

# THE BIG BOOK OF ANIMAL MASKS

## How to fit your masks

You will need some elastic to complete your masks.

- 1 Carefully detach each mask page from the book along the perforated edges.
  - 2 Press out the mask from the page.
  - 3 Press out the eyeholes completely.
  - 4 The “nose” is cut so that when you wear your mask, it lifts forward away from the rest of the mask. Press out the nose on three sides along the cut lines, then make a fold along the top side, producing a flap.
  - 5 Press out the two small holes found near left and right edges of the mask. Cut a piece of elastic about
  - 6 45 centimetres long. Tie a knot in one end and thread it through one of the holes from the reverse (white) face of the mask so that the knot is trapped on that face (fig. A). Thread the elastic through the other hole from the front (coloured) face of the mask and tie another knot so that it, too, is trapped on the reverse face (fig. B).
  - 7 Now pull the elastic over the mask so that it runs round the reverse face of the mask (fig. C). It is now ready to wear!
- You may need to adjust the length of the elastic so that the mask fits comfortably on your head.

Fig. A

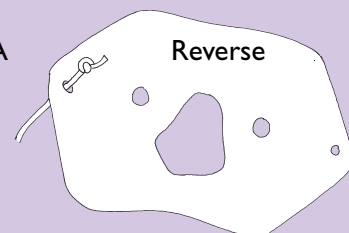


Fig. B

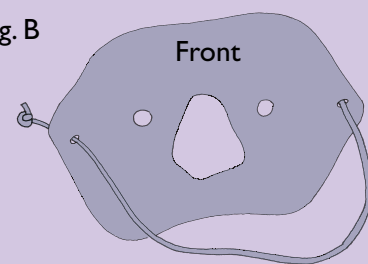
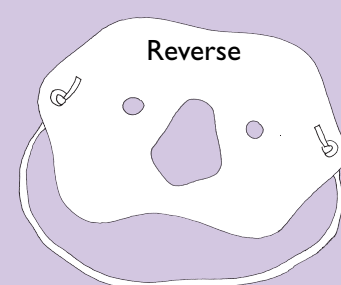


Fig. C



*o r p h e u s*

Published by Orpheus Books Ltd., 2 Church Green, Witney,  
Oxon

Created and produced by Orpheus Books Ltd.

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ISBN

A CIP record for this book is available from the British Library

Printed and bound in Singapore



A tiger's long, pointed canine teeth are used to stab and kill prey with a deadly bite to the neck. Their molars act like scissors, slicing up strips of flesh for the tiger to swallow. Tigers often hunt at night. In the dark they can see six times better than we can. But the tiger's sharpest sense is its hearing—used to listen out for intruders or perhaps a passing meal.

# Tiger

**T**HE TIGER is the world's largest cat, and perhaps the most fearsome. It has a huge body with strong muscles, and powerful jaws with long, sharp teeth. The dark stripes on its coat help it to blend into its surroundings. Hidden in tall grass, it can get close to its prey and catch it by surprise.

Tigers are solitary animals. Each male has its own territory (marked out with urine), taking up to about 100 square kilometres of land as its own. Other male tigers seldom dare to move on to another tiger's territory. Female tigers also mark out their own areas. They hunt for themselves and teach their cubs how to hunt.



Tigers are found in the countries of south and east Asia. They roam through swamps, rainforests, mountains and woodlands. Many tigers like to be near water. They often drag their prey to a pool or riverside, so that they can drink while they eat. In hot climates tigers often spend the daytime standing in water, just to keep cool.

An adult male Siberian tiger can weigh more than 300 kilos and needs to eat about 10 kilos of meat a day. A newborn tiger cub weighs only about one kilo and is blind and helpless. For the first 18 months a tiger cub relies on its mother to hunt for its food.



There used to be eight kinds of tiger. Today there are only five kinds left. The largest is the four-metre-long, shaggy-coated Siberian tiger, while the smallest (and commonest) is the sleek Bengal tiger. Over the last hundred years the total number of living tigers has dropped from about 100,000 to 6000. As forests have been cleared for farming and building, tigers have lost their homelands and died out. People also still hunt and kill tigers. They sell their bones to make medicines. In 1972 the organization World Wide Fund for Nature launched Project Tiger, a scheme to set up safe places for tigers to live in the wild in India.



Usually a tiger's long curved claws are kept hidden. This keeps them sharp while the tiger walks about. But when the tiger pounces to catch its prey, its claws spring out.



White tigers live in mountain forests. The colour of their coats helps them to hide in the snowy landscape. White tigers are now very rare in the wild.



The tiger spots a deer. Silently, it creeps closer and closer. Then, from a crouched position, low in the grass, it suddenly leaps. Off its guard, the deer is pulled to the ground. With a bite to the neck or throat the tiger kills its victim instantly, and drags it to a safe place to eat.





