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6 Church Green, Witney, Oxfordshire, OX28 4AW

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**Created and produced by** Julia Bruce, Rachel Coombs,  
Nicholas Harris, Sarah Hartley, Katie Sexton and Erica Williams,  
Orpheus Books Ltd.

**Text by** Olivia Brookes

**Illustrated by** Ian Jackson, Mike Lowe (The Art Agency)  
Andie Peck, Ivan Stalio and David Wright

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see how we live

# Tigers

## and other carnivores



 Orpheus

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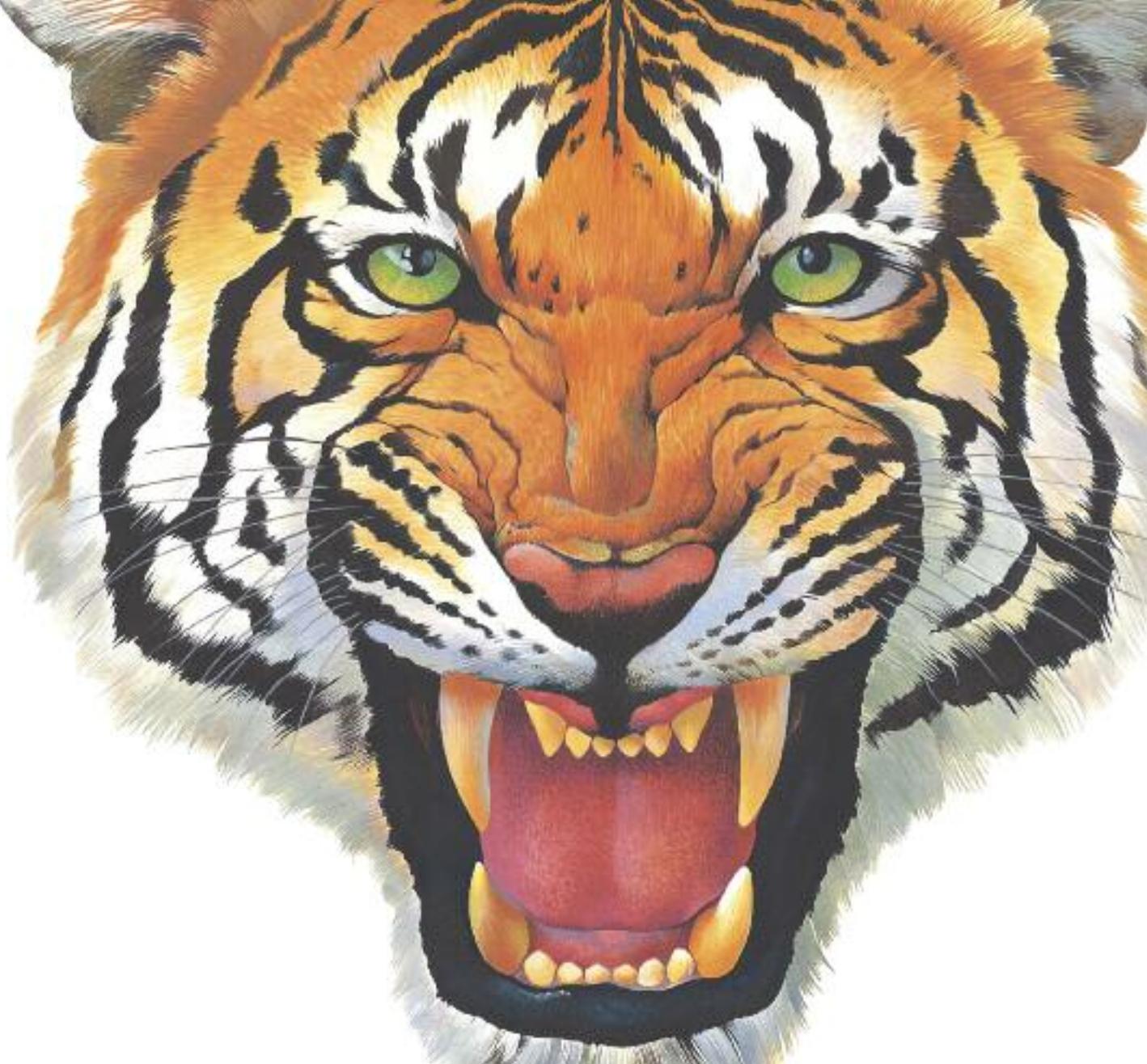


