

 NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC



HELP US SAVE  
ANIMALS -  
TOGETHER

# KIDS

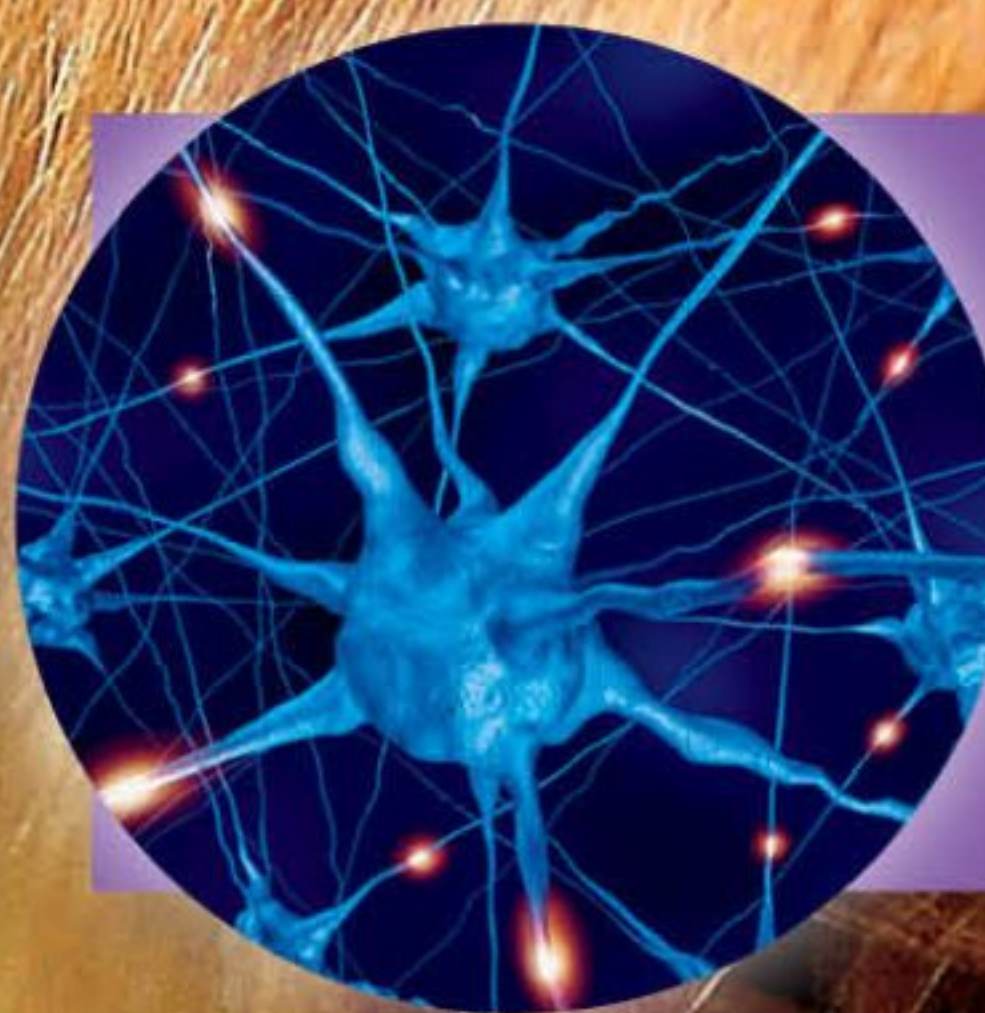
## COMEBACK CREATURES!

5

SPECIES THAT HAVE BEEN SAVED FROM EXTINCTION



MAKE  
BAKED  
EGGS!



WEIRD  
BUT  
TRUE!



WE CHAT TO  
LION EXPERT  
AMY DICKMAN



# DO YOU WANT TO BE LIKE DR. JANE?

## JOIN **ROOTS & SHOOTS** TODAY

Join Dr. Jane Goodall's global network of young people in more than 130 countries taking action to improve our world!

Organise a mobile phone recycling drive!

Adopt and become a chimp guardian!

Educate others about sustainable palm oil!

Raffle a toy chimp or hold a bakesale!

Plant a tree or garden at your school!



### Go APE for Animals, People and our Environment!

By joining Dr. Jane's Roots & Shoots, you will:

- get a Resource Kit with ideas on how to make a difference, campaign information and fundraising tips
- be part of a special group of kids changing the world in Australia and around the globe
- get information on upcoming opportunities for young leaders
- help protect chimpanzees, save their habitat and support African communities



Join or donate online today:

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[www.facebook.com/pages/  
The-Jane-Goodall-Institute-Australia](http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Jane-Goodall-Institute-Australia)

JGI New Zealand coming soon!



## Hello!

This month, we're celebrating Earth Day by taking a look at some of the world's most threatened creatures, discovering how they have been brought back from the brink by helpful humans. We also chat to brave big-cat conservationist Amy Dickman about the time a massive lion fell asleep on her! (Yes, really!)

Plus, prepare to freak out as we take a closer look at the microscopic mini-beasts that live in our beds. Ew!

There are all the usual posters, fun facts, puzzles and prizes to enjoy, too - so turn the pages and get involved!

See you next month,  
The NG KiDS team



The NGK team!

## 4 WILD POSTERS!



## Write to NG KiDS

Email [editorial@ngkids.com.au](mailto:editorial@ngkids.com.au)

Post NG KiDS, PO Box 161, Hornsby NSW 2077 Australia

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Facebook [facebook.com/natgeokidsausnz](https://facebook.com/natgeokidsausnz)

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For competition terms and conditions visit [natgeokids.com/ts-and-cs/](http://natgeokids.com/ts-and-cs/)

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OUR FUN  
PERSONALITY  
QUIZ!

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- 50 **Weird But True** A selection of utterly outrageous info!



# INSIDE SCOOP

The latest news from around the globe...

## Violinist plays during surgery!



Doctors from **King's College Hospital** in **London, UK**, removed a **brain tumour** from a woman while she **played her violin**!

Musician **Dagmar Turner** loves the violin so much that she wanted to be sure her **playing wasn't affected** by the surgery, which was in a **part of the brain that controls precise hand movements**. Before her operation, the surgeon (a **fellow music lover**) spent two hours carefully **mapping her brain** to identify areas that were **active** when she **played the instrument**.

The op was a **success** and Dagmar has **retained full function in her left hand**! She hopes to **rejoin her orchestra** soon. Amazing!



Dagmar during the operation

## Mini marsupial lion fossil discovered



Artist Peter Schouten's impression of the little lion hunting!



**Palaeontologists** working in **Queensland** have discovered that **fossils** they were studying belong to a new type of **marsupial lion**! The **domestic cat-sized** predator, named **Lekaneleo roskellyae**, had a **pouch** to carry its young, and incredibly **powerful teeth** that were sharp enough to **slice through bone**! Scientists think the fearsome little lion roamed rainforests **20 million years ago**, living in **trees**, hunting **snakes, birds** and other small animals.

**Riversleigh World Heritage Area**, where **Lekaneleo** was uncovered, is the site of many other important finds, including the **2016** discovery of a **kitten-sized** marsupial lion **Microleo attenboroughi** – named after **Sir David Attenborough**. Cool!

Brain surgery © King's College Hospital; Mini marsupial © Peter Schouten; Robot © Anand Varma; Illustration © Marek Jagucki; All others © Getty Images UK

# 3

## FAST FACTS!

## COMPOST!

It's Compost Week from 3 to 9 May – so let's find out all about this wonderful waste...

**1** **Composting** is the process of turning **leftover kitchen and garden waste** (such as **foodscraps** and **grass cuttings**) into **compost**, a **nutrient-rich** soil enhancer (also known as **humus**) that helps plants to grow!

**2** Compost forms when **microorganisms** living in the soil break down **organic (plant or animal) matter**. Larger creepy crawlies such as **worms**, centipedes and some **beetles** may get involved, too.

**3** A successful compost heap needs plenty of **oxygen** to feed the microorganisms, a **variety** of materials and not too much water. Avoid **dairy** and **meat scraps** as they can attract **pests**. If your council doesn't **collect** organic waste, learn to make your own compost heap online!

Around 50% of the rubbish Australians put in the garbage bin could be composted instead!





# Recycling challenge

GET INVOLVED!



Did you know that **toothbrushes**, **toothpaste tubes** and **floss packs** can all be **recycled** and turned into new products by **Terracycle**? Well, now there's a **nationwide competition** encouraging **schools** to collect this 'oral waste'.

If your school signs up for the **Colgate Community Garden Challenge** you could win a **garden set** made out of **recycled materials**, along with a **\$200 gift voucher**! There are also **monthly prize draws** to win packs of **60 upcycled toothbrush pens**.

To date, more than **one million** 'non-recyclable' oral waste items have been diverted from landfill and more than **1,200 schools** took part in last year's comp. Smiles all round!

● To join the competition, ask your teacher to visit [terracycle.com/colgategarden-au](http://terracycle.com/colgategarden-au)



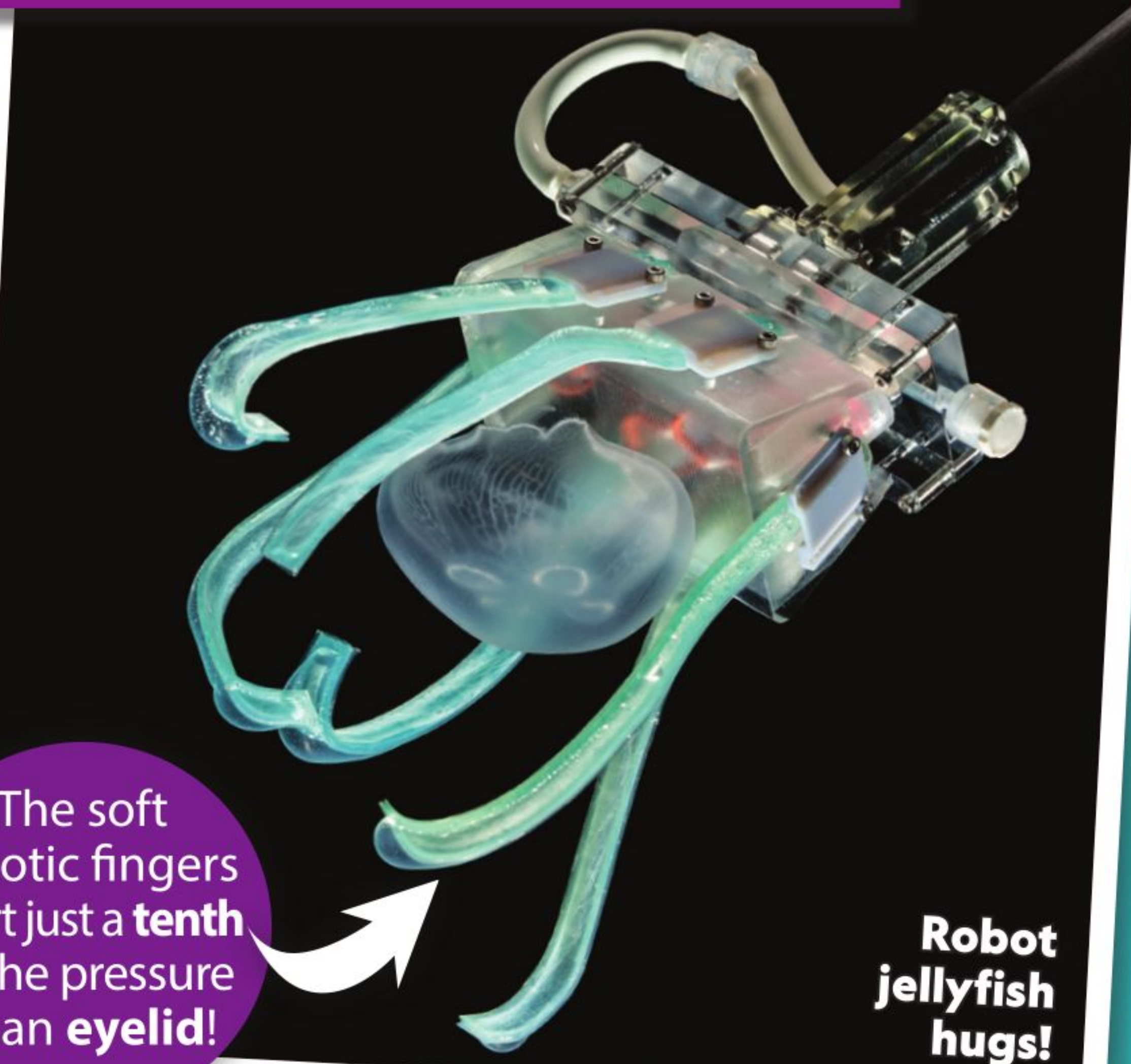
Last year's winners were Newcastle High School!

# Noodle-fingered robot!



A top team of American **scientists** has designed an **ultra-soft robot** with **noodle-like fingers** to help them conduct **research** on **jellyfish**! The **gentle grippers** can interact with the slippery organisms **without causing any harm**.

The marine biologists behind the project want to ensure that future **deep sea exploration** is as safe and respectful as possible. In the past, specimens have been **killed** and then brought to the **surface** in order to study them. But these new soft robots will enable scientists to take **swabs of DNA** from **deep-sea organisms** in a way that's **stress-free** for the animals. Hooray!



The soft robotic fingers exert just a **tenth** of the pressure of an **eyelid**!

Robot jellyfish hugs!

# MAKE IT A DATE

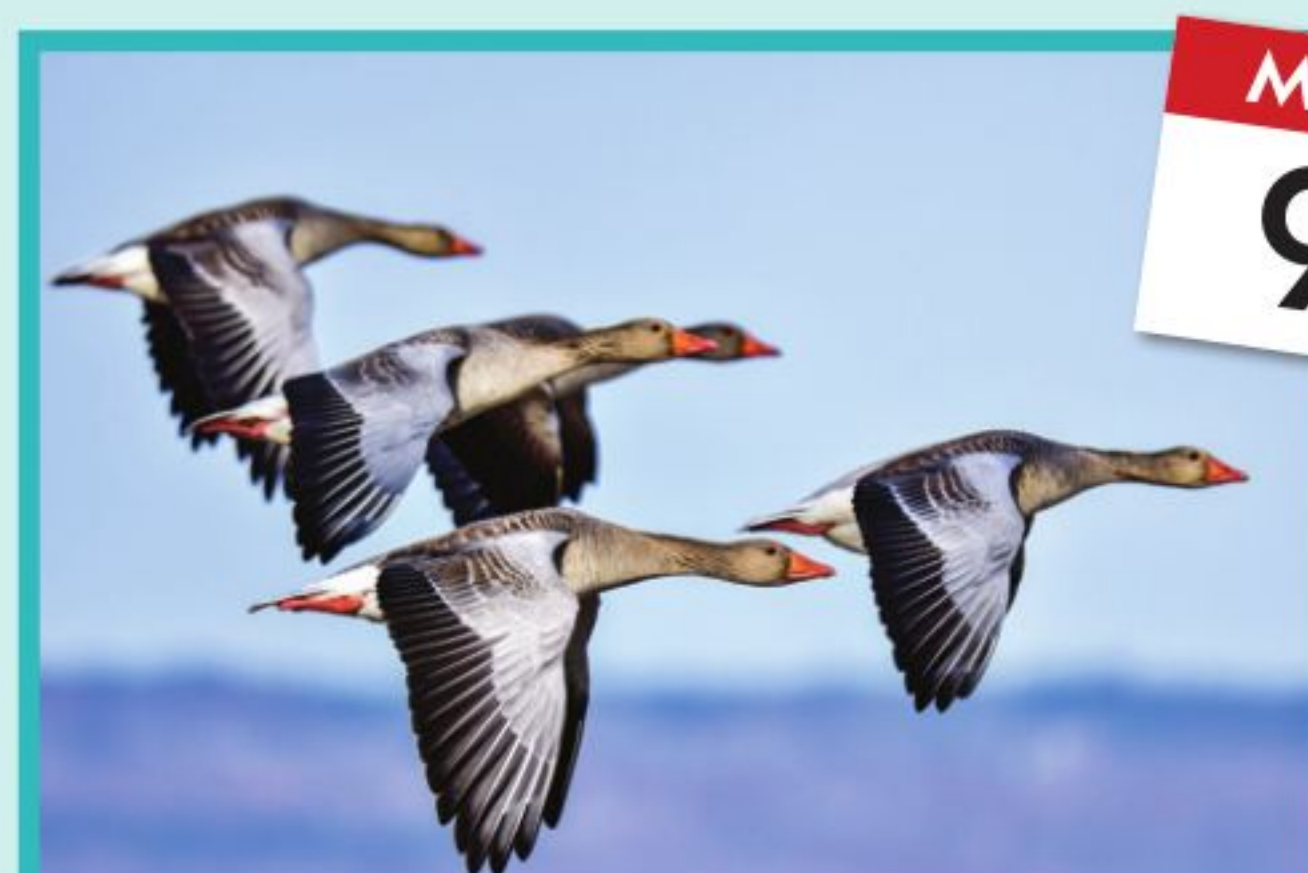
What's going on this month?