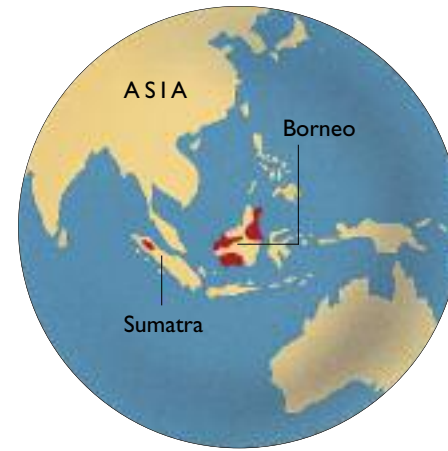


Young orang-utans enjoy playing in the branches of trees and quickly learn how to swing through the forest. In the past their mothers were often shot so the youngsters could be captured as pets. This is less common now.

# Orang-utan

**O**RANG-UTANS, members of the ape family, are solitary rainforest animals. Apart from mothers with their babies, and youngsters travelling with one or two others of the same age, orang-utans tend to avoid one another. Male orang-utans perform an aggressive ritual to keep other males away. During the night or just before dawn, they snap off a tree-top branch and toss it to the ground with a crash. This is followed by their long call, a blood-curdling roar, then a terrifying series of deep groans. Some males do meet and fight, and often bear the scars long afterwards.

Orang-utans, whose name means “person of the woods”, spend their days travelling through the treetops looking for fruit to eat. The prickly-skinned durian is one



The only orang-utans still in the wild, perhaps only a few thousand in all, live in the hot, damp rainforests of Sumatra and Borneo. In the past, their range extended across much of South-east Asia. Tree-felling has greatly reduced their rainforest home.



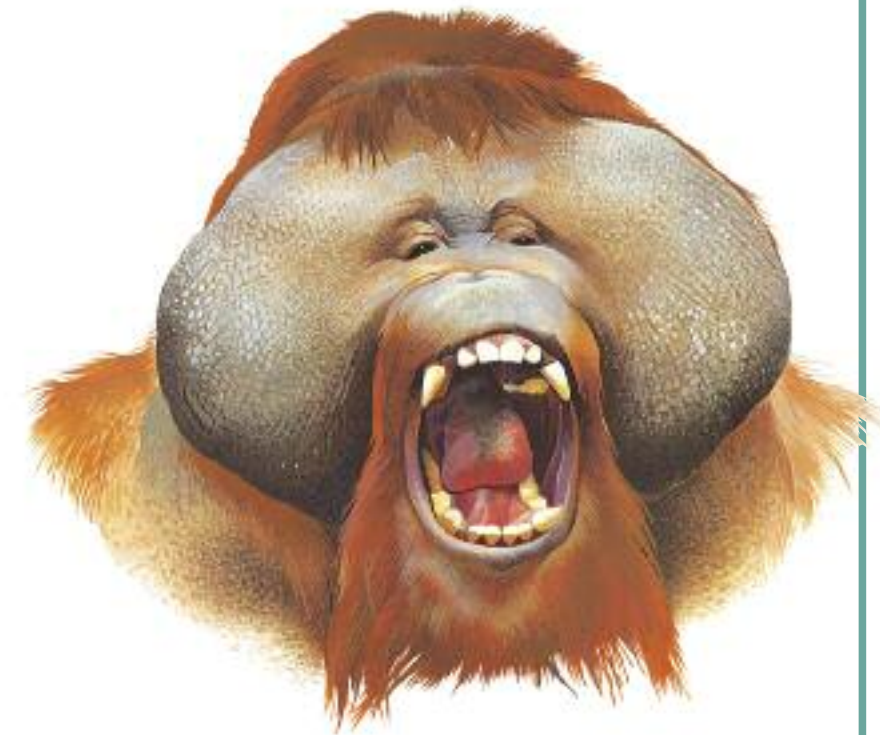
Durian



An orang-utan's hands are quite similar to ours. Long, flexible fingers and the shorter thumb-like digits give it a very firm grip. Its hands can curl around the branches like hooks. An orang-utan picks and peels fruit at great speed using its nimble fingers and sharp teeth. An orang-utan's feet are quite similar to its hands. This makes them excellent for tree-climbing, but not so good for walking on the ground.