## The carnivores

Some of us animals seek out and kill other animals for food. We are called carnivores. Cats, wolves, bears and hyenas are all carnivores. So are smaller animals such as raccoons, badgers, weasels and mongooses. Let us tell you how we hunt our prey and lots of other interesting things about us!

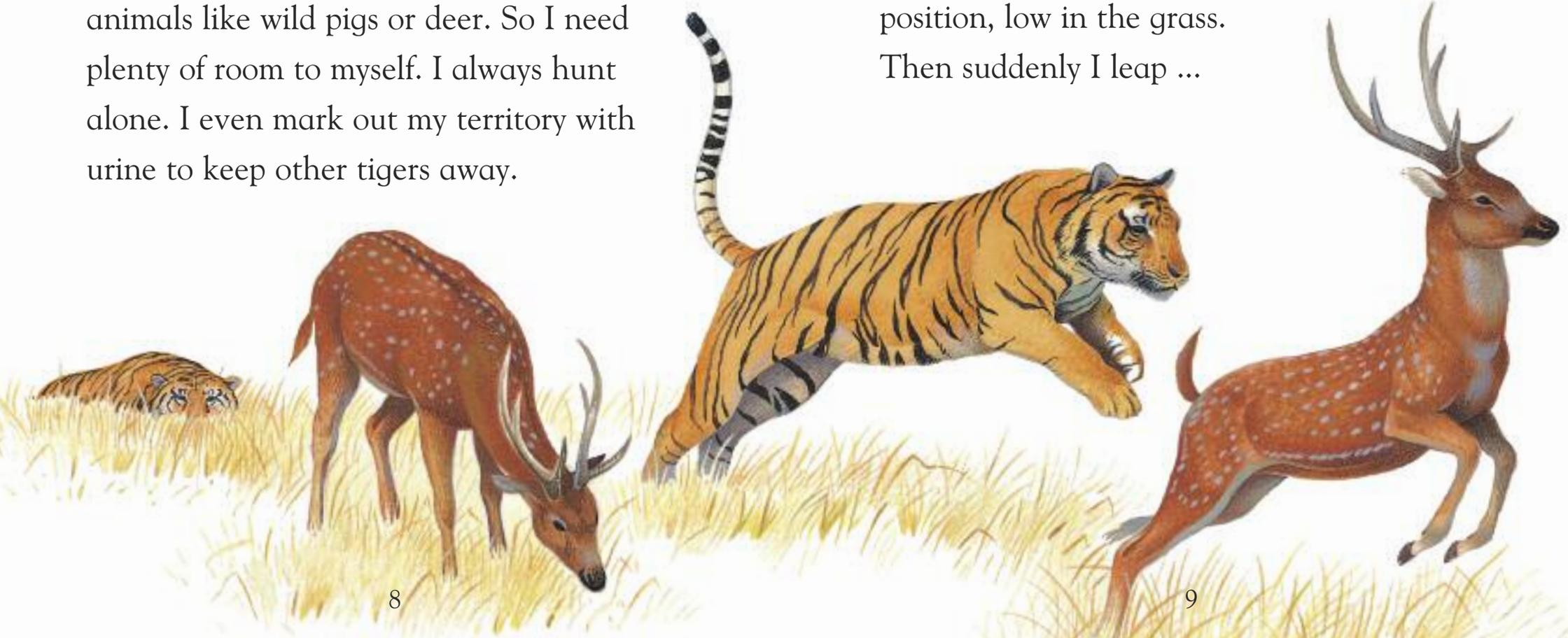
## Where do tigers live?

