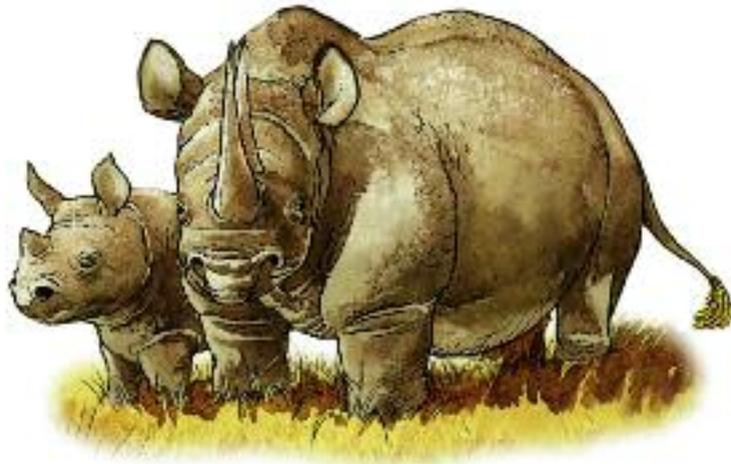


# Search and find

# NATURE



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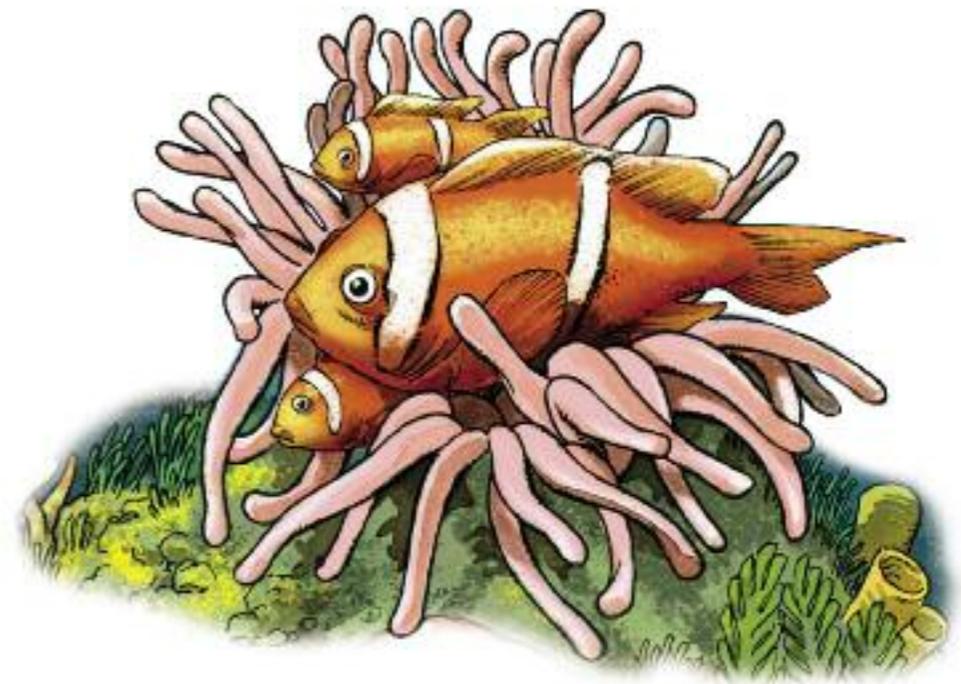
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Illustrated by Studio Inklink





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# Introduction

Wherever you go on Earth, you'll find living things. From sweltering rainforests to icy Antarctica, from dusty deserts to the depths of the ocean, our planet teems with life: mammals, reptiles, birds, fish, insects and plants. In this book, you can read about some interesting animals that live in



different environments. Notice how

the way they live their lives is perfectly suited to their surroundings. A penguin's thick feathers keep it warm as it goes hunting for fish in freezing polar waters—but it would quickly overheat in the jungle.



A lazy sloth would struggle to find a branch to hang upside down from in the tree-less desert. And how would an elephant find living in the ocean?