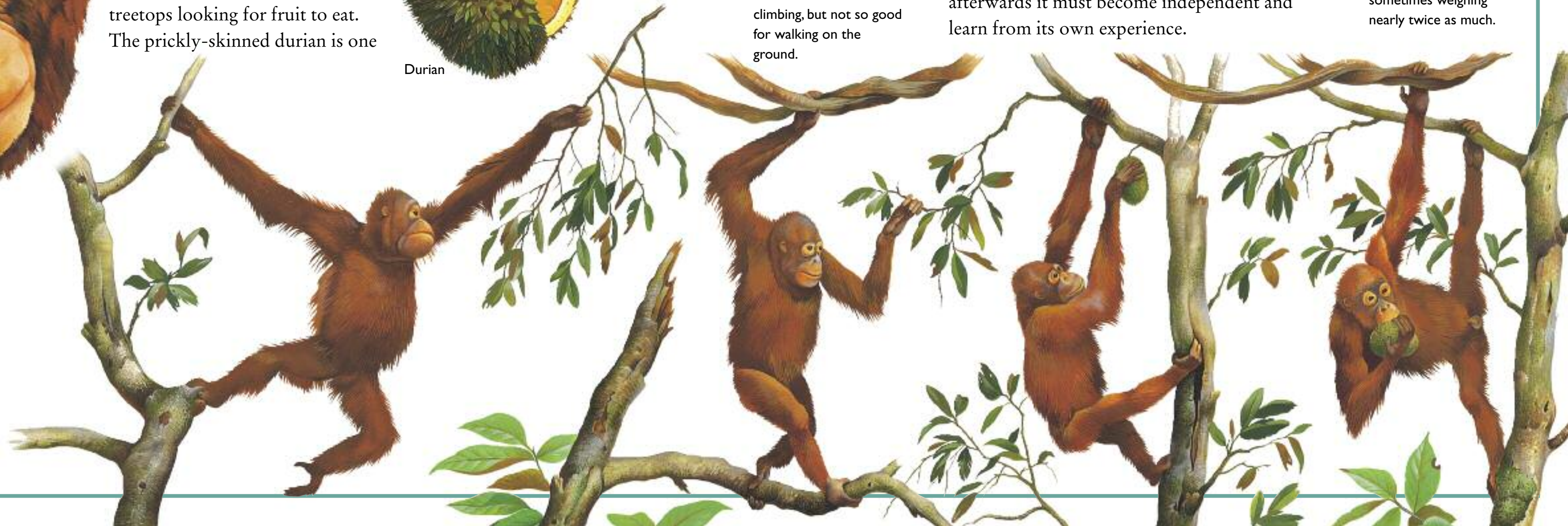
of their favourites. With their long arms and hook-shaped hands and feet, orang-utans are excellent tree-walkers. Adults often spend a fair amount of time just resting. They are simply too big for lots of athletic climbing. As dusk approaches, orang-utans quickly make a nest in a tree, using leaves and branches for a soft floor and rain-proof ceiling.

Like other apes, such as the chimpanzee, the orang-utan is very intelligent and has an excellent memory. It can remember which plants bear edible fruit and at what time of the year they do so. It learns a great deal during the first five years spent with its mother. But afterwards it must become independent and learn from its own experience.



At night, in the darkness of the forest, the roar of a male orang-utan echoes through the trees. A male orang-utan is easy to identify, not only by sound but by its appearance, too. It has wide cheek flaps and sagging throat pouches. Males are much larger and heavier than females, sometimes weighing nearly twice as much.

Climbing through the treetops 40 metres above the ground can be dangerous—one false step can lead to a deadly fall. So, as orang-utans swing from tree to tree, they make sure they keep a firm hold on the branches. As soon as a fruit has been found, they break open its skin and devour the tasty flesh.





# Owl



An owl's talons (claws) are needle-sharp—perfect for grabbing and killing its prey. A mouse or vole can be plucked from the ground and carried away. Soft wing feathers make the owl's flight silent, so that it can approach its prey without being heard.



Owls are often said to be wise. Perhaps we think that, with their big, staring eyes, they can see more of the world than we can. In fact, some owls cannot see so well in daylight—it is only at night that their sight is much better than ours.

There are more than 130 different kinds of owl. Many are nocturnal, flying and hunting during the night while resting during the day. One of the best known nocturnal owls is the tawny owl. It lives in the woodlands and forests of Europe, Asia and northern Africa.

As night falls, the tawny owl begins to hunt. You may hear its musical hooting as it warns other owls to stay away. Perched on the branch



Tawny owls, sometimes known as wood owls, live in woodlands. Where trees have been cleared, they have made their homes elsewhere: on farmland and in city-centre parks and gardens. This owl is found in Europe, northern Africa and, in the east, on the forested slopes of the Himalayas and mountains of China.



Eagle owl



Barn owl

The eagle owl has long, ear-like tufts of feathers on top of its head. These are not actually used for hearing, but may just be a way of helping the owls to recognize each other. The ghostly white barn owl is well-known for nesting in farm buildings, and is liked by farmers because it kills pests, such as mice.

of a tree, it looks out for its prey. If it spots a likely victim, it will fly silently through the trees, before swooping down and grabbing its prey. Then it flies off to a safe place to devour it. A tawny owl likes to eat voles, mice and small birds, as well as frogs, worms and insects. Sometimes it might even pull a fish out of a pond or stream. During the day, its colouring acts as camouflage. As it rests, perfectly still amongst the browns and blacks of a tree trunk, it can barely be seen.

