 225 million years ago, but theropods went on to include giants such as *Tyrannosaurus rex* – one of the biggest predators that has ever walked the Earth.

TOP FIVE BITESIZE FACTS

- The name *Eoraptor* means 'dawn raider'.
- Fossils of *Eoraptor* have been found in a place called Valley of the Moon in northwestern Argentina.
- Each of *Eoraptor*'s hands had five fingers.
- Three of these fingers had long claws. The other two were too small to be of any use.
- An *Eoraptor* weighed about 10 kilograms, which is the weight of a small dog.

Labels: slim, mobile neck; Tail used as balance for head and neck; Ankle let feet bend up or down; Three toes in make contact with the ground; Flexible hands have fingers for grasping; This *Eoraptor* is carrying off a lizard it has just caught; *Herrerasaurus* skull

Under attack

Plant-eating dinosaurs had many ways of defending themselves against meat-eaters. Some hit back by rearing up on their back legs, or by stabbing with sharp claws. *Ankylosaurus* ('an-kill-oh-saw-rus') was covered in armour, and had a huge club at the end of its tail.

Scissor claws
Therizinosaurus ('the-ri-zin-oh-saw-rus') had enormous claws. They could be used as weapons to attack or defend.

armour
Tough, hard skin or spikes used for defence against predator attacks.

Killer blow
Ankylosaurus was built to stand and fight rather than to run away. Here, the dinosaur is fighting off an *Albertosaurus* ('al-ber-toh-saw-rus'). *Ankylosaurus*'s skin was protected with bony plates, and its tail club could swing if anything came too close. Its only weak point was its underside, which had unarmoured skin.

TOP FIVE BITESIZE FACTS

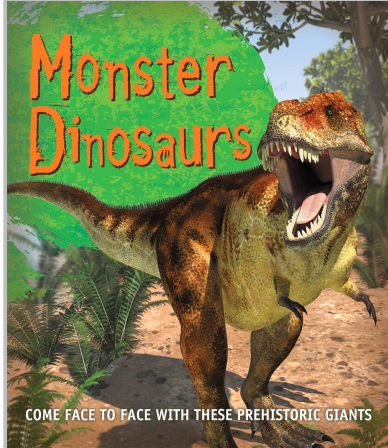
- *Ankylosaurus* weighed about 5 tonnes – that's more than twice the weight of a rhinoceros.
- The name *Ankylosaurus* means 'fused lizard'.
- It lived during the late Cretaceous period in what is now the western USA and Canada.
- *Ankylosaurus* measured up to 10 metres from the tip of its head to the end of its tail.
- *Ankylosaurus* had some of the smallest teeth in the dinosaur world in comparison to its size.

Labels: *Albertosaurus*; Rows of large plates ran along back and sides; Skin protected by bony plates and knobs called osteoderms; Tail club weighed over 50 kilograms; *Ankylosaurus*; Bony plates protected each eye.

KINGFISHER

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Come face to face with these prehistoric giants



MARCH

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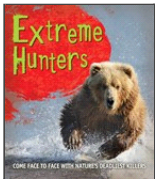
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Herrerasaurus skull

slim, mobile neck

Tail used as balance for head and neck.

Flexible hands have fingers for grasping.

Ankles let feet bend up or down.

Three toes in make contact with the ground.

This *Eoraptor* is carrying off a lizard it has just caught.

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Albertosaurus

Tail club weighed over 50 kilograms.

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Skin protected by bony plates and knobs called osteoderms.

Ankylosaurus

Bony plates protected each eye.

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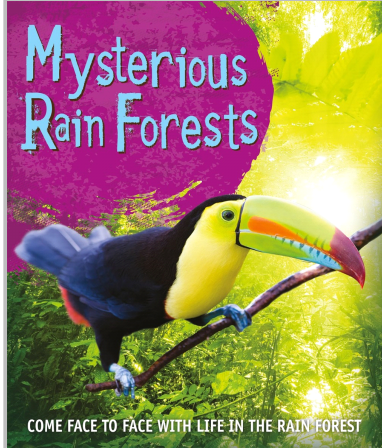
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Mysterious Rainforests

Come face to face with rainforest creatures



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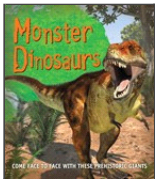
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Forest layers

Inside a rainforest, huge trees tower up into a mass of leaves high above. The air is hot and very humid, because there is heavy rain every day. The conditions are perfect for plants to grow – and these plants are home to a huge variety of animals.