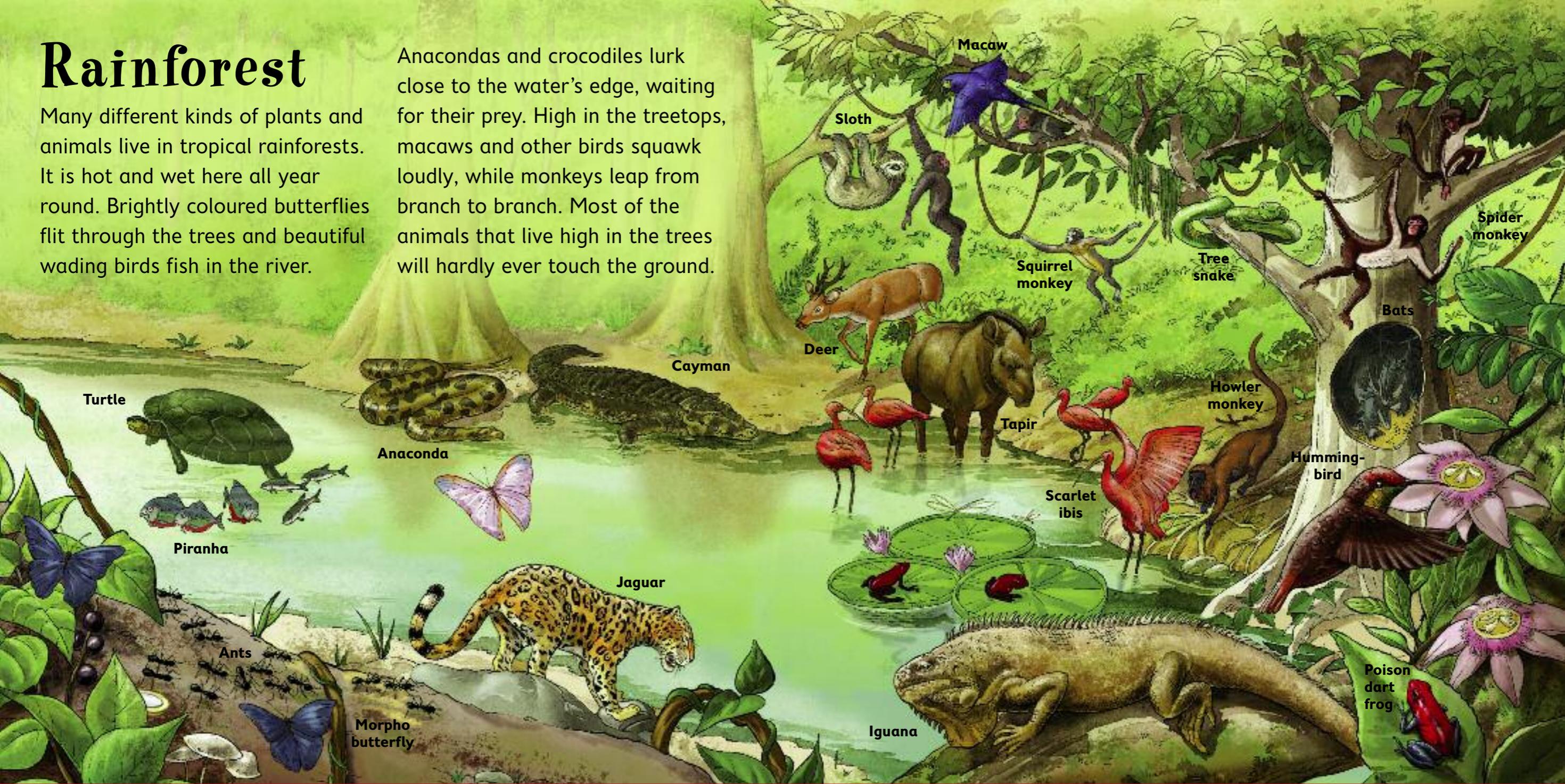
Look out for the gold coins. One is hidden in each scene ...



# Rainforest

Many different kinds of plants and animals live in tropical rainforests. It is hot and wet here all year round. Brightly coloured butterflies flit through the trees and beautiful wading birds fish in the river.

Anacondas and crocodiles lurk close to the water's edge, waiting for their prey. High in the treetops, macaws and other birds squawk loudly, while monkeys leap from branch to branch. Most of the animals that live high in the trees will hardly ever touch the ground.



Hyacinth macaws are endangered birds. Much prized as pets, many are captured for sale. In the wild, macaws nest in holes high up in tree trunks. They crack open nuts using their powerful bills.

The poison dart frog is so called because some Amazon natives use its deadly poison on the tips of their blow-gun darts. The frog gets its poison from the ants it eats.



The anaconda spends much of its time wallowing in shallow water waiting for its prey. It coils its body round its victim and squeezes it to death. Then it swallows it whole.



Piranhas have razor-sharp, triangular teeth. Once they detect blood in the water, a piranhas will set about an injured animal in a "feeding frenzy". In just a few minutes, all that's left is a skeleton!



A leaf-eater, the sloth spends most of its life hanging upside down. It grips on to branches with its long, hooked claws.