Like many other kinds of owl, the tawny owl has suffered because its woodland home has become much scarcer. Farmland, towns and cities have taken over land where trees once stood, so there are fewer places for the owl to hunt and build nests. Fortunately, many tawny owls have successfully moved into the cities and towns. They live in parks and gardens, preying on house sparrows or rats



When it first leaves the nest, the young tawny is covered in light grey, fluffy feathers called down. As the owl grows, the down will be replaced by feathers with adult markings.



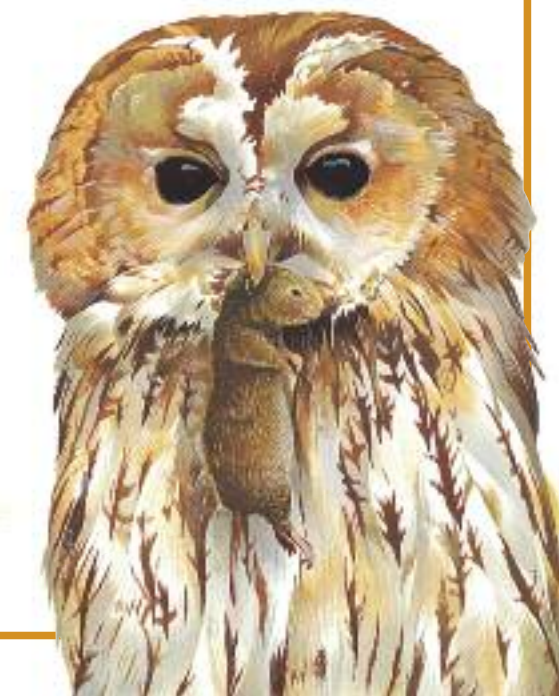
A tawny owl, like all owls, swallows its prey whole. What it cannot digest it regurgitates (vomits) in the form of pellets. These contain the tiny bones of small mammals, such as voles and mice, and birds, along with fur and feathers.



A tawny owl watches for its prey. It spots a vole and flies silently down through the darkness. Spreading its wings and tail to slow down, the owl comes to a near-halt in mid-air.



Its talons stretched out, the tawny owl plucks its prey from the ground. The owl's curved beak keeps a firm grip on the prey. To kill it, the owl uses its talons.





If you were another insect and came face-to-face with a mantis you would certainly be terrified! It would stare at you with its huge, bulging eyes. If you tried to creep away it would slowly swivel its head, keeping its eyes fixed upon you. The mantis's triangular, alien-like head has a tiny mouth. But strong jaws enable it to munch through the hard bodies of other insects and even the tough skin of small lizards.

# Praying mantis

**T**HE PRAYING MANTIS is so-called because of the position it adopts when lying in wait for its victim to approach: it holds its front legs up as if it is praying. There are more than 1800 different kinds of mantis. Each kind has different markings or colours to camouflage it in its natural surroundings. In forests and woodland, the

mantis are often green so that they can hide amongst the leaves. Some take on the colour of flowers, while others are brown like dead leaves so that they cannot easily be seen on the forest floor. Legs and wings also come in different shapes and sizes: they may mimic petals, leaves or even twigs.

Almost invisible, a praying mantis may wait for hours to catch another insect. Some kinds even eat lizards and tree frogs. It takes its victims by



A female mantis lays as many as 400 eggs in a frothy mass (*above*). This hardens into a cocoon that protects the eggs from harsh weather and predators. When the eggs hatch, tiny mantises, known as nymphs, emerge (*below*). As the nymphs grow, they moult (shed) their skins up to nine times.



Insect eyes are called compound eyes. They are made up of hundreds of lenses, each of which focuses on a different part of the outside world. The insect's brain puts the images from all the lenses together to form a complete picture. In this close-up of a fly's eye, minute hairs grow between the lenses. These protect the eye from dust particles.