APRIL 25

Anzac Day

Remembering Australians and New Zealanders who've died in wars



MAY 9

World Migratory Bird Day

Celebrate frequent fliers!



MAY 10

Mother's Day

Your mum's special day!

Turn to page 48 to make your mum brekkie!



MAY 15

Walk Safely to School Day

Why not stroll to school?! [walk.com.au/WSTSD](http://walk.com.au/WSTSD)



MAY 17

RSPCA Million Paws Walk

Take your pooch for walkies to raise money! [millionpawswalk.com.au](http://millionpawswalk.com.au)

# CRAZY EVENT

## BunBangFai Rocket Festival

MAY 9-10

You might want to bring **earplugs** to this **explosive festival** in **Thailand's Yasothon Province**, during which teams launch **homemade rockets** into the sky! The tradition of firing rockets, most of which are **9m long** and packed with **gunpowder**, was originally intended to bring on the **rainy season**! Some special rockets may weigh up to **100kg** and fly for over **five minutes**.

There's a competition, too, with rockets judged on their **height**, **distance** and the **beauty** of their **vapour trail**. If any rockets **fail to launch**, their creators are **chucked** into a **big muddy puddle**. Yikes!

As well as the rockets, there are also **parades** and stages with different types of **music** and **dancing**. Boom!





# WHAT'S UP?

Films, TV and books to get excited about this month...



## Trolls World Tour

Pop-loving Trolls Poppy and Branch get a shock when they discover their Troll tribe isn't the *only* one. It turns out there are **six different Troll lands**, each devoted to a different type of music – **funk, techno, country, classical, pop and rock**. But when a **hard-rockin'** Troll shows up and threatens to **destroy** all the other tribes' music, the pair must **unite everybody** to save the day. Expect **colourful characters** and **catchy tunes** in this **feelgood animation**. Music to our ears!

● In cinemas soon!



Beware of Queen Barb!



Can Poppy (left) and Branch save the day?!

The Flintstones are back!



## Yabba Dabba Dinosaurs

Remember the **Flintstones**? You **yabba dabba do?** Well, there's now a spin-off of the beloved cartoon about the **Stone-Age** family, following best pals **Pebbles Flintstone** and **Bamm-Bamm Rubble** on their exciting adventures in the prehistoric town of **Bedrock**. Just remember, humans didn't *really* live at the same time as the dinosaurs!

● On Boomerang, weekends from 2 May at 9am

To celebrate this new show, **Werribee Open Range Zoo** in **Victoria** is throwing an exclusive **Flintstones Party** for members! **Yabba Dabba Doo at the Zoo** is on the weekend of **2–3 May** from **10.30am** till **2.30pm**. Come along to enjoy *Flintstones*-themed craft activities and games!

**ZOOS**  
VICTORIA  
Fighting Extinction



## The Secret Garden

When **Mary's** parents suddenly **die**, she's packed off to live with her rich uncle **Archibald** in a **huge country house** in the **Yorkshire moors**.

Mary only has the **maid** to keep her company, so things are a bit of a bore-fest at first. But then she discovers her **sickly cousin Colin** hidden away in a **special wing** of the house, and the maid's son **Dickon** tells her about a magical **secret garden** locked away in the grounds. Blooming brilliant!

● In cinemas soon



Mary's boring life is transformed when Dickon helps her find the magical garden!



Enter ALL comps at  
[natgeokids.com](http://natgeokids.com)

KEY



Show



Movie



DVD



Podcast



Book



TV

## Earth Day on Nat Geo!

To celebrate **Earth Day**, **National Geographic** are featuring **two hours** of amazing **conservation documentaries** every **weekday evening** from **20 to 24 April**! Check out the premiere of *Jane Goodall: The Hope*, all about Jane's work saving **chimps**, watch mind-bending climate change movie *Before the Flood*, and be awed by rescue efforts in *Save This Rhino*. Plus, there are inspiring episodes of *Wild Australia*, and much more!

● Tune in to **National Geographic** every evening from **6.30pm, 20–24 April**



Jane Goodall first went to Tanzania, Africa, almost 60 years ago!



Jane with students and volunteers from her Roots & Shoots charity



Learn about koalas!

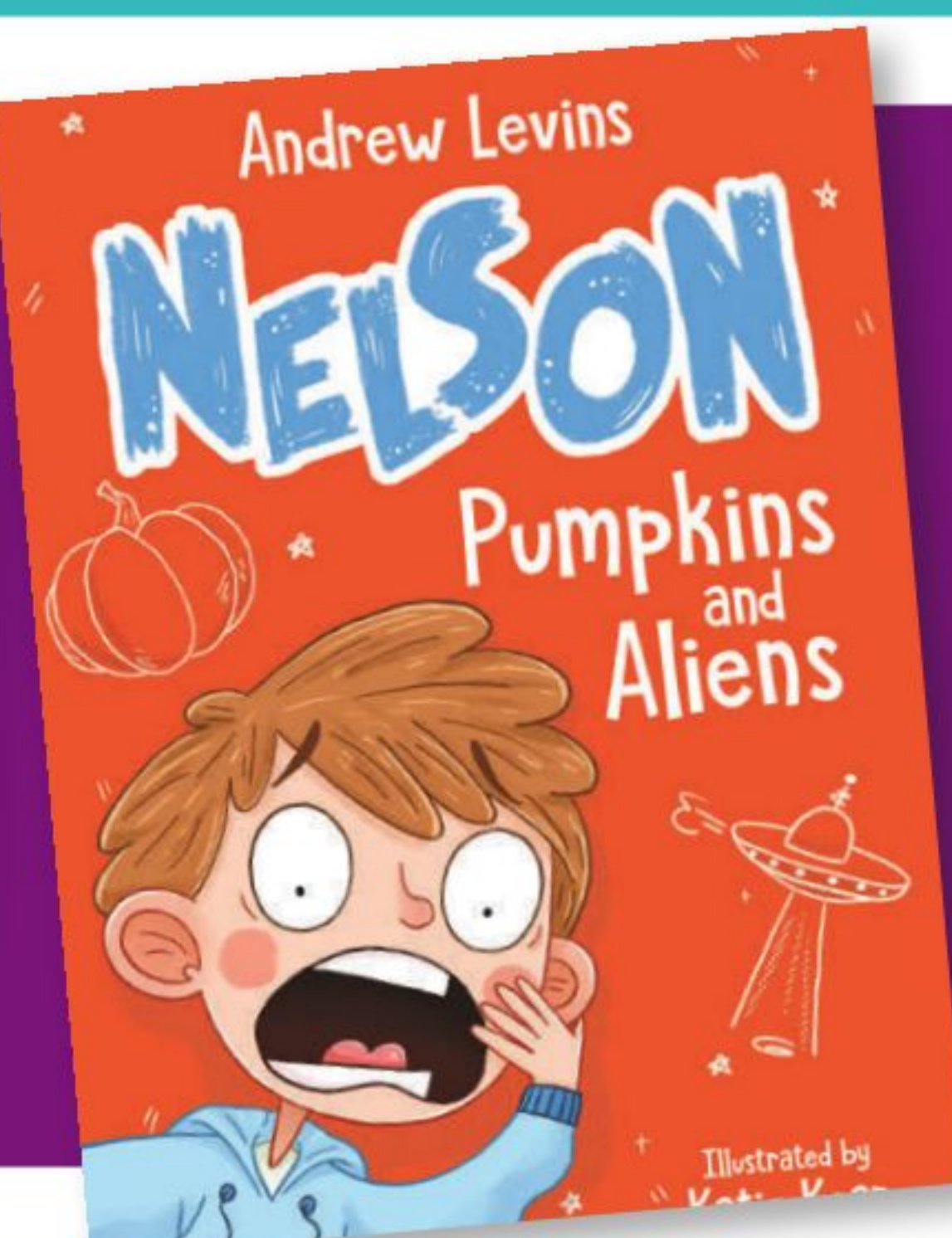
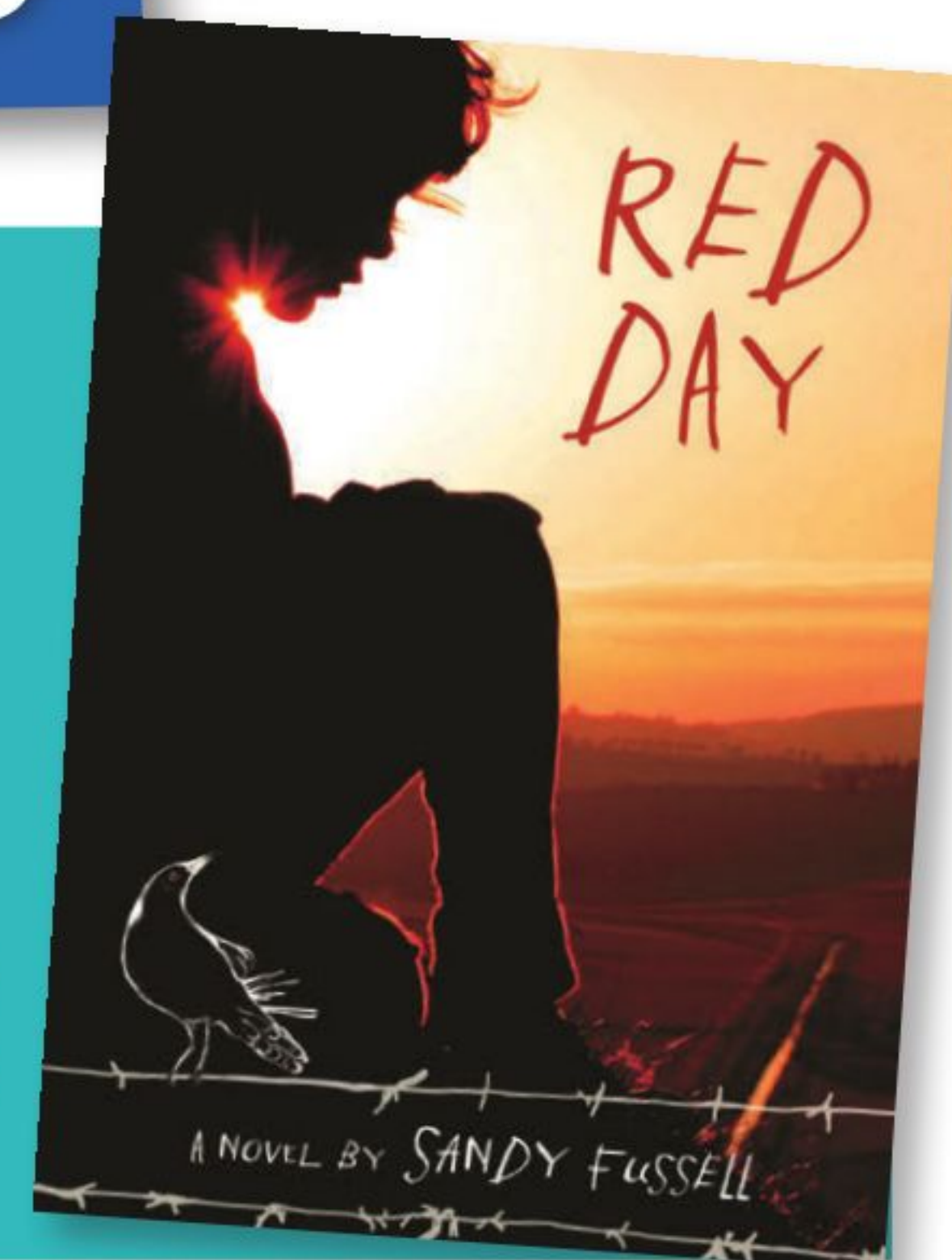


## Book Reviews

### Red Day Sandy Fussell

Charlie has **synaesthesia**, which means she **sees** and **hears** things differently – people have **auras**, days of the week are **coloured**, numbers and letters have **attitudes**. But when Charlie meets Japanese exchange student **Kenichi**, her strange senses intensify and she hears **unfamiliar voices** in her head pulling her **back in time**.

Back in **1944**, there was a **Japanese Prisoner of War Camp** in her small Australian town, and through intense **flashbacks**, Charlie begins to uncover the town's **violent past**...



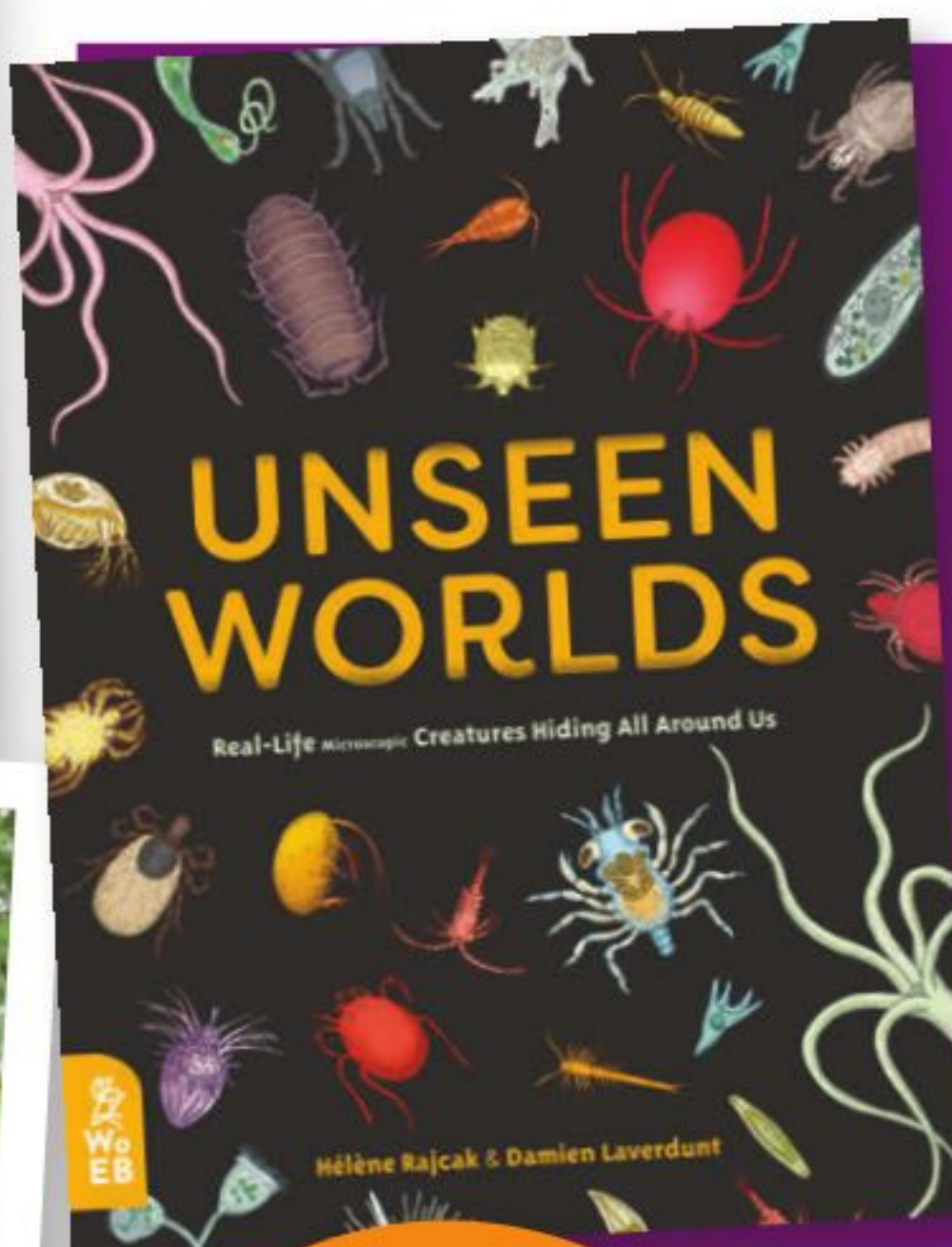
### Nelson: Pumpkins and Aliens

Andrew Levins

Ordinary kid and unlikely hero **Nelson** discovers that eating his most loathed food – **vegetables** – *isn't* that bad after all. That's because they give him **superpowers**! And superpowers are just what he needs after an **alien race** swoops into town, holds his whole **school hostage** and threatens to **gobble his teacher**. Yikes! Can Nelson and his veggie-fuelled skills save the day?!