Canopy
A rainforest has several layers. At the top is the canopy of leaves. There is more sunlight up here, and the trees grow fruits and seeds throughout the year. Most animals live in the canopy, because there is plenty of food.

The quetzal was worshipped by the ancient Aztec people, who lived in Mexico.

The Queen Alexandra's birdwing is the largest butterfly in the world, with wings up to 28 centimetres across.

Understorey
Stretching between the canopy and the ground is the understorey. Plants grow larger leaves to catch whatever light they can reach. With fewer branches, there is space for insects and birds to fly. Reptiles such as snakes move along the tree trunks.

The giant leaf-tailed gecko can jump in trees. Its long tail helps it hold on to the forest floor.

Forest floor
There is very little light here, and few plants can grow. Leaves and other litter fall from the trees above and cover the ground, where they rot down quickly in the humid conditions. Huge numbers of insects live among the leaf litter, including ants and termites. A few large mammals, such as anteaters and jaguars, hunt for food on the forest floor.

The mandrill is one of the most colourful of mammals. It has bright blue and red swellings on the face and rump.

The rafflesia plant has the world's largest flowers, up to 90 centimetres across. The plant produces a smell of rotting meat in order to attract flies that will pollinate it.

TOP FIVE BITESIZE FACTS

- More species of wildlife live in rainforests than in any other place on Earth.
- This habitat is under threat as areas are cleared for farms, mines and roads.
- Many canopy animals never go down to the forest floor.
- Only about 5 per cent of sunlight reaches the understorey.
- Tall trees poking above the canopy are called emergents.

humid
Moist or damp (in the air).

The canary-winged parakeet has four toes on each foot (two facing forwards and two facing backwards), which help the bird cling to trees.

Crowded canopy
As well as the trees and their fruits, there are plants such as orchids, ferns and bromeliads, which grow in cracks in the trunks and branches. Many animals like to live in the safety of the canopy, where they find plenty of food.

Bromeliad leaves form a 'tank' that collects rain water.

The red howler monkey defends its territory by shouting and roaring.

The three-toed sloth has fur that grows towards its spine, which allows rain to run off when hanging upside down.

The potoo has blotchy plumage and an unmovable stance that make it look like a tree branch.

plumage
The feathers that cover a bird's entire body.

A world in the air

The canopy is the roof of the rainforest. It can be 45 metres above the floor and forms an almost unbroken mass of leaves. The top part receives the full strength of the sunlight, but shades the areas below. Inside the canopy is a dense network of branches, vines and hanging plants.

The Amazon leaf frog keeps its eggs safe by wrapping them in leaves hanging over a river.

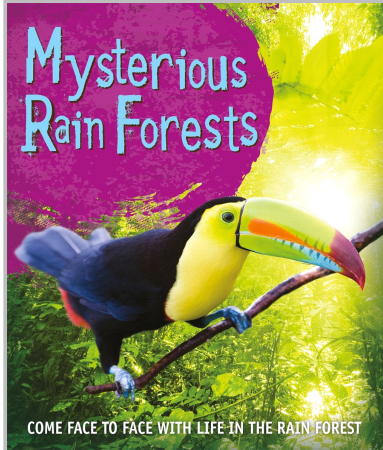
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- Many plant leaves are pointed so that rain water can run off easily and algae does not grow.
- Scientists estimate that 60 to 90 per cent of rainforest plants and animals are found in the trees.
- Animals living in the canopy have to fly, jump or glide across the gaps between trees to move around the treetops.
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- Lianas are plants that climb up other plants and trees, using them for support.

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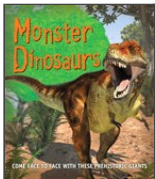
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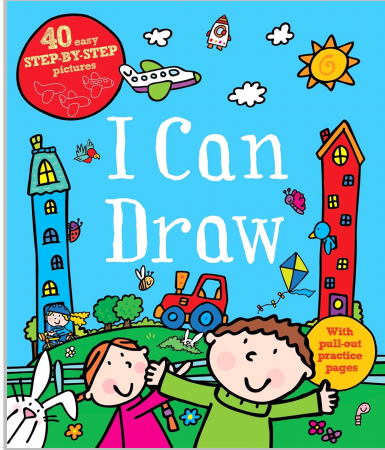
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ILLUSTRATED BY SIMON ABBOTT