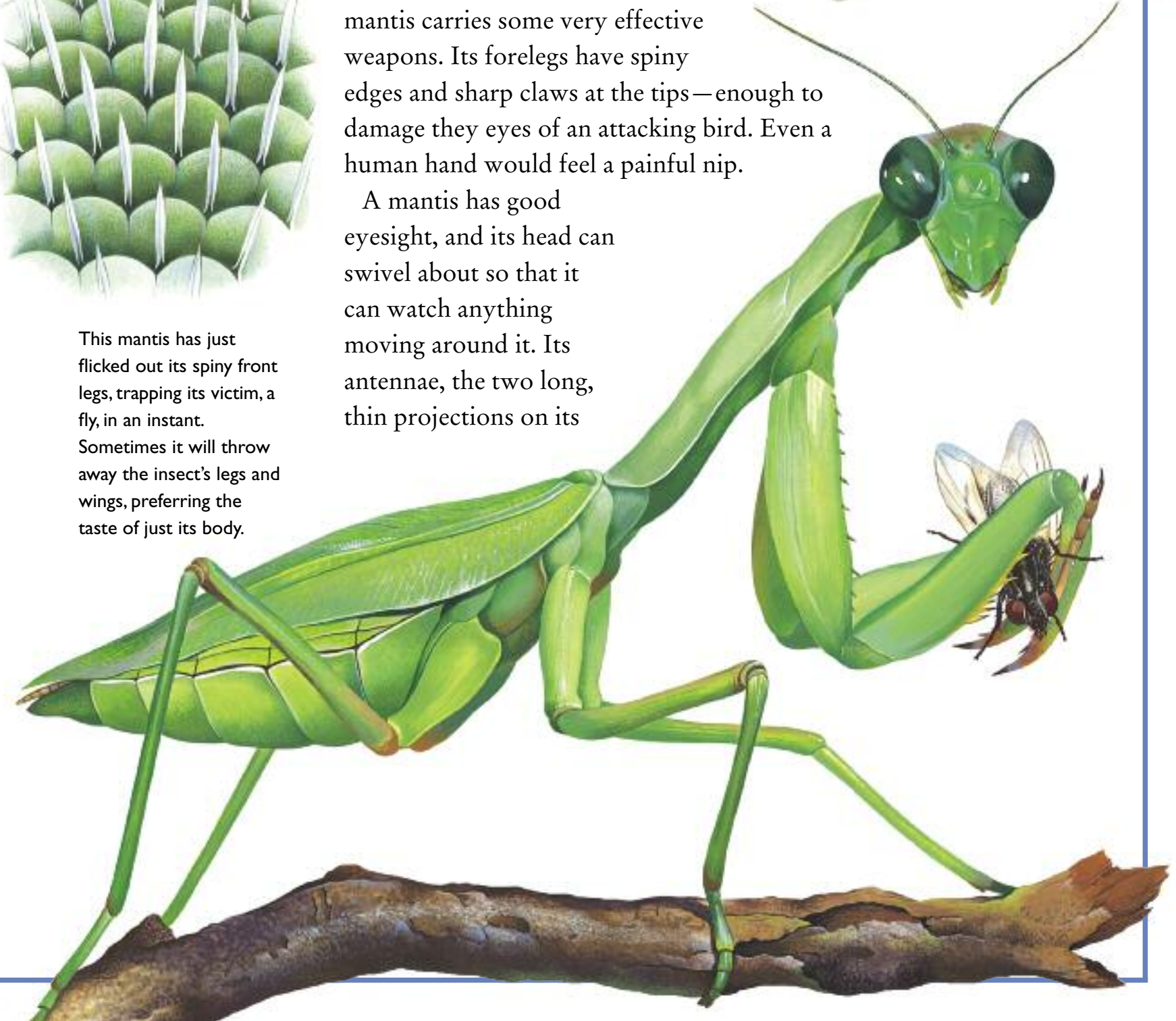
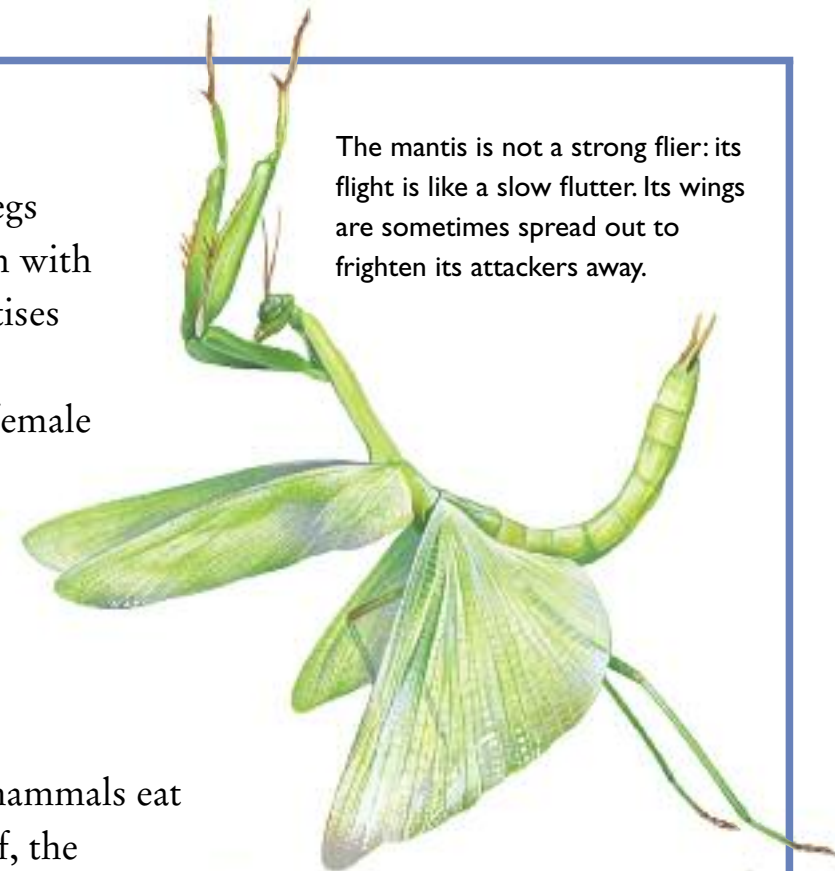
This mantis has just flicked out its spiny front legs, trapping its victim, a fly, in an instant. Sometimes it will throw away the insect's legs and wings, preferring the taste of just its body.

surprise, trapping them between its spiny front legs before setting about them with its jaws. Even other mantises are not safe from this terrifying predator. The female mantis may attack a male while he is mating with her, biting off his head before he has time to escape!