### Lost Wonders: Vanished Creatures of Aotearoa Sarah Ell and Phoebe Morris

Aotearoa (the Māori name for New Zealand) was full of **extraordinary creatures** until humans came along – from the **moa**, **piopio** and **huia** to the **laughing owl** and the **giant gecko**. This book tells the story of these **extinct species**, and goes even further back to the time of the **dinosaurs**! Plus, find out about some rare animals that are on the **brink of extinction** today, and discover what's being done to **save them**.



### Unseen Worlds Hélène Rajcak and Damien Laverdunt

**Cyclopean monsters**, **eight-legged waterbears** and **blood-sucking beasts** abound in this fascinating new book. No, it isn't the latest **J.K. Rowling** story, but an illustrated glimpse into the **real-life microscopic creatures** that we share our **planet**, **homes** and even **beds** with. Yikes! Find out what goes on in a tuft of **moss**, how teeny creatures **recycle waste** matter into **soil**, and discover extraordinary **underwater worlds**. Be warned, though – reading this book may make you feel a bit itchy!

Turn to  
page 32 to  
see a cool  
extract from  
this book!

**WIN!**

Five winners will grab all of these books! Head to [natgeokids.com](http://natgeokids.com) and answer this question...

Q Which bird in New Zealand was once *thought* to be extinct? a) Takahē b) Toucan c) Magpie

Enter by  
28 May!



# WACKY WORLD!

Check out the planet's strangest pictures...



## Galloping game!

Ever heard of the game **horseball**?! A cross between **polo**, **netball** and **rugby**, the sport's **ball** has **six handles** on it, allowing players to grab and then chuck it into the hoop! And it's a serious business in **Kyrgyzstan** (say 'kur-gist-arn'), a country in **Central Asia**, where these players were spotted. Giddy up!

## Swing music

Forget concert halls! **Swiss musician Alain Roche** prefers to play his **grand piano** in far more **adventurous surroundings** – and always **vertically**! Here he is **dangling upside down** from a **crane** during a performance last year at a **building site** in **Switzerland**!



## Scrummy surprises

Don't worry if UK chef **Ben Churchill** offers you a **mouldy old satsuma** to eat (left). Because his culinary creations are made of **cake**! Ben's so creative in the kitchen that he even made this mug of '**hot chocolate**' and '**sponge**' out of, er, *sponge*. Bonkers!



## BREAD HEAD

This lady's '**hat**' was so **strange** it gained her **free entrance** to an exhibition about **surrealist artist Salvador Dali** in **Moscow, Russia**, recently!

## SUPER-SIZED SPECIES!

Check out this exhibit in **Marwell Zoo**, England – huge **animals**, like this **peacock spider**, made out of **LEGO**!



## FIDO FESTIVAL!

Hundreds of **dogs** took part in the recent **Blocao canine carnival parade** in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. Looks like this one had lots of fun!



HELP  
TERN  
THINGS  
AROUND!



ARCTIC TERN

DON'T BE  
SEALY...  
BE A  
HERO!



HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL

CAN YOU  
LEND A  
HAND?



CHIMPANZEE



# EarthDay



HELP US  
SAVE  
ANIMALS -  
TOGETHER

CALLING ALL PLANET PROTECTORS!



That means **you**! You **recycle** every chance you get. You sip through a **reusable straw** instead of a single-use plastic one. And you harass your parents when they don't do the same thing – all to help **protect the Earth** and everything that lives on it. But animals *still* need your help. More than **30,000 species** are threatened with **extinction**, and it's up to all of us to save them.

That's why, to celebrate the **50th anniversary** of **Earth Day**, **National Geographic** and **Disney** are protecting **50 at-risk animals**. A few of them are on this page – turn over to meet some others.

Then go **online** to get more information about these creatures, plus tips on how to **help protect endangered species**. We can make a difference when we **save together**!

[www.natgeokids.com/SaveTogether](http://www.natgeokids.com/SaveTogether)



PHOTOARK

JOEL SARTORE

JUST TRY  
SAYING "NO"  
TO THIS  
FACE!



JAGUAR

Every evening  
from **20 to 24 April**,  
**National Geographic** will be  
running **Earth Day**-themed  
programmes, including  
**Jane Goodall: The Hope**  
at **6:30pm** on **22 April**!

LET'S  
GET ON  
TOP  
OF THIS!



KOALAS





SAVE TOGETHER



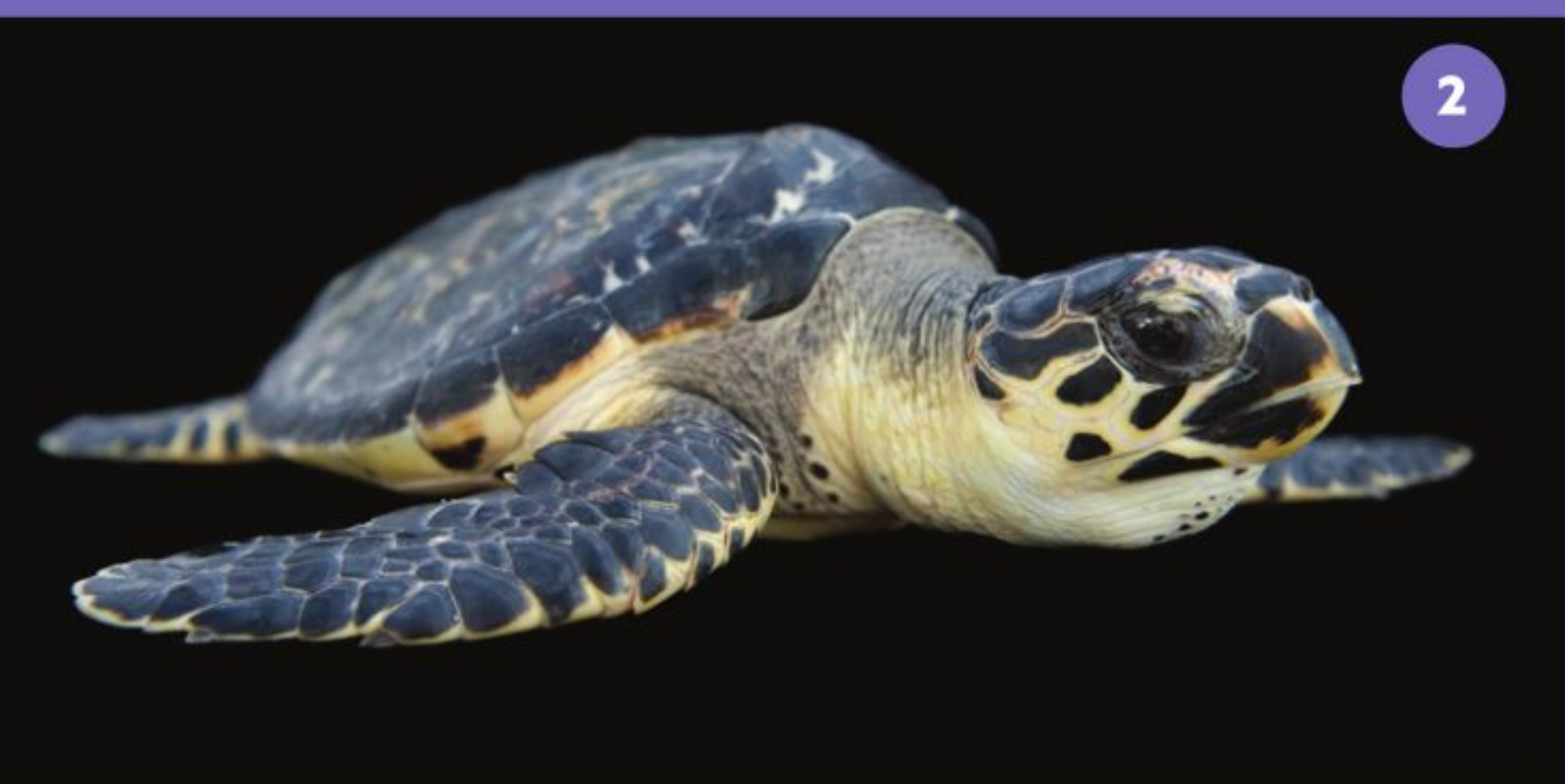
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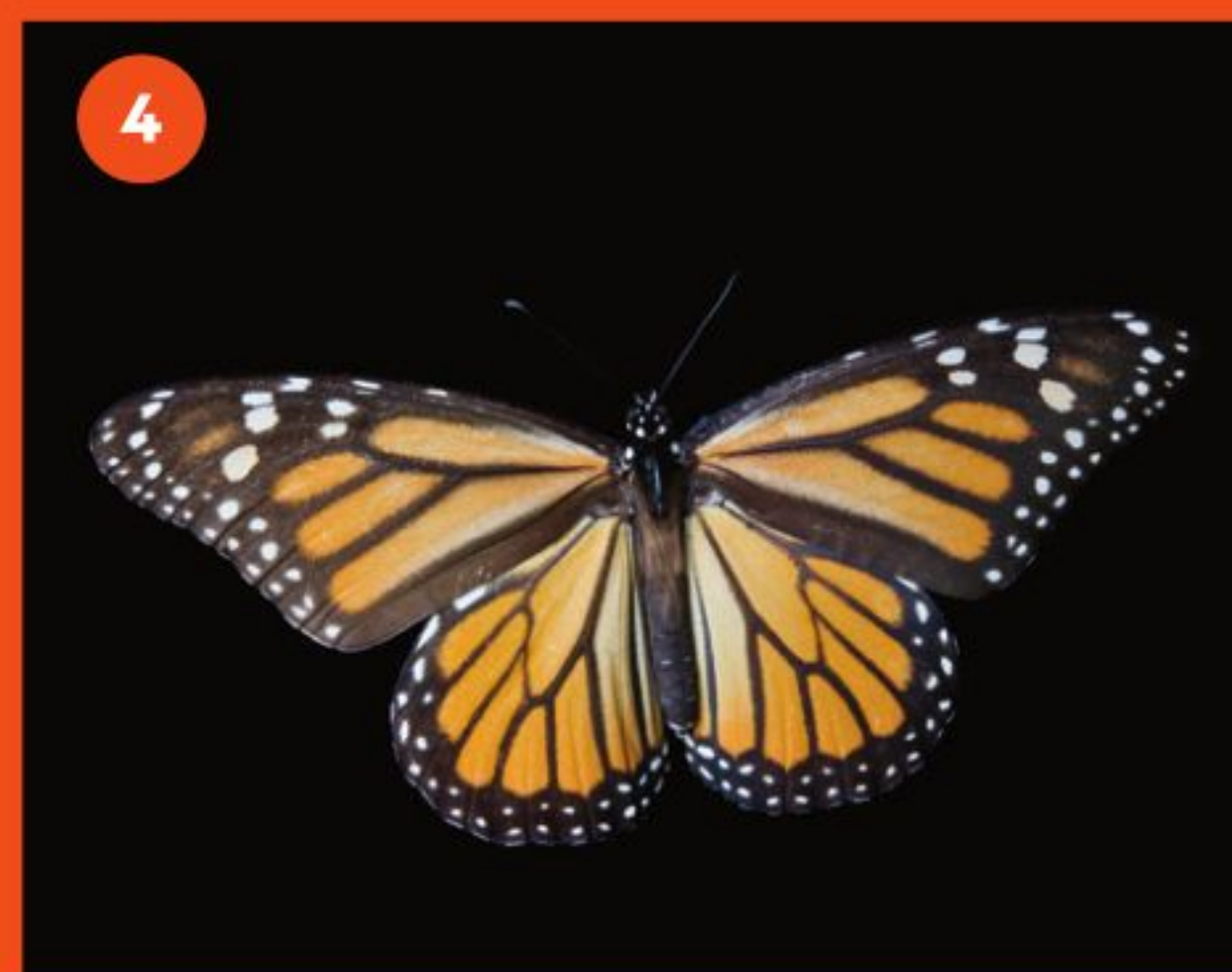
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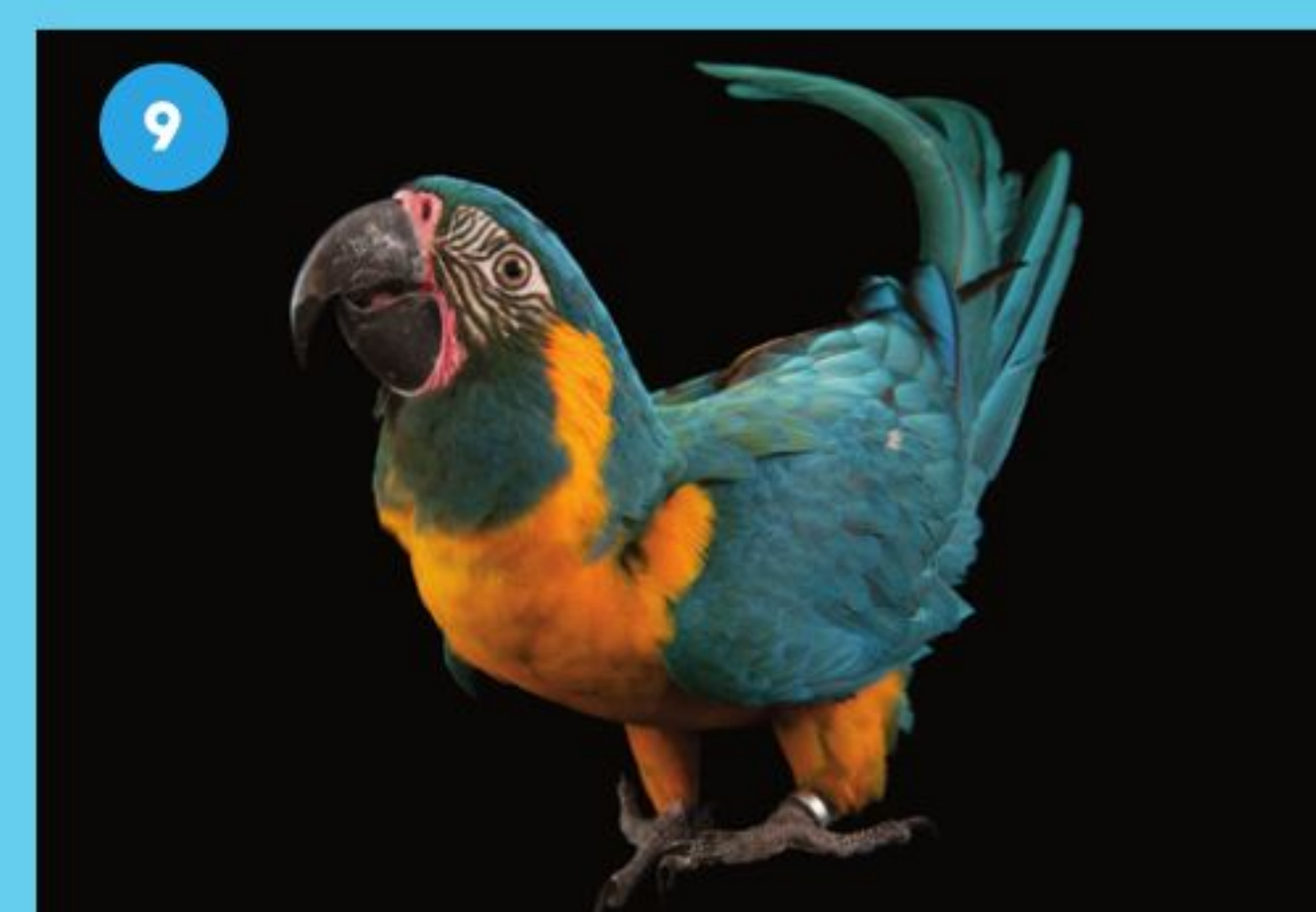
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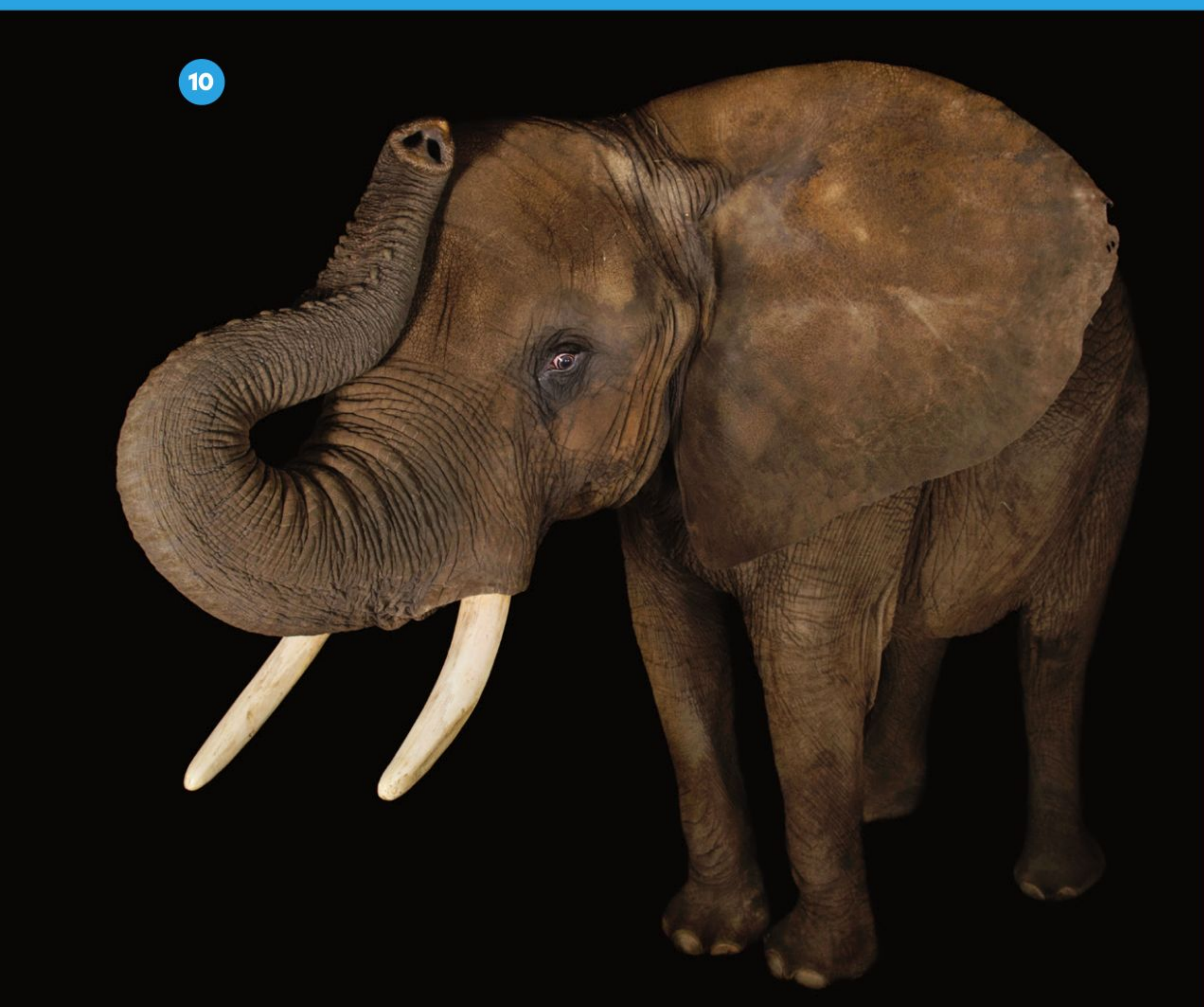
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8