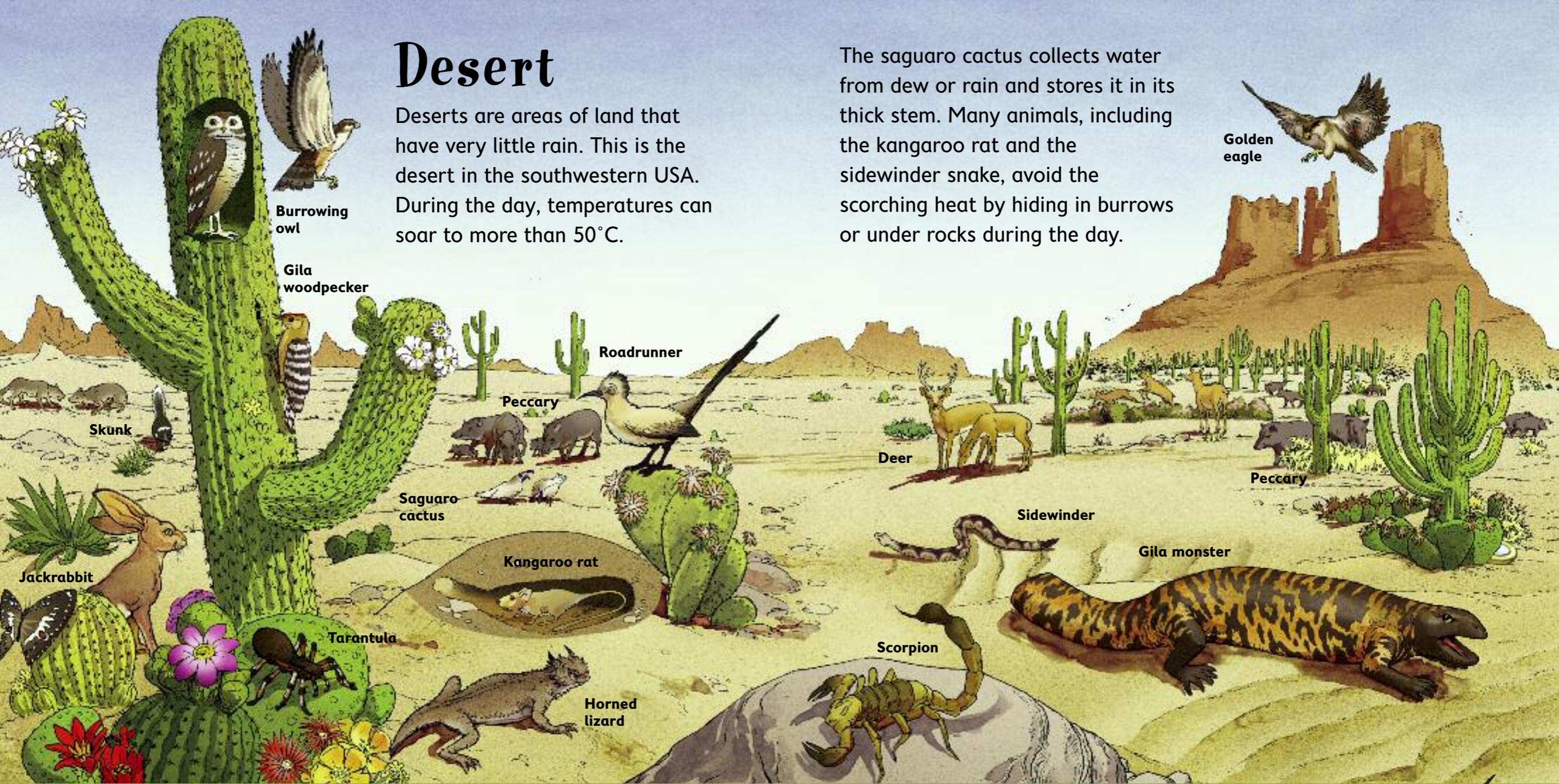


The scarlet ibis gets its red colour from the red crabs that it feeds on. The young have brownish feathers, which turn scarlet as they grow up. The ibis uses its long, curved beak to probe in the mud for food.

# Desert

Deserts are areas of land that have very little rain. This is the desert in the southwestern USA. During the day, temperatures can soar to more than 50°C.

The saguaro cactus collects water from dew or rain and stores it in its thick stem. Many animals, including the kangaroo rat and the sidewinder snake, avoid the scorching heat by hiding in burrows or under rocks during the day.



Burrowing owl

Gila woodpecker

Roadrunner

Golden eagle

Skunk

Peccary

Deer

Peccary

Saguaro cactus

Kangaroo rat

Sidewinder

Gila monster

Jackrabbit

Tarantula

Scorpion

Horned lizard

The horned lizard can squirt blood from the corner of its eyes to scare away attackers. It can also inflate its spiny body up to twice its size.



Peccaries are related to pigs. They have bristly hair and long, pointy teeth. They give off a strong odour so that other members of their herd can recognize each other. Using their sensitive snouts, they search the ground for grasses and roots.

The male burrowing owl prepares the burrow inside a cactus for the female. He stands watch at the entrance to scare away predators.



Tarantulas spend most of the time under the ground. They sit by the entrance to their burrow at night and wait for insects and other small animals to approach before pouncing on them.

The scorpion uses its pincers to grab its prey, an insect or a small mammal. The stinger at the tip of its tail injects poison into it, making its victim unable to move. The scorpion then feasts on it.