Some birds and small mammals eat mantises. To protect itself, the mantis carries some very effective weapons. Its forelegs have spiny edges and sharp claws at the tips—enough to damage the eyes of an attacking bird. Even a human hand would feel a painful nip.

A mantis has good eyesight, and its head can swivel about so that it can watch anything moving around it. Its antennae, the two long, thin projections on its

The mantis is not a strong flier: its flight is like a slow flutter. Its wings are sometimes spread out to frighten its attackers away.



The pink orchid mantis is cleverly camouflaged. With pink, petal-like wings and legs, it looks just like the flower where it makes its home. Perched in the petals, it keeps completely still. Then, when another insect lands on the orchid in an attempt to collect nectar, the mantis strikes.







*Tyrannosaurus rex* was one of the largest flesh-eaters ever to have walked on Earth. It was 12 metres long and 5 metres tall—bigger than some trucks you see on the road today. The head alone was twice as long as your arm, and some of its teeth measured 18 centimetres!

# Tyrannosaurus

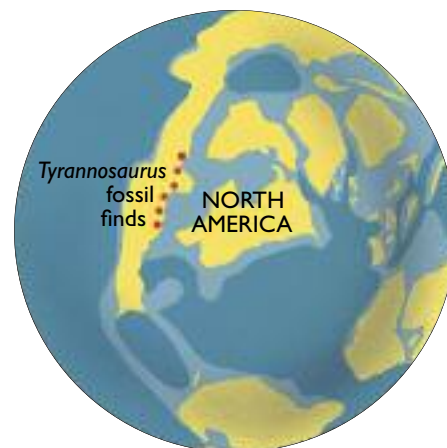
THE WORD “dinosaur” means “terrible lizard”. For 150 million years these amazing reptiles ruled over the Earth. There were two main kinds of dinosaur: plant-eaters and flesh-eaters. *Tyrannosaurus rex*, one of the largest flesh-eaters, weighed more than six tonnes. It was ferocious when attacking its prey. With powerful bites it would quickly kill and eat its victim.

The sheer size of *Tyrannosaurus* deterred any counter-attack. Its tail kept it balanced and upright while its huge, powerful legs probably gave it awesome speed over short bursts.

How do we know so much about an animal that died out 65 million years ago? The answer lies in fossils. The bones of some dead dinosaurs were



The meat-eating *Tyrannosaurs* hunted plant-eating dinosaurs such as *Triceratops*. The *Triceratops*’ frilled neck-plate and horns gave it some protection from attack. But *Tyrannosaurus* was much more powerful than *Triceratops* and its teeth were so sharp they could easily bite through the thick, scaly skin of the unfortunate plant-eater.



*Tyrannosaurus* was one of the last dinosaurs alive. It stalked the Earth during the Cretaceous Period, a time in prehistory from 144 to 65 million years ago. Several fossils of *Tyrannosaurus* have been found in North America, then quite a different shape to what it is today. A vast, shallow sea divided the continent into three.



A *Tyrannosaurus*’ tooth had a saw-like edge that could have easily sliced through the tough skin of other dinosaurs. There was an extra joint in the dinosaur’s jaw so that it could open its mouth very wide (big enough for you to sit in!).



*Tyrannosaurus rex*

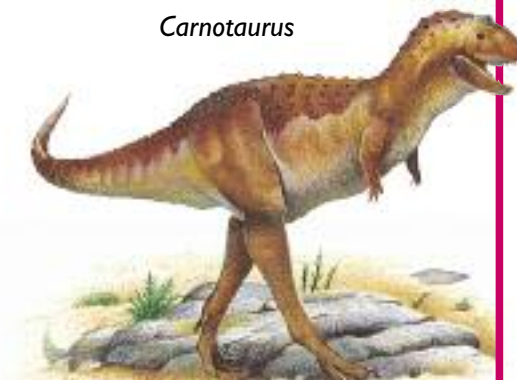
submerged in water and covered over by sediments such as sand or mud. Minerals dissolved in the water filled all the tiny spaces inside the bones. Over millions of years the sediments compacted into hard rock, and the shapes of the bones were preserved inside as fossils. Fossils have also been found of dinosaur footprints, droppings, eggs and nests.