Take a close look at the face of your pet cat. Note the resemblance? It's not surprising because I'm a cat too, although much bigger than your pet. In fact, we tigers are the largest cats in the world. We live in south and east Asia. Swamps, forest, mountains—you'll find us in all these places. But there are very few of us around any more. You humans have taken up our space.



The problem is that people keep cutting down the forests where we and our prey live. Just like a pet cat, I chase and kill other animals. Not mice and birds, but big animals like wild pigs or deer. So I need plenty of room to myself. I always hunt alone. I even mark out my territory with urine to keep other tigers away.

My stripes help me blend in with the long grass, so I can creep up on my prey closer and closer without it seeing or hearing me. I get into a crouched position, low in the grass. Then suddenly I leap ...





The deer has seen me too late to run away. I pull it to the ground. My claws, long and curved, are usually kept hidden while I pad about. Now they spring out, helping me to grip my prey. Once I've got it in my clutches, I use my teeth to do the rest. Did you remember seeing my long, pointed canines?



Just one bite to the neck is all it takes. Now I'm going to find somewhere quiet to enjoy my supper.

# Why is the lion called the “king of beasts”?

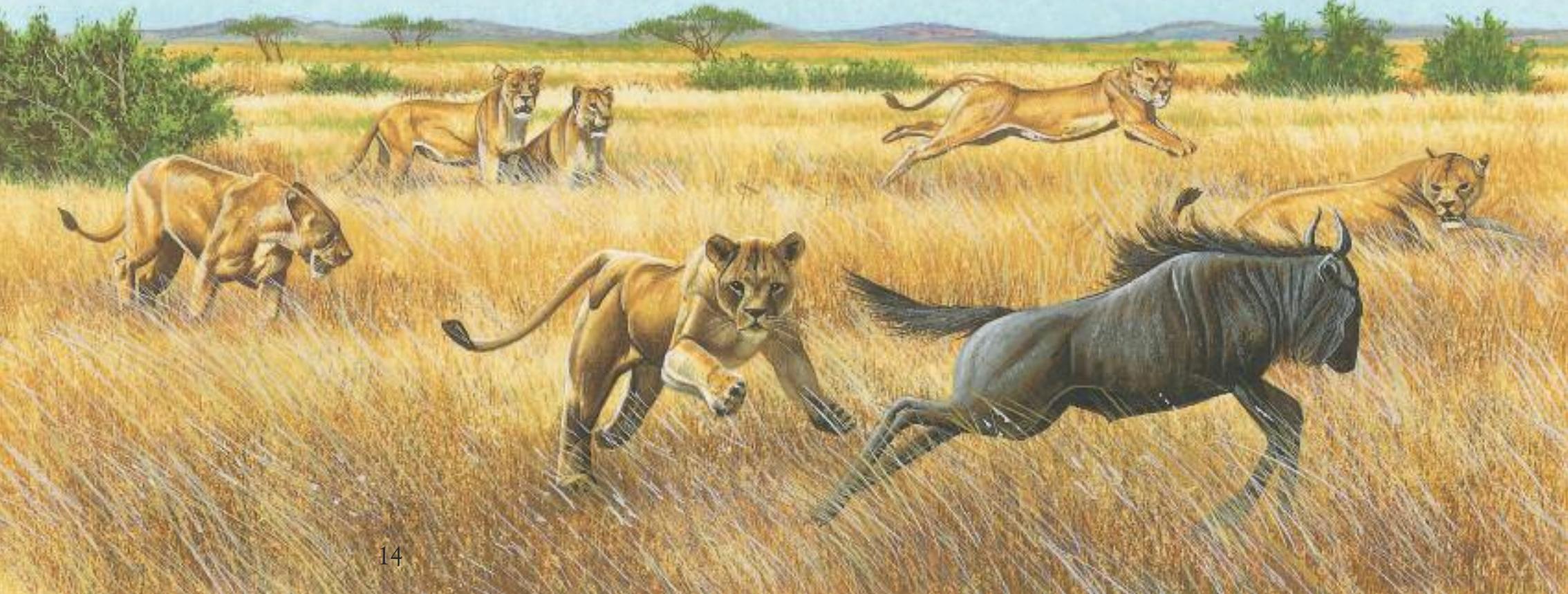
Don't listen to what that tiger says! He may be a touch bigger than us, but we lions are the most fearsome of all carnivores. We hunt and kill some very large animals: zebra, wildebeest, buffalo, giraffe—even elephants, sometimes. The open grasslands of Africa are where most of us live.