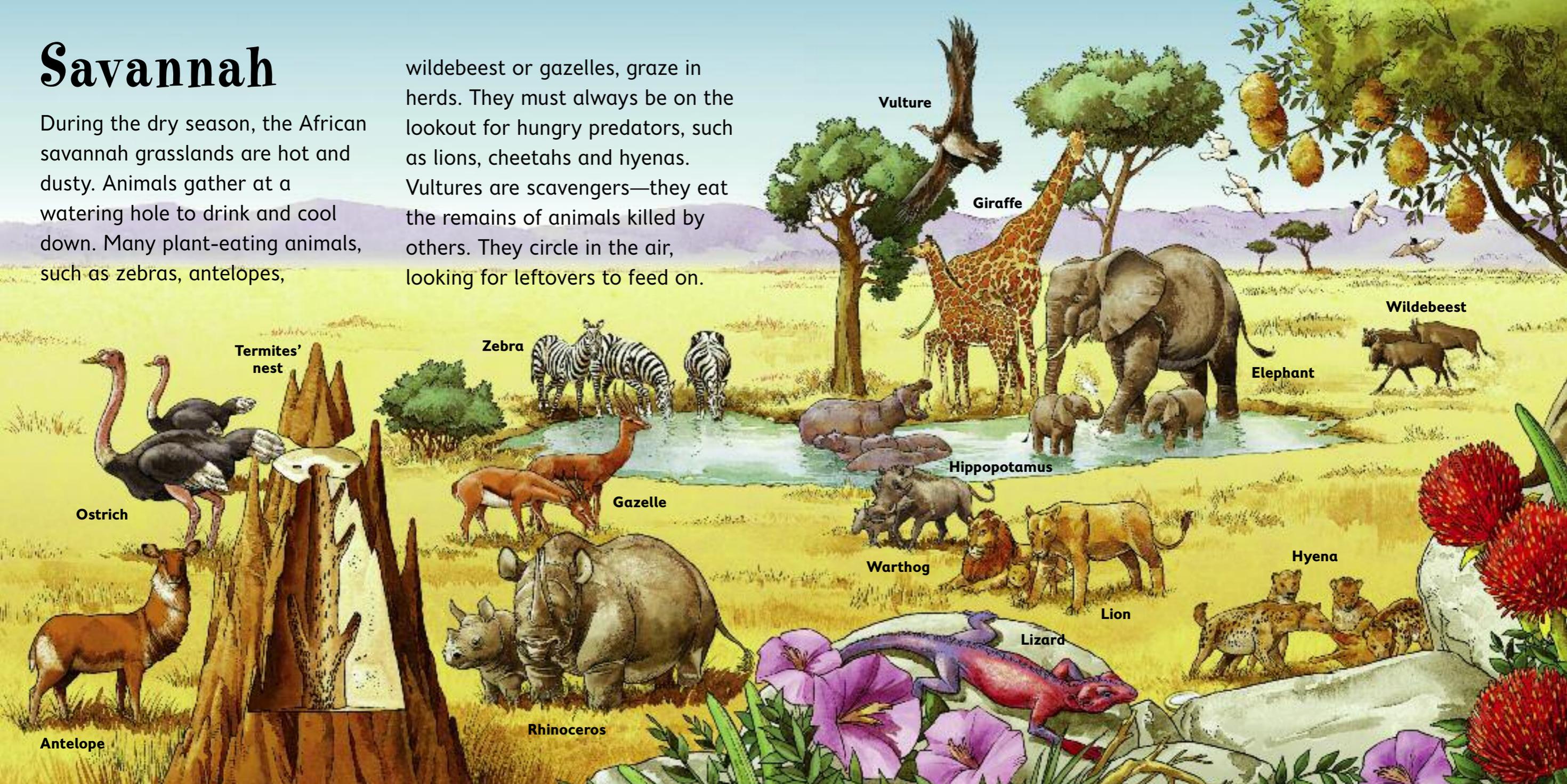


Roadrunners prefer sprinting to flying, although they may take to the air to escape coyotes. They can run at speeds of 25 km/h, fast enough to snatch insects in mid-flight.

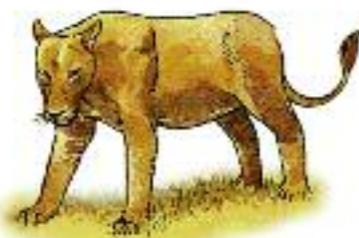
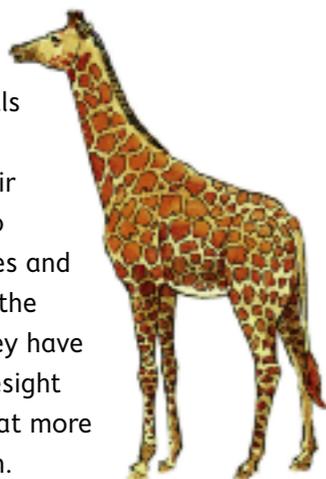
# Savannah

During the dry season, the African savannah grasslands are hot and dusty. Animals gather at a watering hole to drink and cool down. Many plant-eating animals, such as zebras, antelopes,

wildebeest or gazelles, graze in herds. They must always be on the lookout for hungry predators, such as lions, cheetahs and hyenas. Vultures are scavengers—they eat the remains of animals killed by others. They circle in the air, looking for leftovers to feed on.



Giraffes are the tallest animals in the world. They use their long necks to feed on leaves and shoots from the treetops. They have excellent eyesight and can run at more than 50 km/h.