All the world’s dinosaurs—not just *Tyrannosaurus*—died out 65 million years ago. No one is sure why. Some scientists think that a massive asteroid (rock from outer space) fell to Earth. The impact caused a cloud of dust and smoke to fill the skies. All sunlight was blocked out and vegetation became very scarce. The plant-eating dinosaurs died of starvation. Without these dinosaurs to eat, the meat-eaters, such as *Tyrannosaurus*, quickly followed them into extinction.

*Deinonychus*

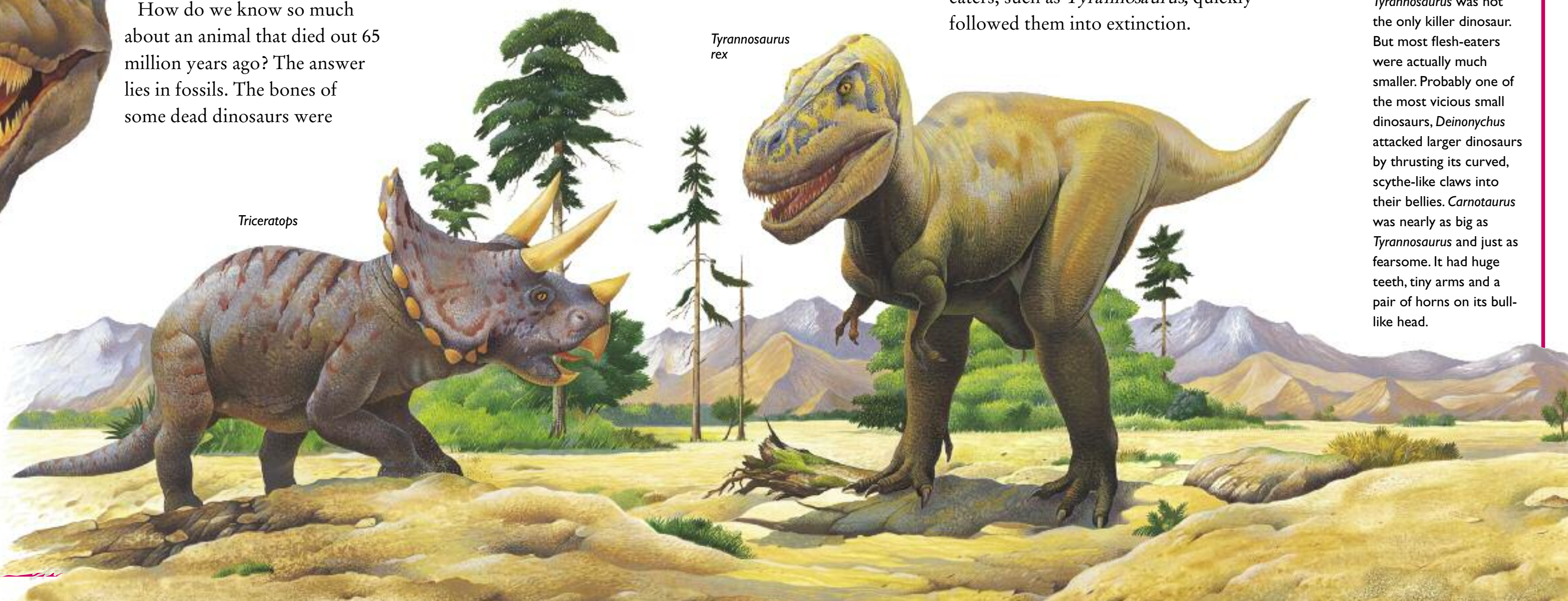


*Carnotaurus*



*Tyrannosaurus* was not the only killer dinosaur. But most flesh-eaters were actually much smaller. Probably one of the most vicious small dinosaurs, *Deinonychus* attacked larger dinosaurs by thrusting its curved, scythe-like claws into their bellies. *Carnotaurus* was nearly as big as *Tyrannosaurus* and just as fearsome. It had huge teeth, tiny arms and a pair of horns on its bull-like head.

*Triceratops*







The giant panda is easily distinguished by its black eye-patches.