Male lions are larger than females, and have manes. Their job is to defend the pride, the family group, from other lions. It's we lionesses who do most of the hunting.

**W**e usually hunt in packs. This way we can bring down the largest animals, like this wildebeest. It can run faster than us, so we have to get really close to have a chance. Silently and stealthily, we surround it.

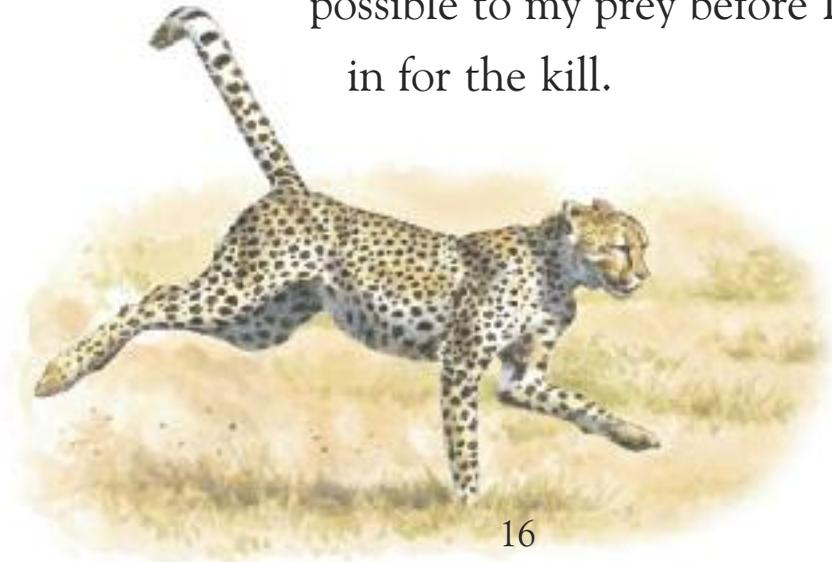
**T**hen we make our move. With all its escape routes blocked, our victim is trapped. One of us knocks it down, and a quick bite to the throat finishes it off. All the members of the pride get a share of its flesh.



## How fast can a cheetah run?

**M**y cousins, lion and tiger, catch their prey by surprise. But I chase after mine.

Cheetahs are the fastest animals on land. We can top 100 kilometres per hour—but only in short bursts. So I need to get as close as possible to my prey before I dash in for the kill.