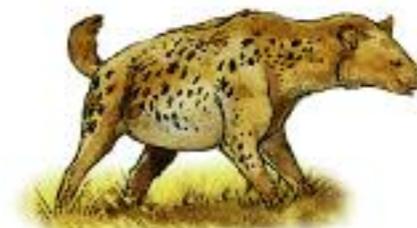
Lions live together in prides of up to three males and 15 females. Lionesses do most of the hunting. They stalk zebra, antelope and gazelle.

The zebra's black and white stripes may be a means of confusing predators. The patterns are unique to each zebra.



The rhinoceros's huge body is covered with very thick skin. Its horns are made of a hard material that is similar to that found in fingernails.

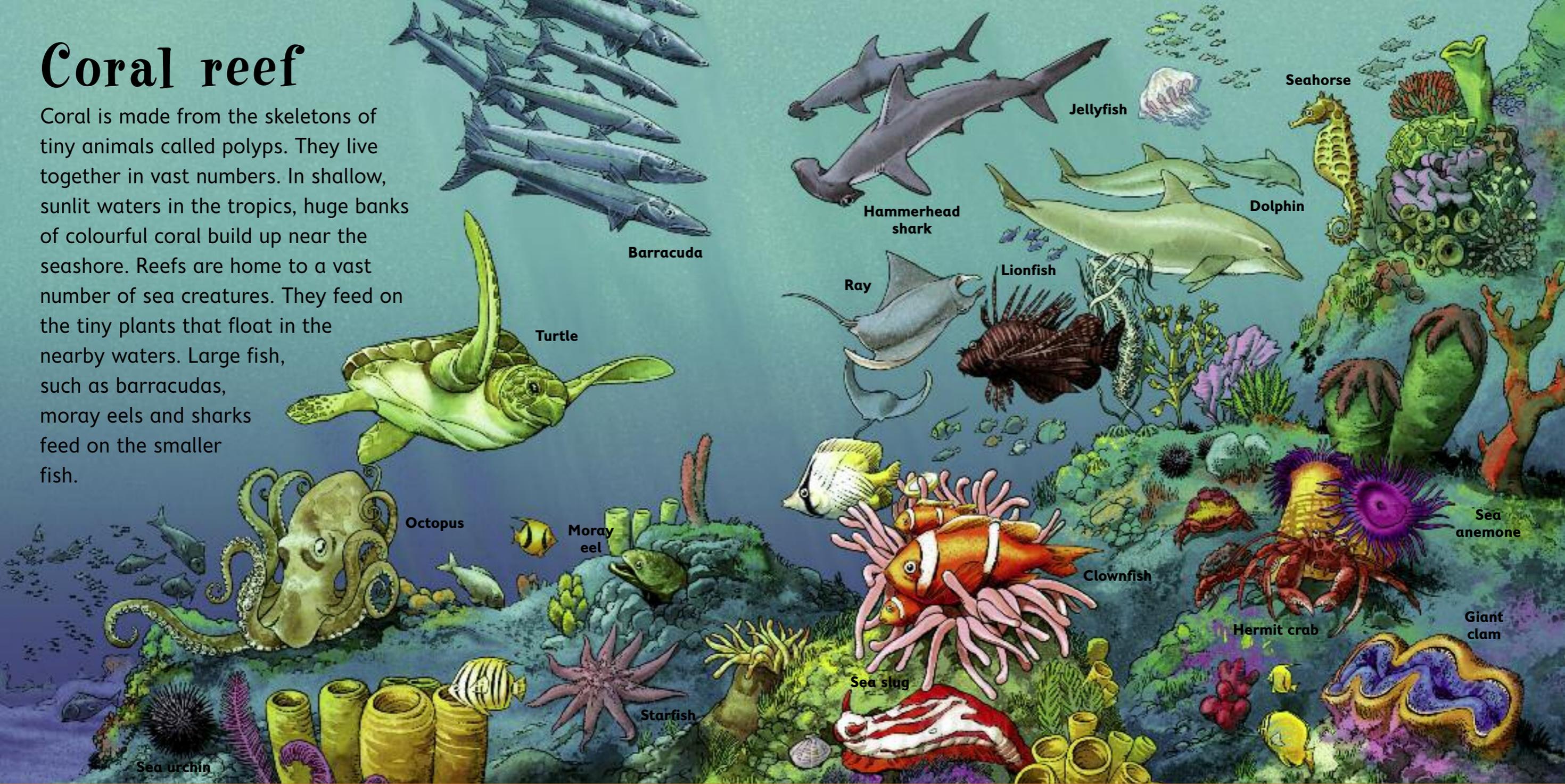
The spotted hyena is a ferocious meat-eater. Its strong jaws can crush even bones and hooves. It may hunt large prey after a long chase, or scavenge kills made by other animals



The African elephant is the largest of all land animals. Its trunk is really a nose and top lip combined. It is used to pick up food such as grass, leaves, branches and fruit. It can also suck up water.

# Coral reef

Coral is made from the skeletons of tiny animals called polyps. They live together in vast numbers. In shallow, sunlit waters in the tropics, huge banks of colourful coral build up near the seashore. Reefs are home to a vast number of sea creatures. They feed on the tiny plants that float in the nearby waters. Large fish, such as barracudas, moray eels and sharks feed on the smaller fish.