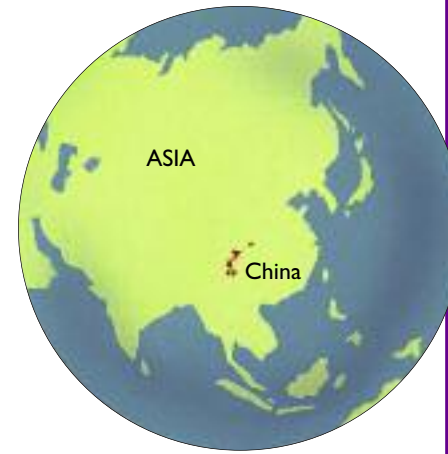
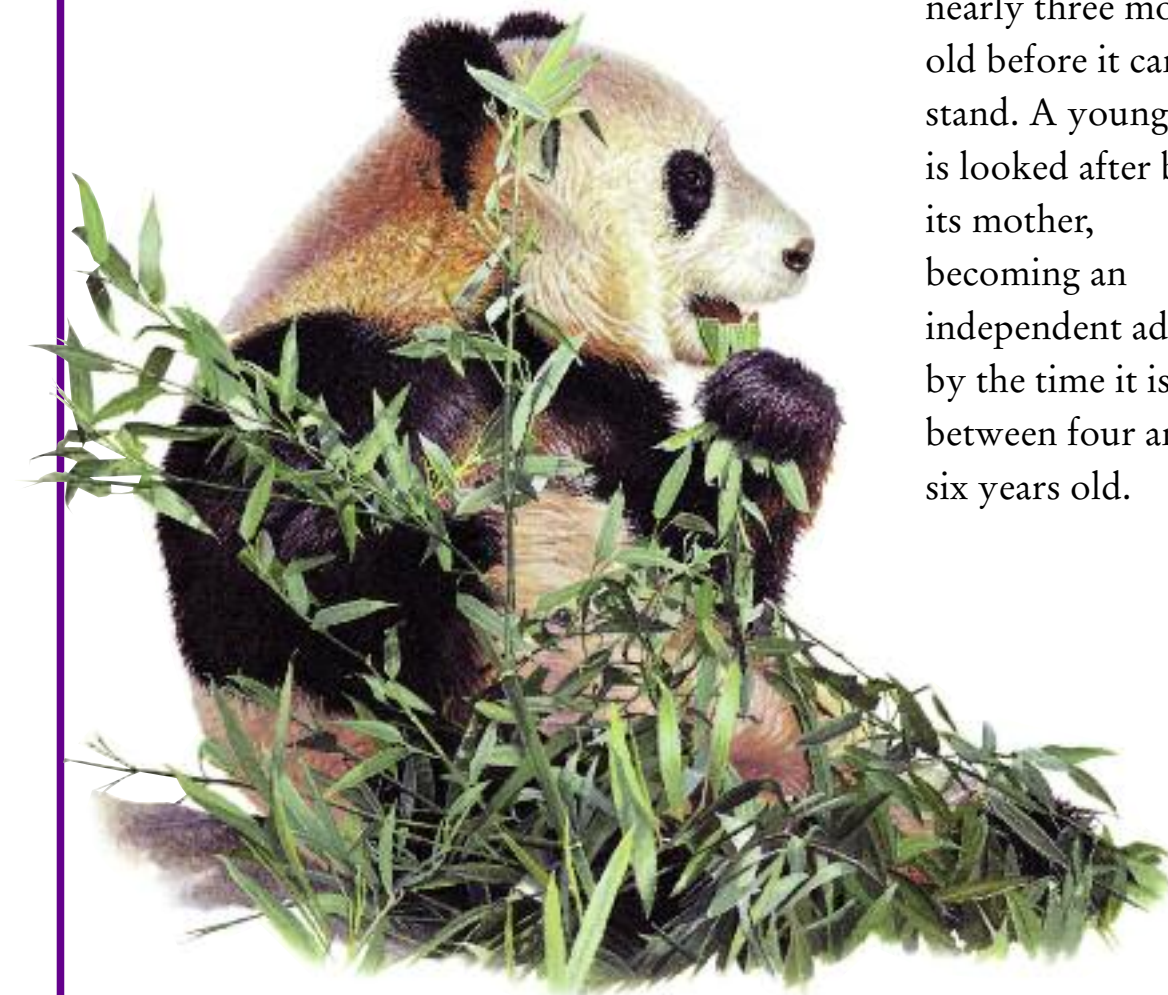
# Giant panda

THE GIANT PANDA is one of the rarest mammals in the world. In the wild, it is found only in a few mountainous areas of China. Elsewhere, it can be seen only in zoos or at animal research centres. Many people are working hard to try to save the giant panda's natural forest home so that its numbers will increase.

Unfortunately, the giant panda relies on bamboo plants for nearly all of its food. So if the bamboo forests are cut down it usually starves. Sometimes it will eat other plants or feed on the meat of dead deer, but it is not fast enough to catch live animals for food.

The giant panda usually walks on all fours but sometimes it will stand up on its hind legs.

A baby panda is nearly three months old before it can stand. A youngster is looked after by its mother, becoming an independent adult by the time it is between four and six years old.



The giant panda lives in the mountains of China. As the human population has increased and forests cleared, pandas have lost their homes. Today, there are estimated to be only about 1500 giant pandas left, living in six separate areas.

The sixth digit on each of the panda's front paws is similar to a thumb. The extra digit is very useful for grasping bamboo at just the right angle.



A meal of bamboo, the giant panda's favourite dish, can last for 15 hours. There is not much goodness in bamboo, so a panda has to eat a great deal of it to survive. With its flexible paws a panda can soon tear off the tastiest parts of the plant. It can get through more than 60 bamboo shoots at a single sitting!