9



10

## 20 ANIMALS THAT NEED YOUR HELP



All the creatures on these pages are important to the **health of their habitats** – and therefore the **planet**! Check out these amazing pictures, taken by **National Geographic** photographer **Joel Sartore** at **zoos** and other safe places around the world. Then turn the pages to find out how some endangered **animals** are being **saved by people**!

1 Snow leopard

2 Hawksbill sea turtle

3 Southern ground-hornbill

4 Monarch butterfly

5 Blue tang

6 Northern white-cheeked gibbons

7 Gharial

8 European eel

9 Blue-throated macaw

10 African elephant





11



12



13



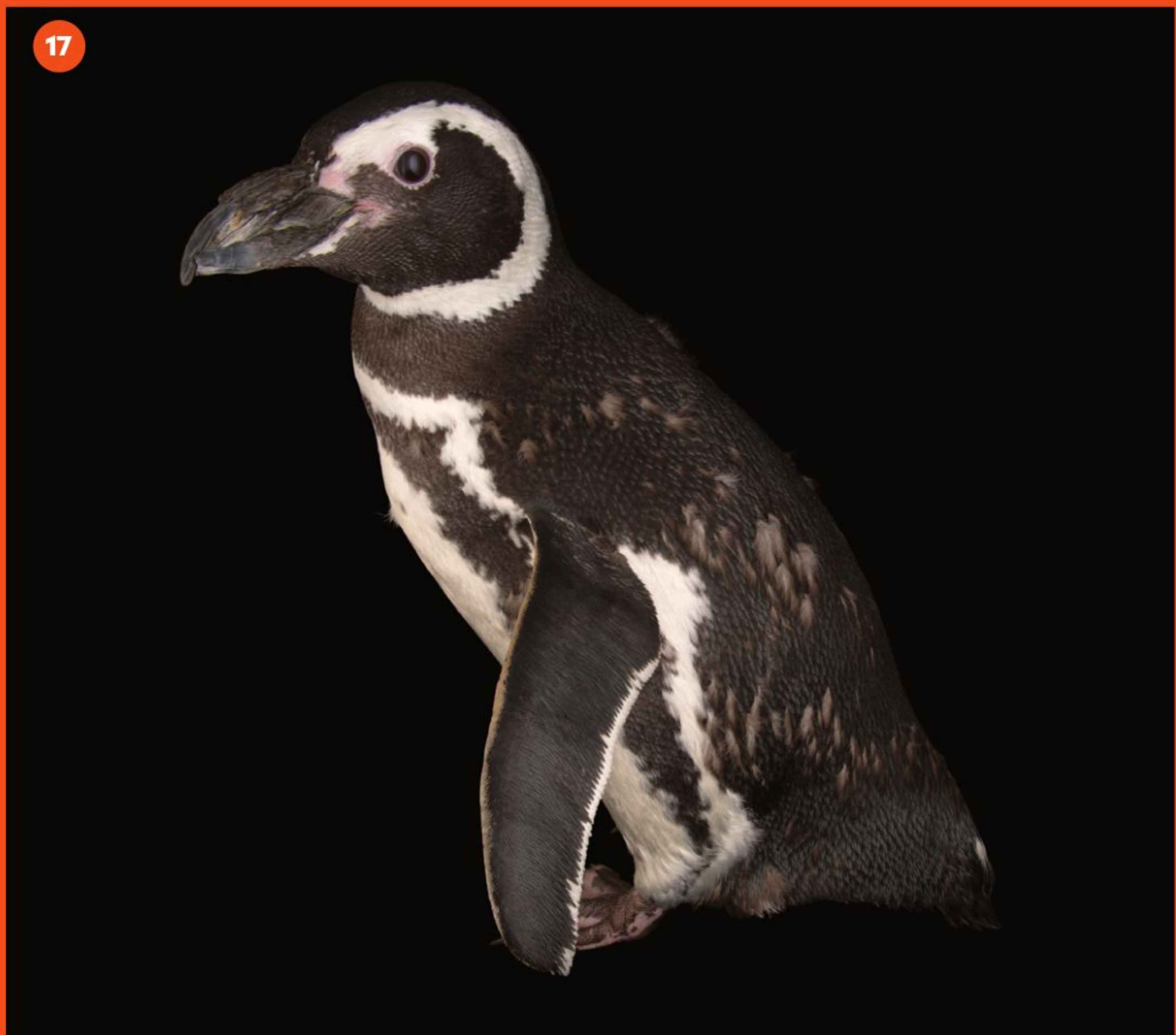
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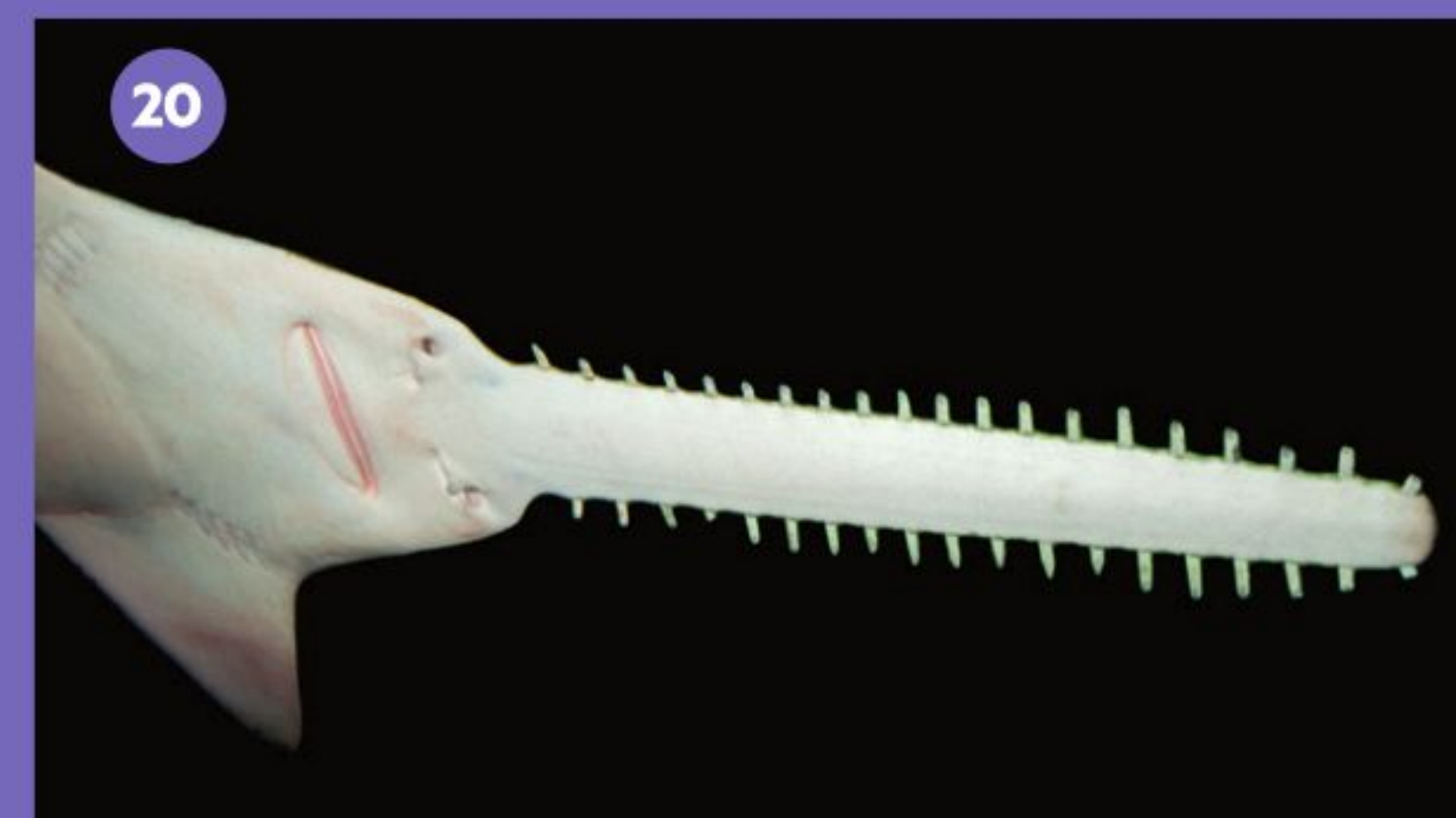
17



18



19



20

11 Grey crowned crane

12 Sumatran tigers

13 Lesser long-nosed bat

14 Sunda pangolin

15 Komodo dragon

16 Volcano rabbit

17 Magellanic penguin

18 Grevy's zebra

19 Cotton-top tamarin

20 Largetooth sawfish

Watch a documentary about the **Photo Ark** on **National Geographic** at **6.30pm** on **21 April!**

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

PHOTOARK

JOEL SARTORE

Photo Ark is a joint project of **National Geographic** and **Joel Sartore**, who is on a mission to take pictures of all **15,000 animal species** living in the world's **zoos** and **wildlife sanctuaries**. For more info, visit [www.natgeokids.com/SaveTogether](http://www.natgeokids.com/SaveTogether) and [www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/photo-ark](http://www.nationalgeographic.org/projects/photo-ark)



# WHAT IS AVAXHOME?



# AVAXHOME-

the biggest Internet portal,  
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fresh magazines, hot games,  
recent software, latest music releases.

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Cheap constant access to piping hot media

Protect your downloadings from Big brother

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18 years of seamless operation and our users' satisfaction

All languages

Brand new content

One site



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# WELCOME TO THE



# PERSONALITY QUIZ



We know how much you lot care about animals. But things like **climate change**, **habitat loss** and **pollution** are threatening the **health of our planet** and **all life** on it. Luckily **people are working hard** to give **Earth** a better future.

This year marks the **50th anniversary** of **Earth Day**. On **22 April**, more than a **billion people** will take part in activities to make the world a **better** habitat for **humans and animals**. And that's why NG KiDS has created this special **Save the Animals** issue.

The next six articles show how **caring people** have helped species in trouble **come back** from the **brink of extinction**. You'll also get tons of tips on how **you** can **protect other animals** that still need help – on **Earth Day** and **every other day** of the year.

But first, take this fun personality quiz to see which of the five **comeback creatures** you're most like. Then get going... We've got **animals to save!**

START HERE!

With which mythical creature are you more obsessed?