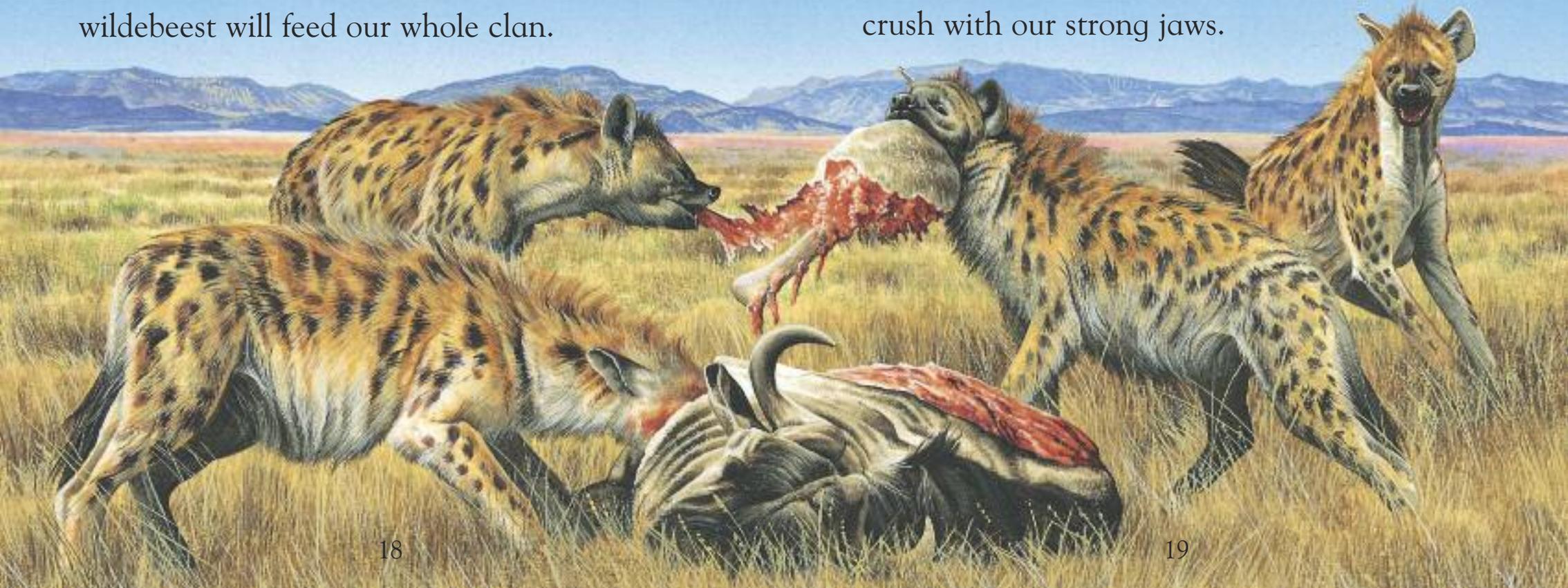
**I**'ve stalked this zebra for an hour. Now I break into a sprint and soon overtake it. It's bigger than me, but I can still force it to the ground. Then I kill it with a bite to the throat.



## How do hyenas get their food?

Here on the African grasslands, we hyenas have just made a big kill. This wildebeest will feed our whole clan.