To stop themselves being swept away in fast-flowing water, seahorses curl their long tails around sea grasses. Male seahorses carry the female's eggs in a special pouch before giving birth to the babies.



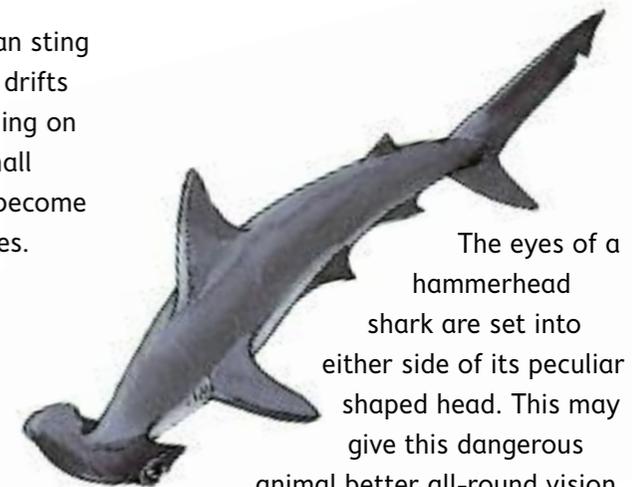
Starfish have neither heads nor brains. Their mouths are in the centre of their bodies. Starfish creep slowly along the sea bed in search of their prey.

Octopuses have eight arms. They are probably the most intelligent of all invertebrates (animals without backbones). For defence, they can change colour, or eject a cloud of ink to provide cover while they escape.



The lionfish is protected by a fan of spiny fins. They are deadly to touch. Each fin contains enough venom to kill its prey of smaller fish.

A jellyfish's tentacles can sting or kill other animals. It drifts through the water feeding on small fish and other small marine creatures that become caught in these tentacles.