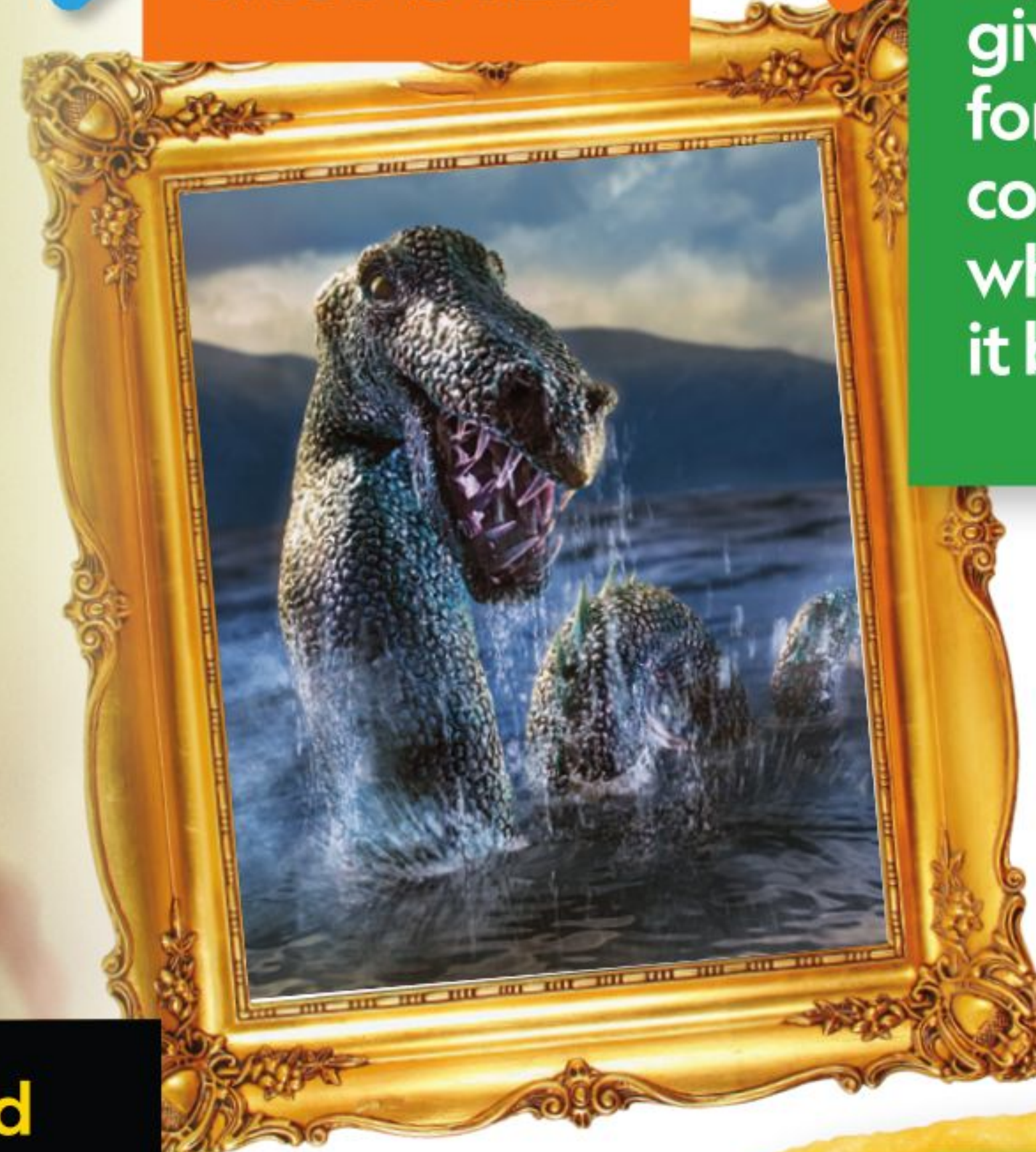
REY, FOR SURE.

Which random superpower would you rather possess?



BIGFOOT

LOCH NESS MONSTER



If you had to give up one form of communication, which would it be?

Which fierce hero would you rather train with: Rey from *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* or Mulan from *Mulan*?



MULAN



WHALE

If you could only snack on one food for the rest of your life, which would you choose?

If you could breathe underwater, which ocean animal would you want as your sidekick?



MANTA RAY

It's your BFF's birthday party. Where would you rather be?



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## WHICH COMEBACK CRITTER ARE YOU?

If these descriptions don't match your personality, don't worry. The questions are just for fun!

**SUPER-HEARING**

**SPINNING TEA CUPS**

### GIANT PANDA

You're a bit clumsy sometimes, like a **giant panda cub** tumbling from one spot to the next. But what you lack in **gracefulness**, you make up for in **smarts**. The first to **raise your hand in class**, you know the answer to most **trivia questions**, and you're everyone's first pick for school project partner. What a smarty-panda, er, pants. **WANT MORE PANDAS?** Go to **page 14** to find out how pandas are **reclaiming their territory** in **China**.



**YOU CAN TELL WHEN SOMEONE IS LYING TO YOU.**

Which theme park ride would you go on?

**WATER-SLIDE**

**ROLLER COASTER**

### FLORIDA MANATEE

Like a **Florida manatee**, you value your **alone time**. But that doesn't mean you don't get along with others when you need to. People admire your **gentle nature** and your ability to **keep everyone calm**. You have **no natural enemies** – and neither do these marine mammals. Keep up the **kindness**! **WANT MORE MANATEES?** See **page 16** to discover how **caring humans** are helping Florida's manatees become **safe again**.



**TEXTING**

**CHATTING ONLINE**

### GOLDEN LION TAMARIN

Some people hate being the **centre of attention**. But not **golden lion tamarins**, and definitely not you. You've got tons of **talent**, so why not show it off? Your bravery leads you to take chances and you're **not afraid of failure**. But if you do mess up – like a tamarin that doesn't quite make it to the next tree – you'll just grab a different branch and **take another swing**. **WANT MORE TAMARINS?** Leap over to **page 18** to see how golden lion tamarin families are finding **new homes** in **Brazil's forests**.



**FRENCH FRIES FOREVER.**

You're about to meet your friends at the park. What's the plan?

**TO SWING A BAT**

**TO KICK A BALL**

### SOUTHERN WHITE RHINOCEROS

Your group of friends isn't big. Just like **southern white rhinos**, you prefer to hang out with just a **few buddies** instead of a large gang. But you're all incredibly close. Your BFFs always have your back and vice versa. You're **super-sensitive** and try to make sure everyone around you is **comfortable**. The world needs more rhinos – and more **thoughtful** people like you. **WANT MORE RHINOS?** Flip to **page 20** to learn how **parks** are creating **stronger protections** for Africa's southern white rhinos.



**ENDLESS ICE CREAM!**

**BELTING OUT YOUR FAVOURITE SONG ON A KARAOKE MACHINE**

Pick one: Dig up dinosaur bones or fly among the stars?

**DINOS, ALWAYS**

### GREY WOLF

Just like **grey wolves**, who form strong **family bonds**, you love being part of a **team**, working together to get things done. And while wolves are **tough**, able to **thrive in hot deserts** and **cold mountains**, not much fazes you either. Challenges? Bring 'em on! **WANT MORE WOLVES?** Trot to **page 22** to find out how **conservationists** have **increased** the grey wolf population in **America**.



**SHOWING OFF YOUR MOVES ON THE DANCE FLOOR**

**LET'S GET GALACTIC**







COMEBACK CREATURE **1**

## Giant panda

Kind humans help these gentle giants bounce back in the wild...



The year is **2013**. A **two-year-old giant panda** sniffs the air and cautiously steps out from a crate onto the grass in **China's Liziping Nature Reserve**. Named **Zhang Xiang** (say 'JAHNG shang'), or '**thoughtful one**' in **Mandarin** (a Chinese language), the young panda is the **first ever captive-born female panda** to be **released into the wild**. If she can make it on her own in this forest reserve, she'll raise hopes that her **entire species** might be able to thrive, too.

### PANDA PROBLEMS

Giant pandas once roamed throughout the **cool mountainous forests** of **China, Myanmar** and **Vietnam**. But as the human population grew, **hunting** and **logging** took a toll on the panda population. Soon they were living on roughly **1%** of their former range.

When the **World Wildlife Fund (WWF)** completed the first **count** of wild

pandas in **1977**, they found evidence of **2,459 pandas**. But when they finished another count **11 years later**, that number had been **cut in half**. The giant panda population was decreasing – **fast**. "Humans caused the problems for pandas," says **Suzanne Braden**, the director of **Pandas International**, an organisation that supports **panda conservation**. "So we have to **fix our mistakes** and bring them back."

### NATIONAL TREASURES

Realising that the giant panda was in danger of **disappearing** from their country, the **Chinese government** made it **illegal to hunt pandas**. They also began **reserving more land** for the animals and started **breeding centres** where they helped mothers take care of their cubs and **charged tourists** to watch keepers **bottle feed, burp** and **rock panda cubs to sleep**. That money **funded conservation efforts**.



Main image © Ingo Arndt / Minden Picture; Panda suit © Quirky China / Shutterstock; Panda release © Ami Vitale / National Geographic Image Collection; Map © Martin Walz; Elephant © Johannes Gerhardt Swanepoel / Dreamstime; Tiger © Gudkov Andrey / Shutterstock; Ostrich © GomezDavid / iStock



An adult giant panda relaxes on a hillside in China



Scientists wear panda suits when handling cubs so the animals don't get used to humans

## PARKS FOR PANDAS

Thankfully, China's new laws and the conservation work have paid off. The most recent count of pandas in **2014** showed nearly **2,000** in the wild – an increase of **17%** over ten years. And conservationists have another reason to celebrate – the Chinese government is creating **Giant Panda National Park**, a protected area even bigger than Australia's **Kakadu National Park**. It will **connect 67 panda reserves**. "If we give pandas the **space** they need, they'll

Pandas are **hairless** and **blind** when they're born.

do the rest," Suzanne says.

In **2017**, four years after her release, **Zhang**

**Xiang** was *definitely* doing her part. Scientists spotted the healthy panda on a **camera trap**, living in a **reserve** next to Liziping. She had **established her own territory**, giving conservationists **hope** that these bears **can thrive in the wild**.

Keepers can't tell if a panda cub is **male** or **female** until it's about **four years old**.

## DRESSING UP

Since **2010**, keepers at panda breeding centres around China have used a brilliantly devious trick to help them check on cubs. They **dress up** in **black-and-white costumes** sprayed with **panda urine** so the youngsters **don't get used to people**! Once a panda has **learned to hide** from predators, **climb trees** and find **shelter, water** and **food** on its own, keepers consider them ready to **survive in the wild**. In **2013**, **Zhang Xiang** was one of those animals. Since her release, **11** other giant pandas have been sent back into the wild from these centres.



A team of scientists released **Zhang Xiang** into the wild in **2013**

## PROTECTIVE POWERS

The **Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES)** is an **agreement** between the governments of **183 countries** to make sure that the **trade of wild animals** and plants doesn't **threaten their survival**.

Depending on the protection needed, this could mean that **trade is banned** almost completely – for example **ivory** from **elephant tusks** – or there could be **tight controls** surrounding it.

CITES came in to force in **1975** with Australia signing up in **1976**. Currently **35,000** species of animals and plants are protected by CITES against **over-exploitation** through international **trade**. Check out some of them...

## African and Asian elephants

The **trade** in elephant **ivory** is **banned**.

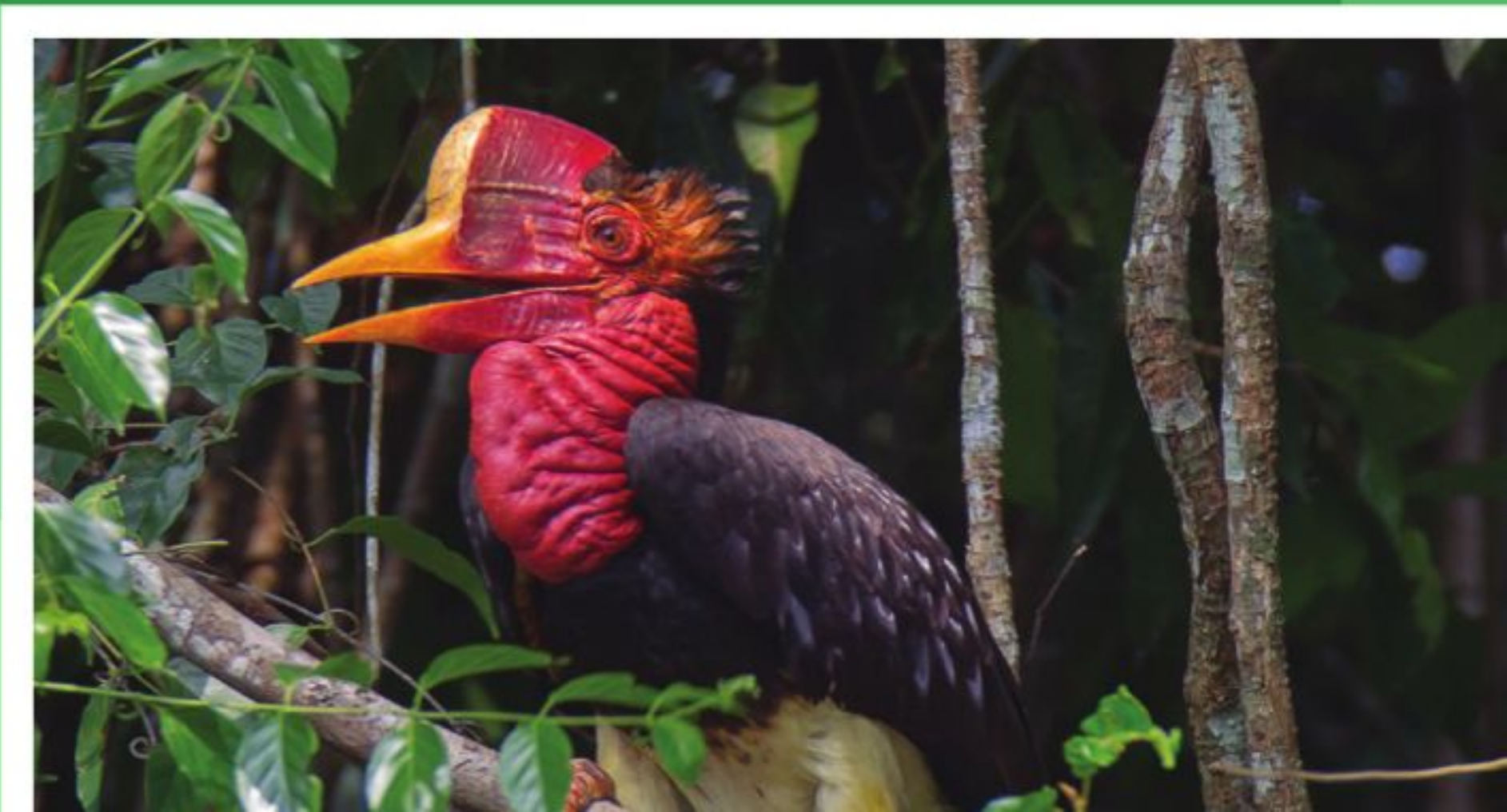


## Tigers

The **sale of tiger parts** is **banned** under the law.

## Helmeted hornbill

These beautiful birds from **Southeast Asia** are hunted for their bills but they now have **improved protection** thanks to CITES.







**SAVE**  
THE ANIMALS

COMEBACK CREATURE

2

## Florida manatee

**Locals take action to make sure these marine mammals are on the rise...**



A **manatee calf** flips and tumbles beside her mother in the clear, warm water of **Blue Spring State Park** in the American state of **Florida**. Tourists snap photos from a platform nearby. Conservationists are excited to see the mother manatee, **Annie**, with her newborn, called **Nau**i (say 'NOW-ee').

That's because **30 years ago**, as few as **14** manatees swam through these **freshwater springs**, and scientists worried that the marine mammals might disappear from Florida forever.

### MANATEE EMERGENCY

Before **European settlers** arrived in America, up to **10,000 manatees** lived off the Florida coast. But the settlers hunted the **slow-moving animals** for their **meat** and **fat**, which they used for **lamp oil**, until only a **few hundred** were left. By the **mid-20th century**, the **hunting had stopped**, but the remaining manatees

faced **new threats**. They often **glide near the ocean's surface** to breathe – directly in the path of **boats**. Each decade brought more people and boats to Florida, making life dangerous for manatees.

Humans created other dangers as well. Manatees **don't have blubber** like **seals** and **walruses**, so they can't survive long in temperatures **below 20°C**. But the natural **warm springs** where manatees spent **winters resting** and **raising their young** were also popular hangouts for **people**. Too **frightened** of humans to enter the warm springs from chillier waters, many manatees **died** of the cold. "These gentle animals desperately needed help," says biologist **Patrick Rose**, director of the **Save the Manatee Club**.

### ON THE MEND

Scientists nominated the species to be in the first group of animals protected by America's **Endangered Species Act** of



Main image © Carol Grant / Getty Images; Sign © Steve Sapientza; Map © Martin Walz; others: © Getty Images UK.



A manatee calf stays close to its mother in Florida's Crystal River

Manatees only breathe through their nostrils.

that boaters could hold up if someone spotted a manatee **outside of a protected zone**.