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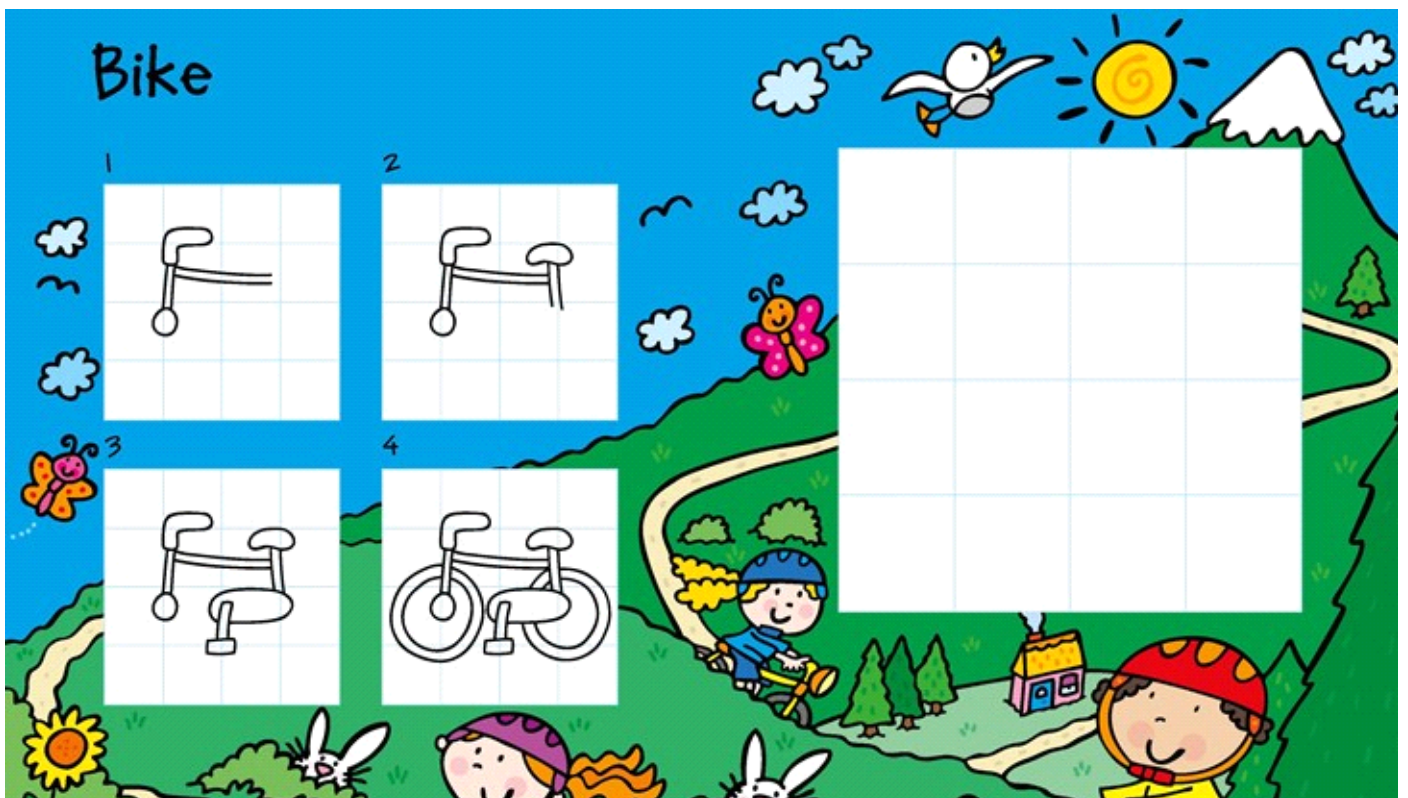
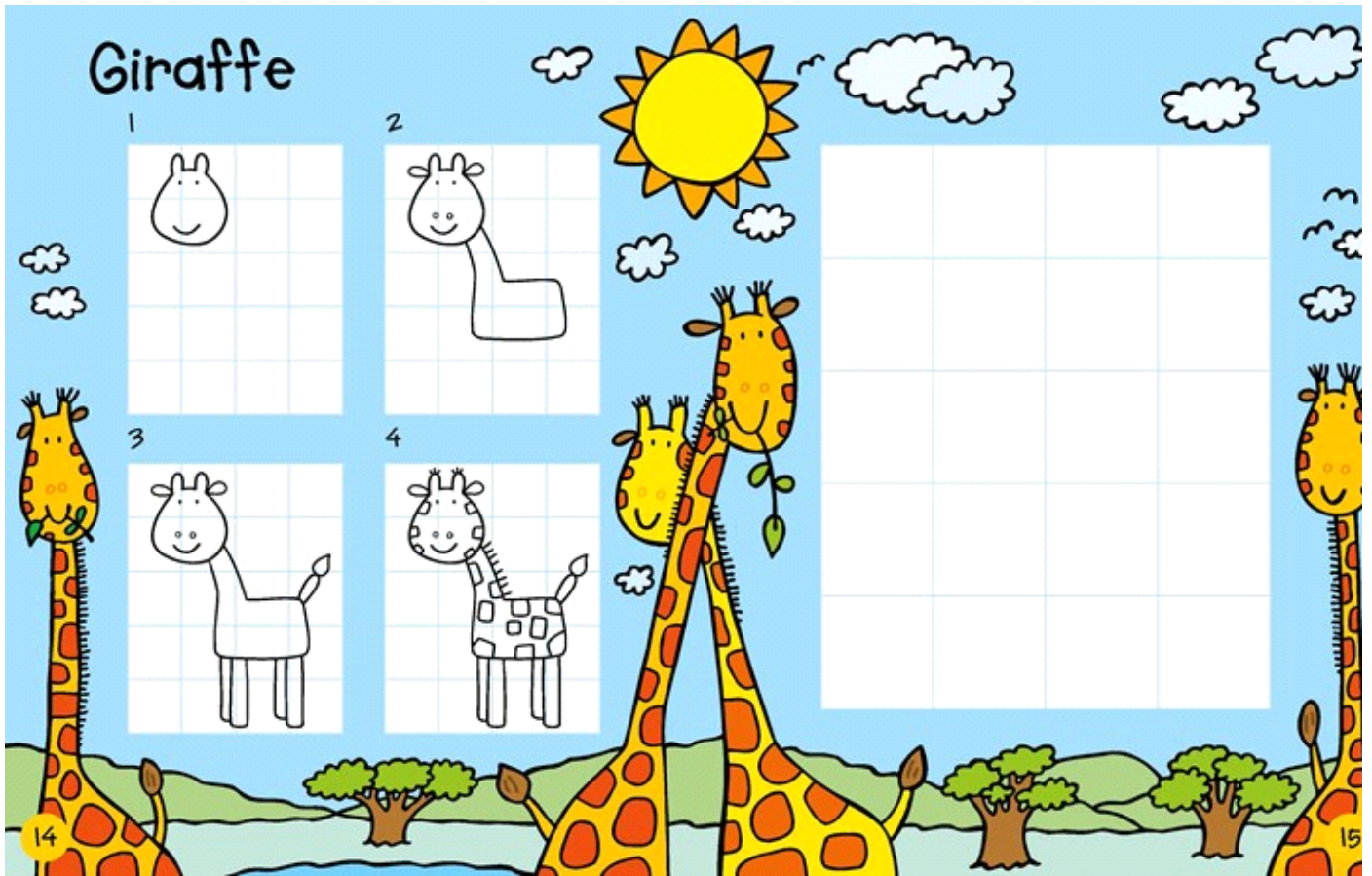
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Simon Abbott lives with his family in Suffolk, UK, and has been illustrating children's books, toys, and games for over 10 years. His favorite subjects to draw are smiley snails and funky fish. When he hasn't got a pencil in his hand, Simon likes to run, and he has completed both the London and Barcelona Marathons.

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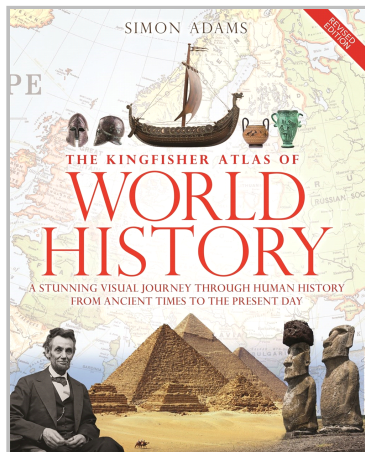
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Simon Adams was born in Bristol and studied at London and Bristol universities. He worked as an editor of children's reference and other non-fiction books before becoming a full-time writer. Since then, he has written and contributed to more than 50 books on subjects as varied as American history, the sinking of the Titanic, the two world wars and the history of jazz.

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