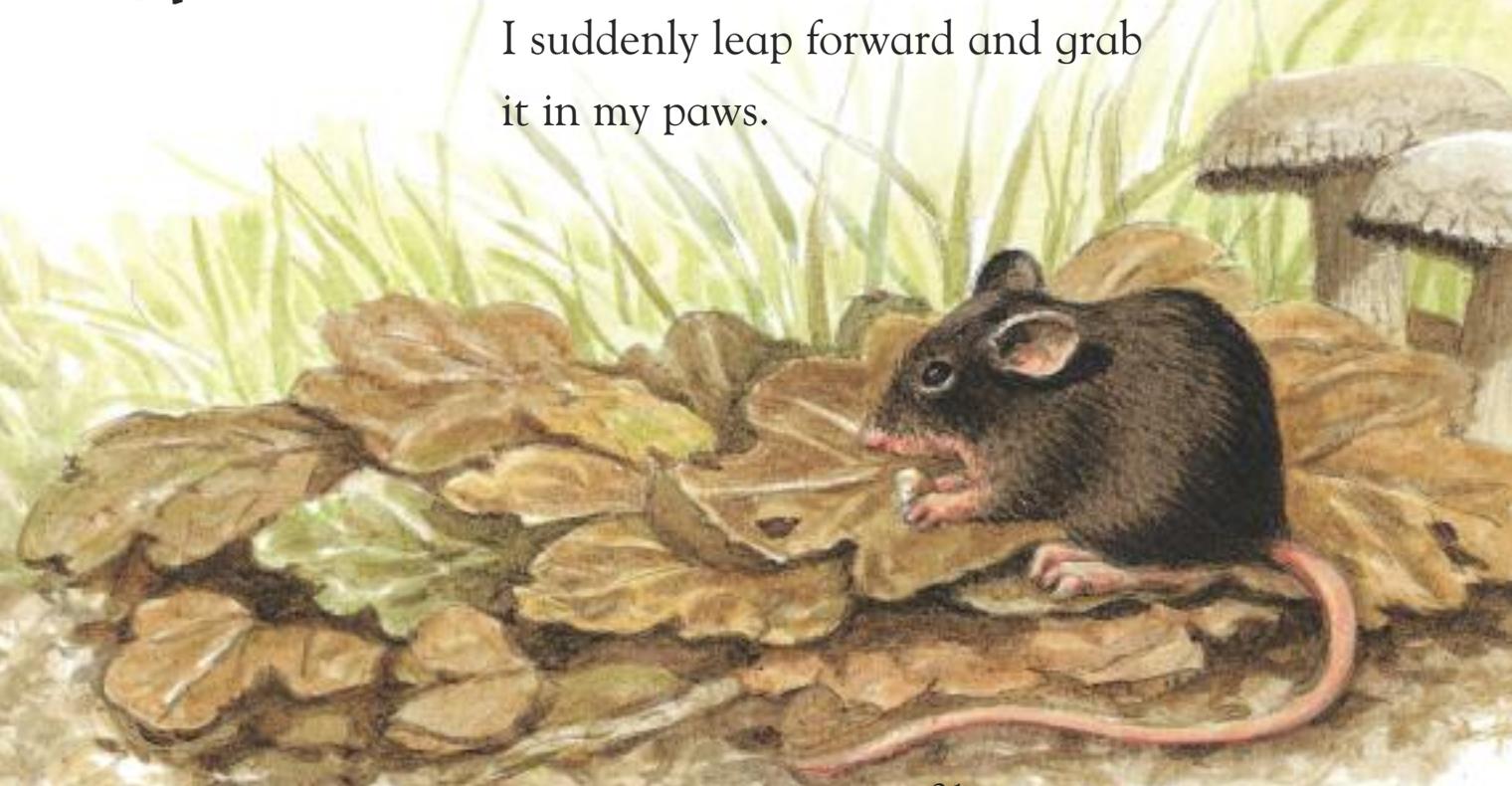
We are expert killers and will stalk our prey for hours until it's exhausted—then we move in for an easy kill. We will also steal kills from other carnivores, such as lions. We eat everything, even bones, which we crush with our strong jaws.