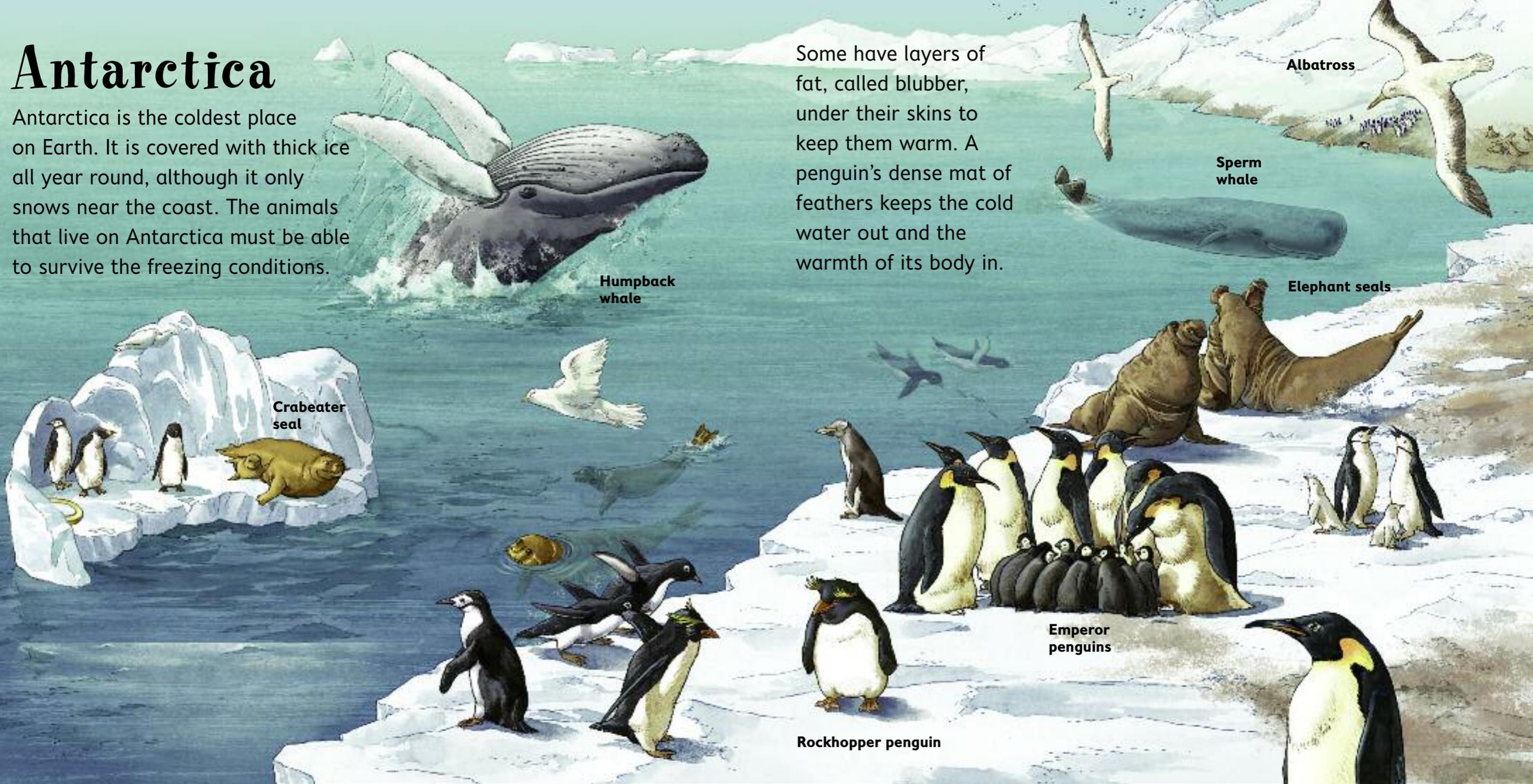


The eyes of a hammerhead shark are set into either side of its peculiar shaped head. This may give this dangerous animal better all-round vision.

# Antarctica

Antarctica is the coldest place on Earth. It is covered with thick ice all year round, although it only snows near the coast. The animals that live on Antarctica must be able to survive the freezing conditions.

Some have layers of fat, called blubber, under their skins to keep them warm. A penguin's dense mat of feathers keeps the cold water out and the warmth of its body in.



Humpback whale

Albatross

Sperm whale

Elephant seals

Crabeater seal

Emperor penguins

Rockhopper penguin



Humpback whales are so-called because their backs curve when they dive. These huge whales are very acrobatic. They can leap high out of the water. This is called breaching.

When trying to attract a mate, a rockhopper penguin will shake its head to and fro, showing off its yellow feathers.



Crabeater seals do not actually eat crabs. Instead they eat tiny shrimp-like creatures called krill. They swim with their mouths wide open. The water drains away through its teeth, leaving behind the krill.



After laying her egg, the female emperor penguin returns to the sea to feed. The male protects it on his feet for more than 60 days.

A sperm whale's head makes up a third of its body. The whales "call" to one other with clicks that can be heard several kilometres away. They are able to dive more than 1000 metres in search of their favourite food, giant squid.



An albatross has a wingspan of up to 3.5 metres, more than any other bird. It can fly for hours, gliding on air currents, without having to flap its wings. Sometimes it swoops down to the surface to scoop up fish or squid.





# Forest

Dangerous predators prowl through the northern conifer forests. Wolves hunt in packs. They howl to let other wolves know where they are.

Although small, wolverines can kill animals that are bigger than they are. They sometimes kill more animals or scavenge more meat than they can eat, so they store the remainder underground.

Bald eagle

Bison

Moose

Grizzly bear

Lynx

Crane

Otters

Chipmunks

Wolverine

Wolf

Beavers

When a salmon jumps out of the water, on its way back to its breeding grounds upstream, a grizzly bear is there ready to catch it in its jaws or paws.



Male moose, or bulls, can grow antlers nearly two metres across. They are designed to impress females and rivals in the autumn mating season.

Beavers can fell trees by gnawing them with their razor-sharp teeth. They use the fallen logs to dam a stream, making a lake around their shelter. This protects them from predators.



The bald eagle keeps a look-out for its prey while soaring in the air high above. It can spot fish more than a kilometre away. It swoops down at great speed, glides above the water before grabbing its victim in its feet and flying off to eat it.

Tufts of black hair sprout from the tips of a lynx's ears. These act as a hearing aid, helping the wild cat hear its prey from a long way off.