"Every manatee matters for the survival of the species," Patrick says.

## MANATEES FOREVER

Last year, experts reported that about **7,000 manatees** were living along the Florida coast, far **more** than during the mid-20th century! The hard work done to protect these marine mammals and their habitat is working – but conservationists know they **aren't done**. The threats to the manatees still exist.

Today more than **700** manatees, including **Annie** and **Naii**, spend the winter in **Blue Spring State Park**. Visitors can observe the pair from a dock and conservationists keep watch over all the park's manatees. Hopefully the birth of Naii is a sign that **other manatees will survive in Florida** for years to come.

When resting, manatees can **stay under water** for up to **20 minutes**.

**1973.** Two years later, a group of **kids** campaigned to make the manatee **Florida's state marine mammal**, which also helped to spread the word about them.

Over the next decades, **sanctuaries** for manatees were created. People aren't allowed to **swim, boat** or **fish** in these areas, giving manatees a **safe place to rest**.

Just outside the sanctuaries there are **slow-speed zones** for boats, which have helped reduce the number of manatees injured by boats. The **Save the Manatee Club** also gave away **Go Slow! banners**



A kayaker holds up a sign to warn others to keep clear of the manatee below

## SAVING MARINE ANIMALS

The Australian Government's **Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999** (EPBC Act) offers protection to **threatened animals** and puts a **recovery plan** in place to help save them. Meet some **marine species** helped by the EPBC Act...



### Grey nurse shark

One of the **first shark species** to be offered protection, the **harmless grey nurse shark** was hunted almost to extinction from 1950 to 1970 due to its reputation as a '**man-eater**'.



### Flatback turtle

Six of the world's **seven species** of sea turtle visit Australian waters, but **flatbacks** are the only ones to breed **exclusively in Australia**.

### Australian sea lion

Australia's **only sea lion** is now protected from hunting but is still affected by boat **collisions** and **debris** from the fishing industry.







An adult golden lion tamarin is about the size of a squirrel.

COMEBACK CREATURE

3

## Golden lion tamarin

Scientists help these primates reclaim their forest home...



A family of **golden lion tamarins** is on the move. With **two babies** on his back and his mate beside him, the **father** tamarin reaches for a branch in **Brazil's Atlantic Forest**. Just a few years ago, this land was a **treeless cattle pasture**. But conservationists knew that if more forest was lost, then these monkeys, which **live wild nowhere else on Earth**, would be gone, too.

### DISAPPEARING FORESTS

The Atlantic forest was once about the size of **Egypt**. But in the **1500s**, **European traders** and **settlers** started cutting the trees to **build ships** and make room for **settlements** – and the **forest clearing didn't stop**. Over the past century, farmers cut down more trees to make way for **sugarcane**, **coffee** and **cattle farms** until the forest was less than **10%** of its original size.

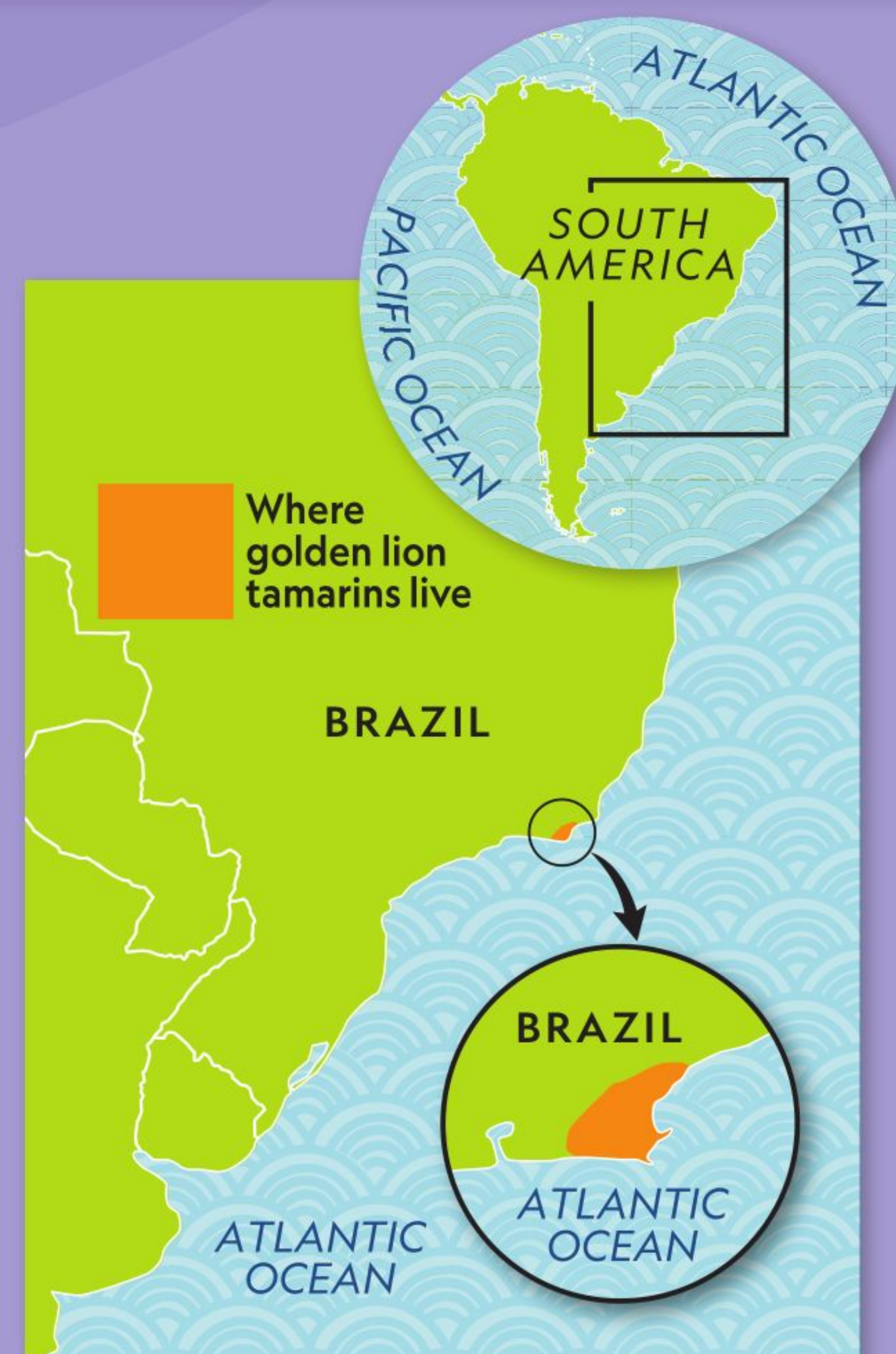
Golden lion tamarins spend most of

their time in the **tree canopy**, travelling along the **branches** in search of **food** and **mates**. As the forest shrunk, habitats became **cut off** from each other – and so did the primates. By the **1970s**, concerned biologists estimated that only about **200** golden lion tamarins were left in the Atlantic forest.

### MONKEY BOOT CAMP

In **1972**, conservationists gathered at the **Smithsonian Institution's National Zoo** in **Washington D.C., USA**, to develop a **plan** to save the species in the wild. Some **zoos** already had golden lion tamarins in **captivity** – all they had to do was **breed** more, then prepare some of the families to return to the wild. But how?

Over the next few summers, zookeepers around the world let tamarins **out of their enclosures** to **hang out in the trees**. Staff provided each family with a **nest** to **sleep in** and **sweet potatoes** to munch on, and



Main image © Eric Gevaert / Alamy; Tamarin trio © AP Photo / Martin Meissner; Leaping © Haroldo Palo Jr. / NHPA / Photoshot; Map © Martin Walz; Ferret © Kerry Hargrove / Shutterstock; Butterfly © Ah. Rider / Getty Images; Iguana © Robin Moore / National Geographic Image Collection.



Golden lion tamarin fathers often carry their babies on their backs in between feedings

Golden lion tamarin twins hang onto their father at Germany's Duisberg Zoo



Kerns, from the **National Zoo**. The monkeys were **learning how to be wild**. By **1983**, the first group of tamarins was ready to **return** to Brazil's forests.

While the monkeys were in training, Brazil's **Golden Lion Tamarin Association** was busy **restoring the primates' habitat**. The group bought land from **private owners** and worked with farmers to **plant trees** on their properties, **connecting patches of forest** and **protecting over 103 km<sup>2</sup>** of habitat. The organisation also **gave local people jobs** managing **tree nurseries**, and **teachers** were **trained** in **environmental issues**.

"People were **proud to have tamarins on their land**," says **Denise Rambaldi**,

a former director of the association.

## GOING GREEN

Nearly **2,500** golden lion tamarins now live in the Atlantic Forest.

About a **third** of them are **descended** from **147 tamarins** born in captivity from the zoo programme. But primate

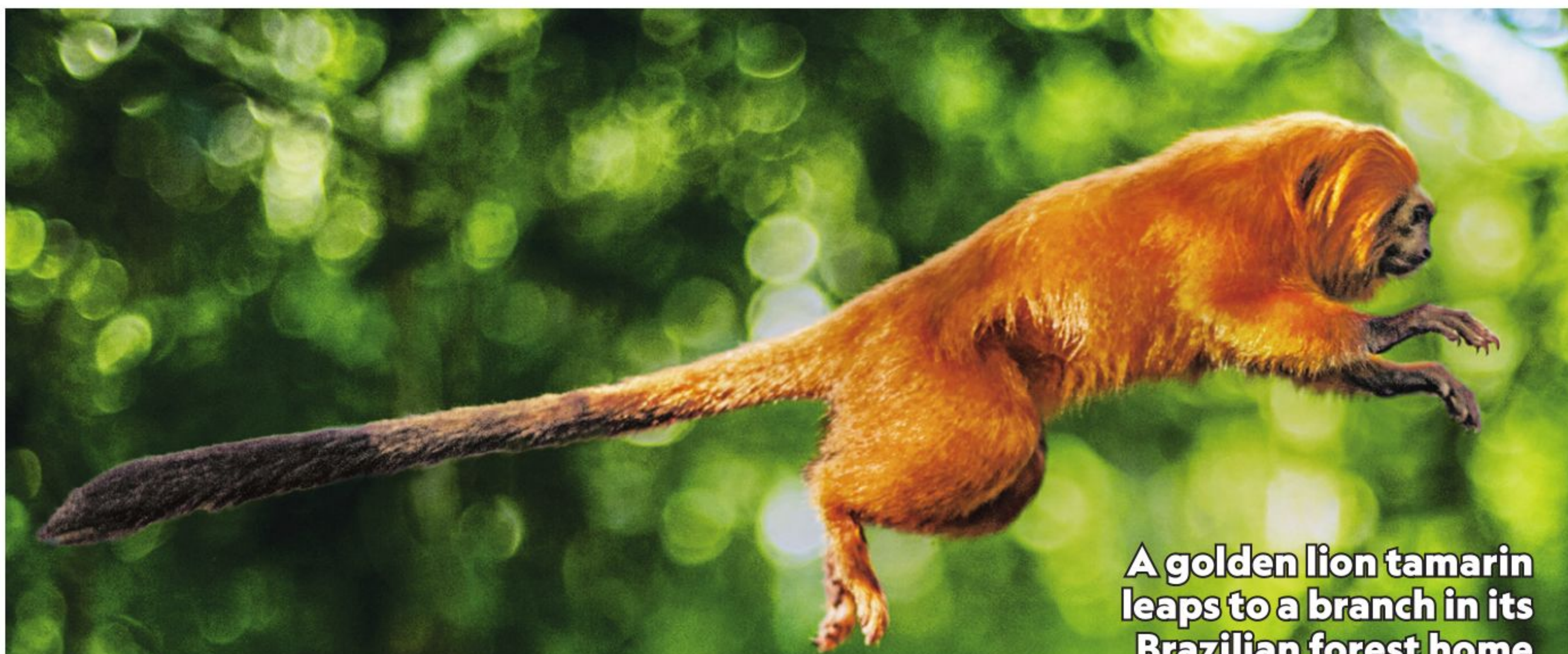
conservationists aren't done. They're continuing to **reforest the land** and **inspire young people** to protect the animals.

"Seeing **tamarin families chirping** and **jumping** around in the trees overhead, their **fur reflecting the sunlight like fire**, makes it all worth it," says **Lou Ann Dietz**, current director of the Golden Lion Tamarin Association. Wonderful!

The golden lion tamarin is featured on a **banknote** in Brazil.

they kept watch to make sure the monkeys **didn't leave the grounds**.

"The **free-range lifestyle taught** the tamarins how to **find insects** and **navigate branches**," says **Kenton**



A golden lion tamarin leaps to a branch in its Brazilian forest home

# ZOOS TO THE RESCUE

**Golden lion tamarins** were listed under the **Species Survival Plan** of **1981**, which **pairs up primates** in **zoos** for **captive breeding**. Check out some other animal species that have been helped by these programmes...

## Black-footed ferret

Every year since the **mid-1990s**, about **150** of these ferrets are **released into the wild** from zoos across **North and Central America**.



## Karner blue butterfly

Zoos are breeding and releasing these **endangered butterflies** in **New Hampshire** and **Ohio, USA**.

## Jamaican iguanas

Once thought to be **extinct**, nearly **500** of these iguanas have been released into the wild by **Jamaica's Hope Zoo**.







COMEBACK CREATURE

4

## Southern white rhinoceros

Conservationists create parks to give this species another chance to thrive...



A southern white rhinoceros calf playfully taps its snout against its **sleepy mother** in **Hluhluwe-iMfolozi Park, South Africa**. The mother and her baby are a special sight. Just over **100 years ago**, scientists thought these rhinos had gone **extinct**.

### NO MORE RHINOS?

Southern white rhinos once grazed in the tall grasslands of Southern Africa, but from the **1800s**, European **settlers hunted** the rhinos for sport. "These animals **aren't particularly aggressive**, and they **gather** out in the open in **groups**," says **Susie Ellis**, director of the **International Rhino Foundation**. "Unfortunately, this makes them **easy targets** for hunters." By the **late 1800s**, experts believed that these rhinos had been **hunted to extinction**.

### RHINO REBOUND

Around **1895**, scientists found something incredible – a group of about **50 southern white rhinos** were still living together in **South Africa**. To make sure these vulnerable animals thrived, the government worked with conservationists to create the first two **wilderness reserves** in Africa, **Hluhluwe** and **Umfolozzi**, and hired **rangers** to **protect the rhinos**. And the conservationists *didn't* keep the rhinos a secret. Instead, they invited **visitors** to the parks to show why people should **care about protecting rhinos**.

Over the next **50 years**, the southern white rhino population **grew**, and park managers soon had a **good problem** to deal with – the white rhinos were **overflowing the boundaries of the reserves**. Officials started **moving them**, hoping that by spreading out the population, they could protect the species



Main image © Malcolm Schuyll / FLPA / Minden Pictures; Calf © Jurgen and Christine Sohm / FLPA / Minden Pictures; Map © Martin Walz; Amur leopard © Tamako the Jaguar / Getty Images; Giant tortoise © Fotografin / Shutterstock; Pacific fisher © Michael Durham / Minden Pictures.



A group of rhinos is called a **crash**.

Adult rhinos can weigh more than **2.2 tons** – that's heavier than a medium-sized **SUV**!

A white rhino mum and her calf wandering in the Eastern Cape

from going extinct if something happened to the rhinos in Hluhluwe and Umfolozi (which have since been combined into one park, Hluhluwe-iMfolozi). Beginning in the **1960s**, conservationists transported about **1,100 rhinos** to **other parks in Africa** and **zoos** around the world.

## LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Today more than **18,000** southern white rhinos survive in the wild, **all of them descended** from the group discovered more than **120 years ago** in South Africa. But they still need help. People in some **Asian countries** **purchase rhino horns**, believing that they **cure illnesses**. They **don't** – rhino horn is made of the same stuff as **human fingernails**. This demand attracts **poachers** who kill rhinos for their horns.