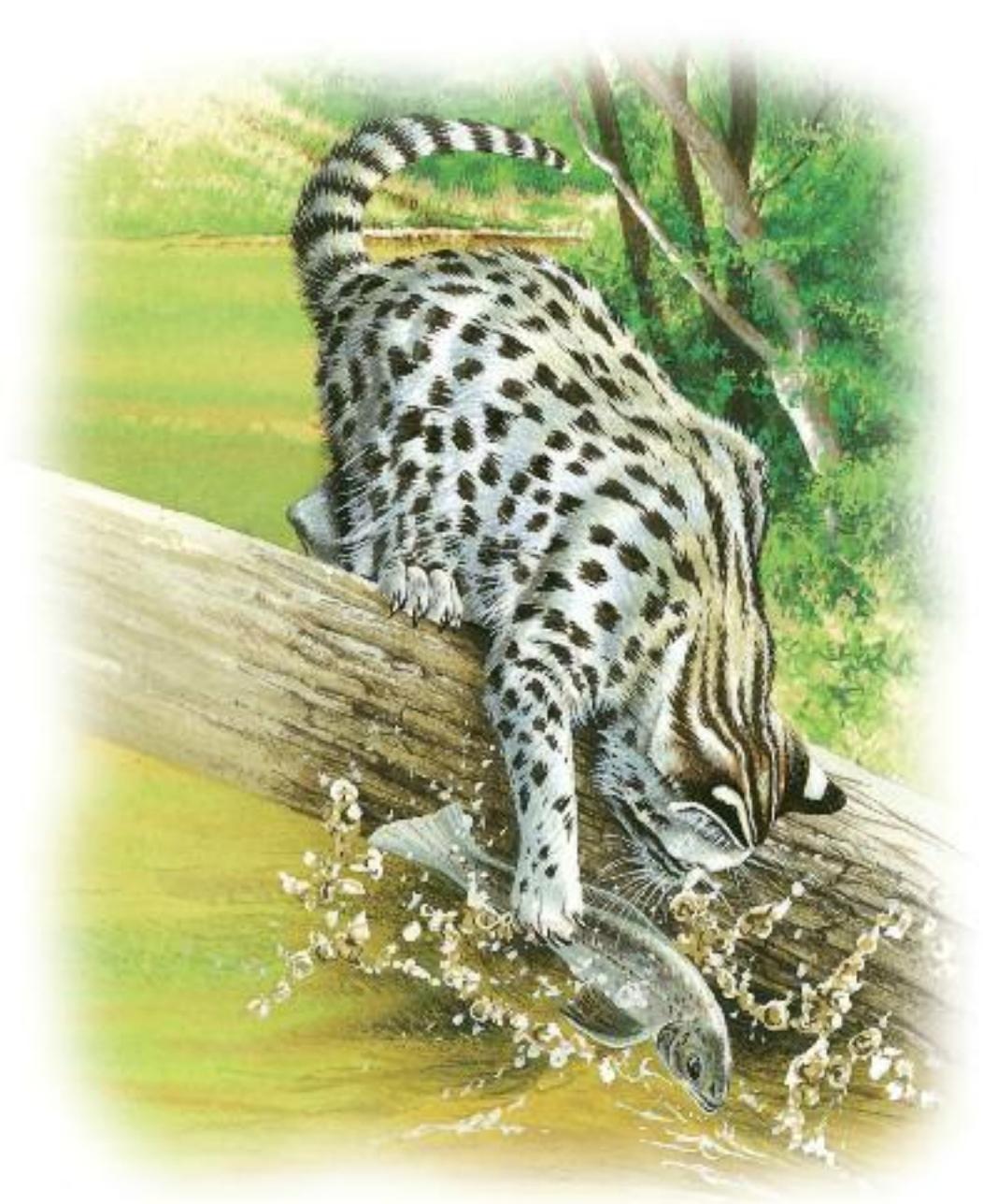
## How do cats catch mice?

Do we go hunting in packs? Do we sprint after them? No—far too strenuous for cats like me! I have sharp eyesight. I can also hear soft, high-pitched rustles and squeaks. I creep up silently. When a mouse is in range, I suddenly leap forward and grab it in my paws.



# How does a fishing cat catch fish?

There are plenty of cats in the wild not much bigger than a pet cat. Take me: I'm a fishing cat. I live in the swamp forests of southeast Asia. My favourite food is, of course, fish. Sometimes I simply dive in the water after them. But I have a cleverer way. I sit on the bank or an overhanging branch and tap the water's surface with my paw. When a fish comes up to investigate, I grab it!



## What do bears eat?



Like cats, we bears are carnivores. But we'll eat anything we can lay our paws on. Besides small mammals, we'll go for insects, frogs, berries—even the remains of your picnic! Grizzlies like me love to go fishing. During the summer here in Alaska, the salmon swim up river to breed. I simply wait in the water to catch them in my mouth.



For an American black bear, the forest is full of food. Fruit, nuts, acorns, shoots, bulbs, insect grubs, fish—all these are just as tasty as small mammals.

But our favourite treat is honey. We can't resist it! I look for a hollow in a tree where bees have made a nest. I'm a good climber, so a high nest is no problem. Once I'm up there I just scoop out the honey. The bees aren't exactly pleased to see me. Luckily their stings can't get through my thick fur.

## How do wolves bring down their prey?

**W**e wolves will also eat anything we can find: animals already killed, farm stock, vegetation—even waste from your rubbish dumps. But our main food is other animals such as deer and moose. They are much bigger than us, so we have to hunt together in packs.

We've been chasing this moose for a long time. Now that it's tired, we know that it can no longer fight us off.