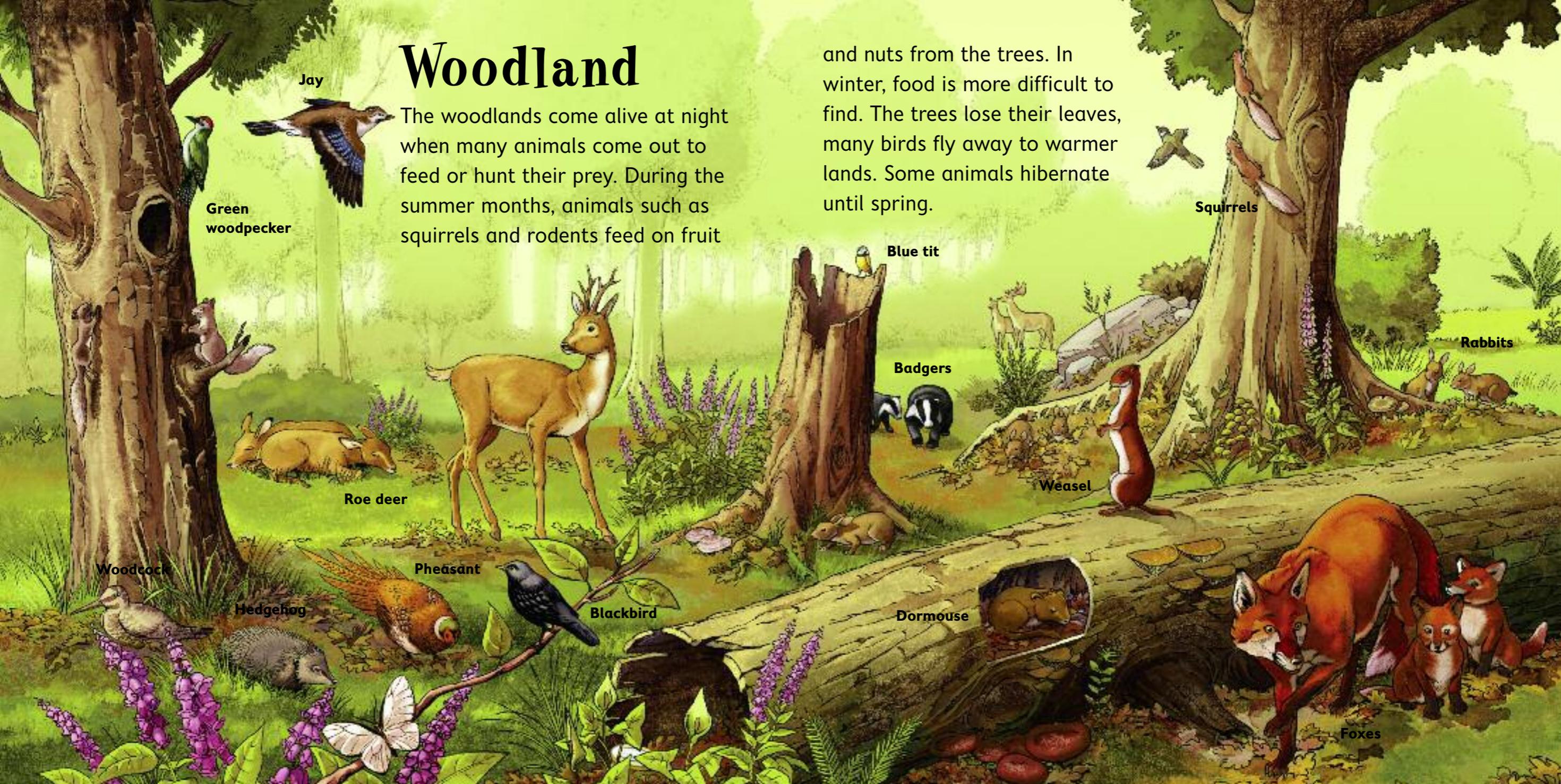


Cranes perform spectacular mating dances. They leap into the air with their wings outstretched and their feet thrown forward. At the end of the dance, they bow to each other!

# Woodland

The woodlands come alive at night when many animals come out to feed or hunt their prey. During the summer months, animals such as squirrels and rodents feed on fruit

and nuts from the trees. In winter, food is more difficult to find. The trees lose their leaves, many birds fly away to warmer lands. Some animals hibernate until spring.



Jay

Green woodpecker

Squirrels

Blue tit

Rabbits

Badgers

Roe deer

Weasel

Woodcock

Pheasant

Blackbird

Dormouse

Hedgehog

Foxes



The weasel is a slim animal with a long tail and short legs. A ferocious little predator, it chases its prey, mice, voles or rabbits, down their burrows.

It is active both in the day and at night. A weasel's own burrow may be taken over from its prey.



Woodpeckers use their claws to grip on to tree trunks. There they hammer into the bark with their long beaks to find insects to eat or to dig out nesting holes.

The red fox gives birth to its cubs in the spring. An average litter is five cubs. The young are born blind and cannot open their eyes until they are about two weeks old.



Only the male roe deer has antlers. During the rut (breeding season), the male, or buck, rubs them against the barks of trees to mark out his territory. Bucks fight each other to mate with females, called does.



Badgers dig out a maze of underground chambers and tunnels called a sett. Around the entrances to their home are areas where badger cubs play at fighting each other.

Hedgehogs have prickly spines everywhere except on their face, legs and bellies. To protect themselves from predators, they curl up into a tight ball. They snuffle around looking for slugs, snails, beetles and earthworms.



# Woodland floor

They may be quite difficult to spot, but many small creatures live under the ground. For example, ants make their homes in underground nests. They live together in large groups called colonies. In each colony, there is a queen ant who is looked after by thousands of worker ants.

Bees also live in large colonies. Worker bees use their long tongues to collect nectar from flowers. They take it back to their nests to make into honey.



As a mole digs, it pushes the earth up to the surface to form molehills. Earthworms are its favourite food. The mole bites the heads off first and saves the rest for later.

Earthworms are made up of many small segments. Each is covered in tiny hairs that grip the soil. This allows the worm to ease its way along.



The ladybird is a kind of beetle. Its bright colours and markings are a warning to predators of its nasty taste. When disturbed, the ladybird produces tiny amounts of foul-smelling yellow blood from its legs.



Spiders use their webs to catch their prey. Any insect that flies into a web gets caught in its sticky strands. The spider paralyzes it with its venom then wraps it up in silk, for eating later.

Some butterflies have markings on their wings that look like large eyes. Attackers are fooled into thinking the eyes belong to a larger animal, and are scared off.



Rabbits dig a series of burrows, called a warren, where they sleep and tend their young. They are also a place to escape from predators.

# Did you find them?



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