Conservationists are developing **creative ways to stop poaching**. One recent success is using **hunting dogs to capture poachers**. But continuing to keep rhinos safe in **parks** is the best way to ensure the species' success. **Protected parks** give **calves** a better chance to survive in the wild, with more protections against poachers.

"Parks are one way to help save these animals," says Hluhluwe-iMfolozi ranger **Jason Render**. "They **inspire** people to care about and protect the rhinos."

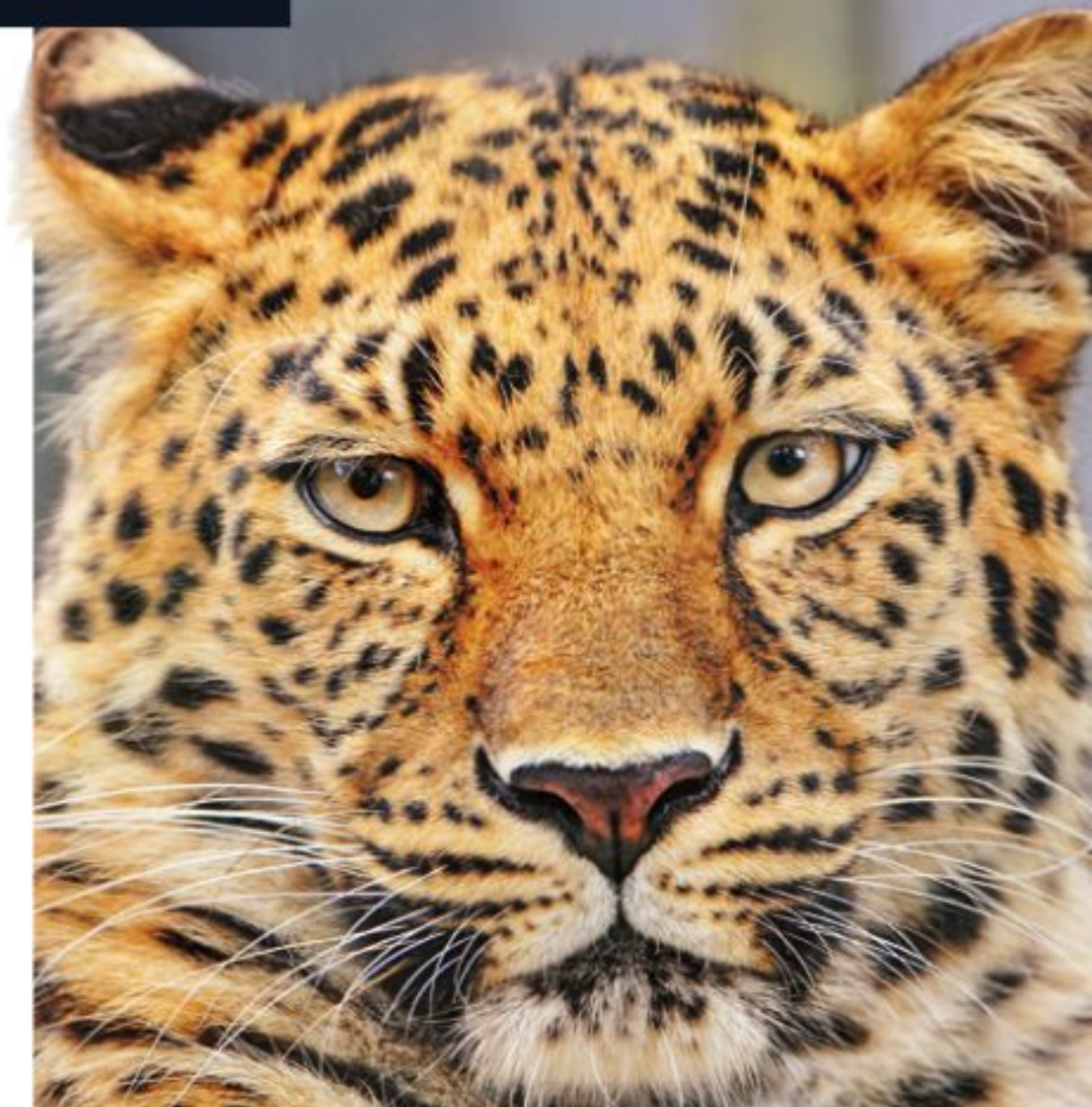
A white rhino calf wallows in a mud pool in Kruger National Park

## MORE PARKS = MORE ANIMALS

New parks gave southern white rhinos the **space** they needed to grow their population without threats from poachers. Discover how **parks** have **protected** three other animal species...

### Amur leopard

The **Land of the Leopard National Park** in **Russia** helped these cats claw their way back from near extinction.

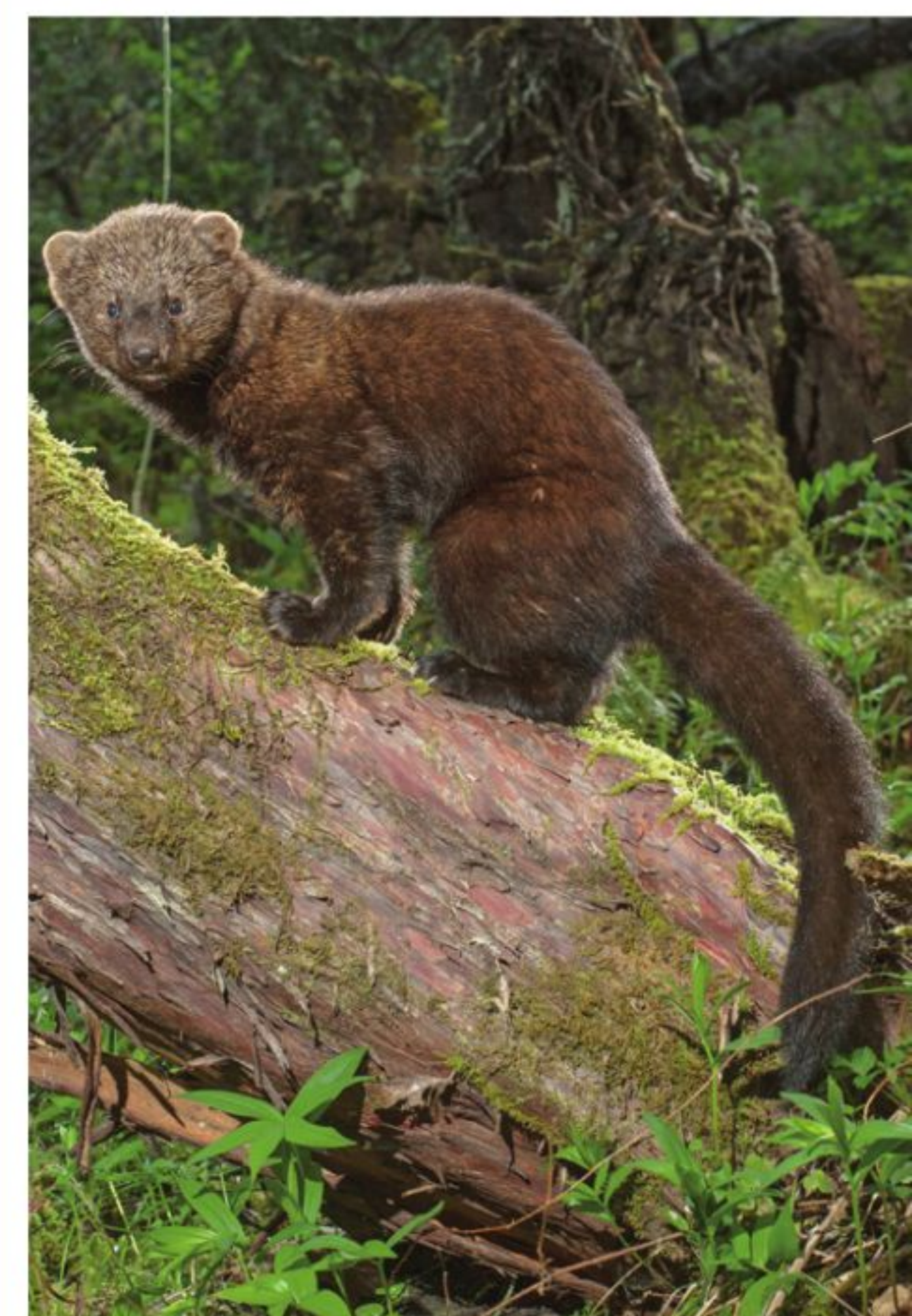


### Galápagos giant tortoise

These enormous reptiles have room to roam safely around the **Galápagos National Park** off the coast of **Ecuador** in **South America**.

### Pacific fisher

These carnivores, the **size of cats**, are a protected species in the USA's **Olympic, Mount Rainier** and **North Cascades National Parks**.





A grey wolf leads her cubs towards water



COMEBACK CREATURE

5

## Grey wolf

Laws were passed to help these canines expand their territory...



A grey wolf pads along the edge of a forest and cautiously sniffs the ground. His movements trigger a camera, which snaps a photo of the animal as he crosses the invisible state line that divides Oregon and California in the USA. The lone wolf, nicknamed Journey, is on a quest to find a mate. And Journey's journey is a big deal – he's perhaps the first wolf to enter California in nearly 100 years!

### HUNTED WOLVES

Some two million grey wolves once roamed North America. But in the early 1800s, settlers moving westward across what's now the USA cleared areas of land for ranching and farming. That meant the wolves didn't have as much natural prey such as bison and elk, so they ate livestock instead.

Over the next century, farmers and ranchers retaliated, getting rid of the

wolves using guns, poison and traps. By the 1970s, only a few hundred grey wolves remained in the lower 48 states of the USA that border one another on the mainland. Fortunately, grey wolves were never endangered in Alaska, but experts knew that the animals were probably heading for extinction in the other states.

### BACK ON TRACK

In 1974, the government listed the grey wolf under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, making it illegal to kill or harm the country's wolves.

"At this time, people wanted to see wolves expand their territory and return to western parts of America," says biologist Doug Smith. Grey wolves had been living successfully in Canada for centuries. So in the early 1990s, U.S. and Canadian scientists captured 76 Canadian wolves and released them in



Main image © Arco Images GmbH / Alamy; Cubs © Robert Harding / Alamy; Map © Martin Walz; Bear © Nagel Photography / Shutterstock; Alligator © William Mahnken / Dreamstime; Eagle © Peter Wey / Shutterstock.





parts of **Yellowstone National Park** in **Montana** and **Wyoming**.

"The wolves **thrived** in their new homes," Doug says. The hope was that they would **explore beyond the park's borders** and make their homes in other states, too.

In just **40 years**, the grey wolf population grew to about **7,500** in the lower 48 states – plus some **10,000** wolves in **Alaska**.

"We should be really **proud** that we brought back a species that could've been wiped off the map!" Doug says.

## PUPPY PROGRESS

Today, wolves such as Journey continue to **return** to their former range – and, amazingly, they're helping those **ecosystems** at the same time.

"Wolves hunt big animals

A wolf's sense of smell is about **100 times better** than a human's.

**too many plants.** Other animals, such as **foxes** and **bearded vultures**, will also feed on what wolves kill."

Although wildlife conservationists and ranchers still debate what a healthy wolf population means for **farms** and **cities**, these wolves aren't going anywhere.

A few years ago in California, Journey's lonely howl was **answered** by a small, black wolf – his **mate**.

Together the pair raised at least **16 pups**, some of which have gone

on to **start their own packs** – giving conservationists something to *howl* about!

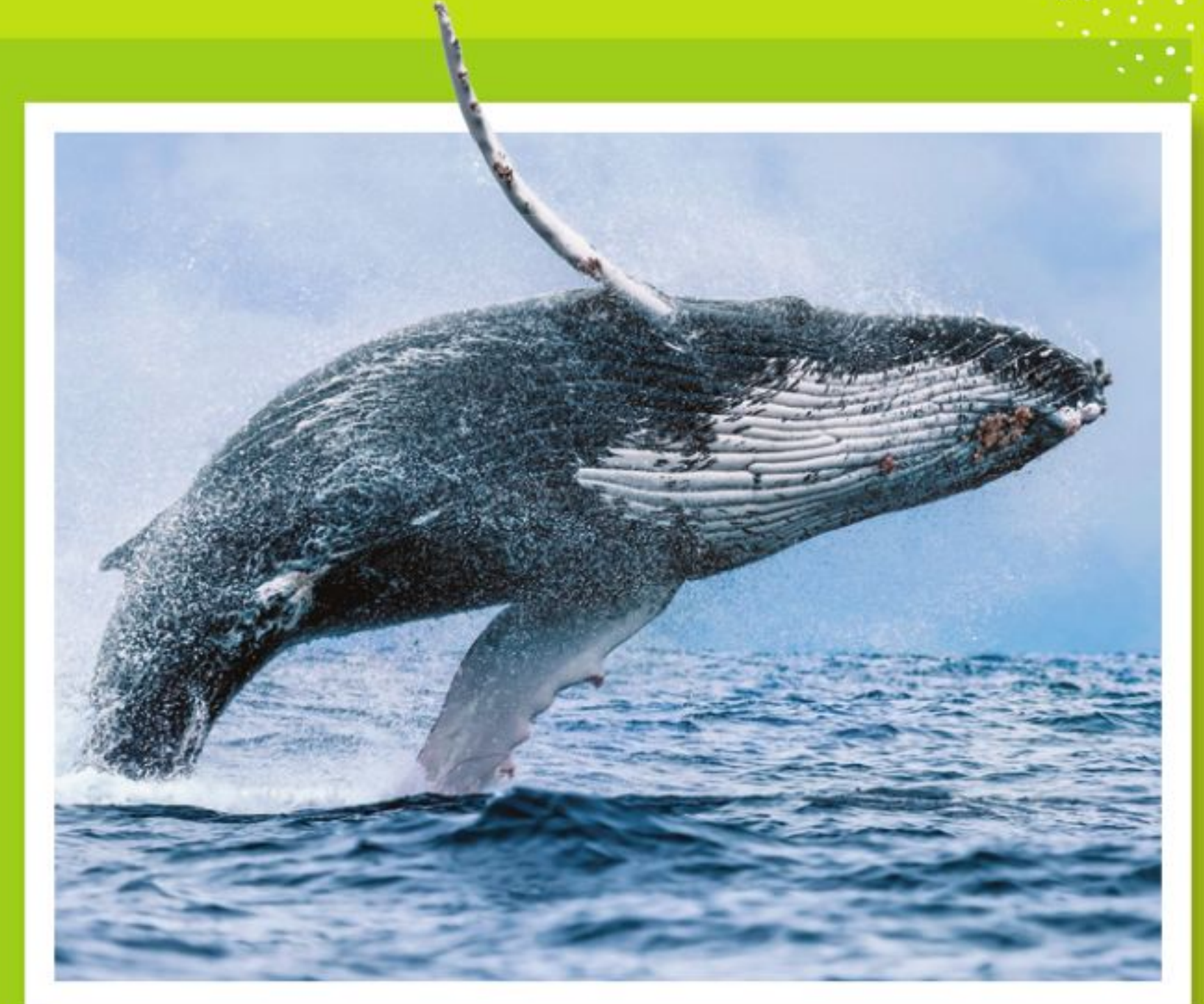
Wolves usually give birth to **4-6 pups** in a litter.



Three grey wolf pups huddle together

## COMEBACK KINGS

Check out three other animals that are making a **remarkable recovery** thanks to **conservation work...**



### Humpback whale

Around **40,000** of these marine mammals were killed by whaling stations in Australia and New Zealand. But following a ban on **commercial whaling**, numbers slowly started recovering. It's thought there are now **60,000** of them worldwide.



### American alligator

Once **almost hunted to extinction**, it's thought there are about a **million** of these reptiles in the wild today.

### Bald eagle

These birds soared from just **800** in America in **1973** to roughly **70,000** today. Amazing!





# GLOBAL STORY CLUB

We've teamed up with Story Island Project for this creative writing page, featuring top tips and super stories from cool young authors!



By Parmila Chuwan, 12



and Margitu Gobena, 12

## Magic Life and Magicter

Three weeks ago, we, Magic Life and Magicter, used a magic stick to go back in time, long before any people lived in Australia. The magic stick made a magic hole and we jumped through it. We saw different kinds of animals there, but they were hungry and thirsty. So we made food and water for the animals with the magic stick, and they came and drank and ate and we played with them every evening.

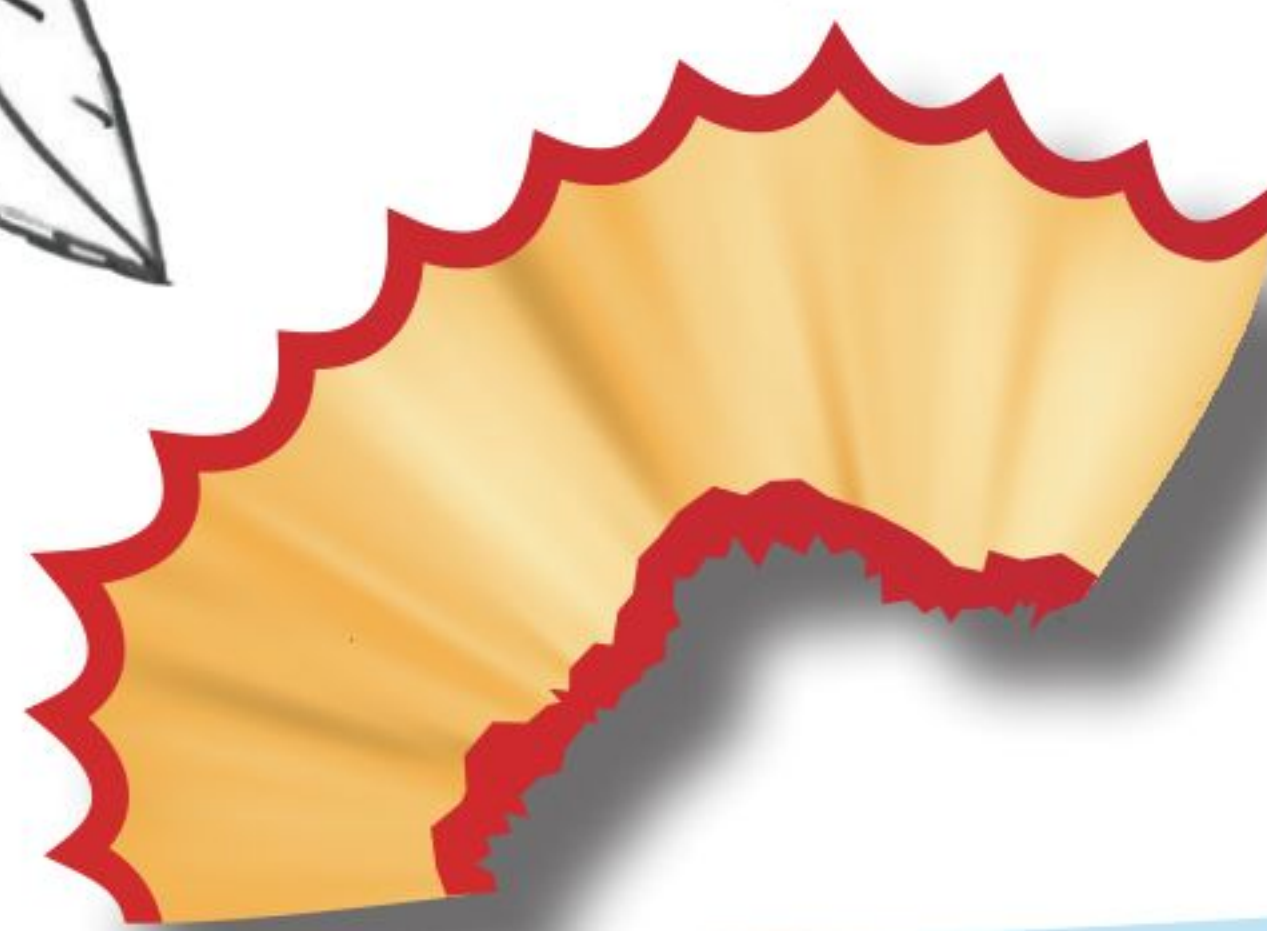
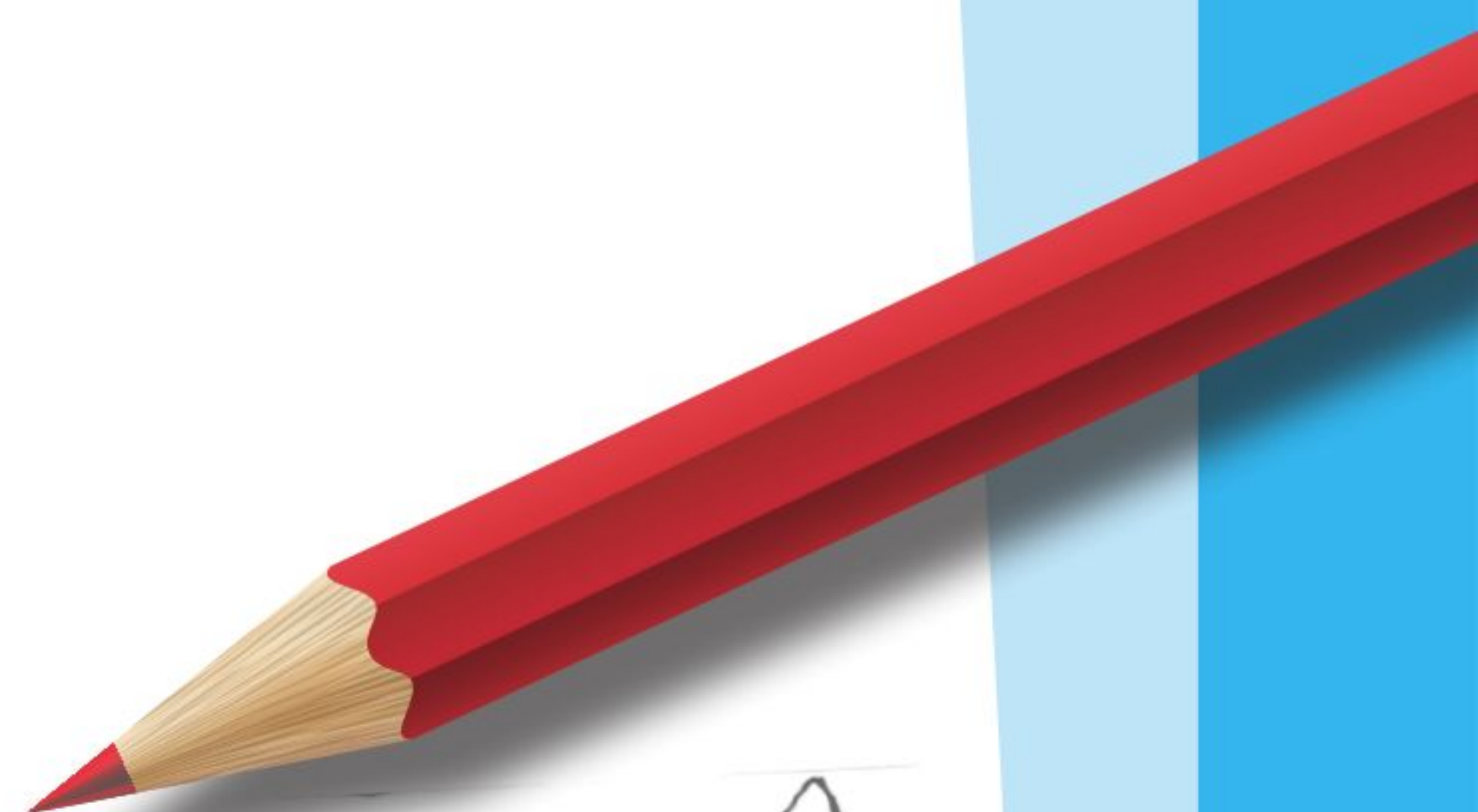
After two weeks of playing with the animals, we were having a drink when, suddenly, we saw something coming out of the water. It was big and strong with massive legs and its eyes were red like cherries. It had a long mane and nails, and sharp teeth. This lion came out of the water roaring at us and we ran. It followed us into the jungle and we ran and ran until we saw a bush to hide in. Night came, so we slept in the bush.

In the morning, when we woke up, Magic Life stepped on the lion's tail and he roared again! Luckily, she noticed that he had a cut on his tail and so Magicter put medicine on it. After that, the lion played with us! We climbed on his back and held on to his mane and we waved the magic stick in the air.

But then Magic Life accidentally dropped our stick and when it landed on the ground, it broke. A nearby gorilla saw it break and helped us stick it back together so it was as good as new!

On that day, we had to go back to our houses, to meet with our families and friends, so Magic Life decided to make the very first people to care for the animals and make plant medicine.

And that's how the first people came to be in Australia!



### WRITING TIP

Try creating some suspense in your story - what might happen next? It could be something exciting or maybe it's terribly scary! Short sentences help to speed up the pace and stop your story from feeling boring. So, have a go at crafting some one or two-word sentences!

### STORY IDEA

Your character must save their home before it is destroyed by a climate disaster! What will they do? Who and what will survive?

### SEND US YOUR STORY!

Email **200-250 words** to [editorial@ngkids.com.au](mailto:editorial@ngkids.com.au) along with a **recent photo** of yourself and a simple **illustration in black pen**. If your terrific tale is selected, we'll be in touch!



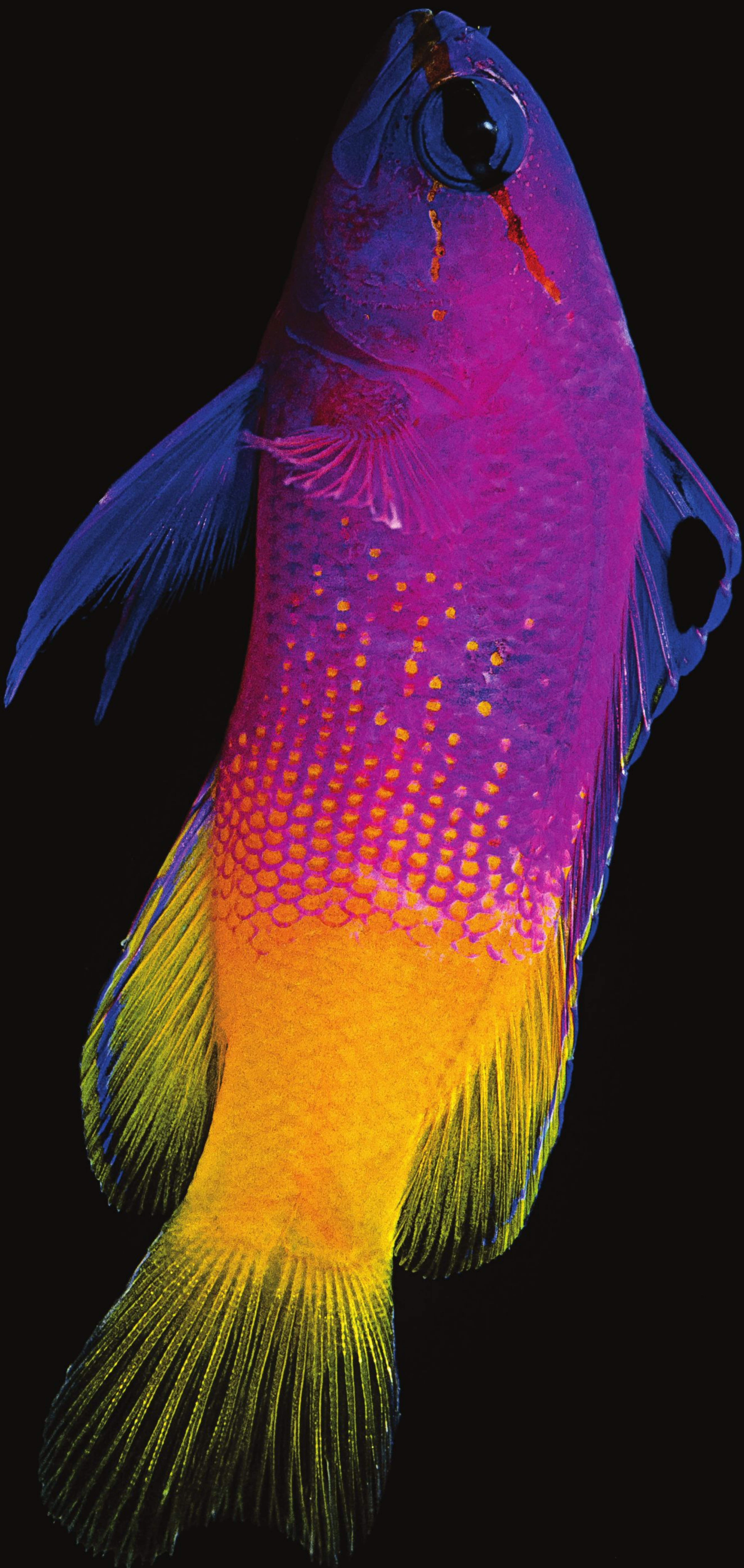
The Story Island Project is a Hobart-based not-for-profit organisation that nurtures the creativity and writing skills of young Tasmanians aged 7-17 and celebrates their diverse voices. Find out more at [storyislandproject.org](http://storyislandproject.org)



## MOSSY FROG















BABY  
OPOSSUM





## JUMPING

## DOG



**Geronimo nails his trick with help from owner Samantha Valle (left) and her friend**



Dogs love to leap for balls and treats, but over a skipping rope? **Geronimo the border collie mix leapt 91 times** over a rope – the most skips by a dog in **one minute**. Owner **Samantha Valle**, from

- **Maryland, USA**, took **five weeks** to teach the dog the trick. Turns out Geronimo is multi-talented. He also holds the record for the most **double-Dutch-style jump-rope skips (128!)** in one minute. What a fab fido!

## GIANT GNOME



**Howard the garden gnome** is a little too big to stand in a flower bed. In fact, he's **taller than a giraffe!** At nearly **8m tall**, Howard is the **largest garden gnome** on record. Residents of **Vancouver Island, Canada** – where Howard has been located for more than **20 years** – can spot the gnome from kilometres away!



## LOTS OF T-SHIRTS



Talk about a layered look. **Ted Hastings**, from **Ontario in Canada**, holds the record for the **most T-shirts worn at once** – an incredible **260**, weighing about **75kg** in total! The stunt took a lot longer than getting dressed in the morning does. Ted's friends pulled the T-shirts – from medium size to very, very large – over his head for about **four hours**. Crazy!



# THE BIG INTERVIEW

National Geographic Explorer Amy Dickman tells us about working with warriors and 'magic' dogs to save lions!



**Name:** Amy Dickman  
**From:** UK  
**Job:** Conservation biologist, author and National Geographic Explorer  
**Known for:** Helping reduce conflict between humans and lions in Eastern Africa

Sadly, there are now half as many lions as there were 25 years ago.

Amy's Ruaha Carnivore Project – [ruahacarnivoreproject.com](http://ruahacarnivoreproject.com) – has grown from just three people to a team of over 70 locals, including 17 warriors and 32 camera trap officers, as well as conflict officers, research assistants and mechanics!

It's going to take all of us to make a difference!

## WANT TO BE A BIG CAT CONSERVATIONIST?

### Here's Amy's advice...

"You have to be willing to be in **new situations**, meet **new people**, and **understand things** from **somebody else's point of view**! Being **open-minded** is a must.

"I went through the traditional route of studying **zoology** and **biology**, but **conservation** also needs different skills, such as **computer science** or **mechanics**. So figure out what your **passion** is and then work out how you can **apply it** to conservation!"

Amy's project is expanding to Selous in southern Tanzania, which has the **biggest lion population** left in the world. She's helped set up **PRIDE**, a network of **six female lion conservationists** and local teams across Africa.



### Hi Amy! When did you first become interested in big cats?

I've been hypnotised by them for **as long as I can remember!** As a **small child** I would stare at big cats at the local zoo. There's something beguiling about these **beautiful animals** that are so **powerful** they can **kill you!**

### Why are lions important to the world?

From the dawn of human existence they've captured our imagination – there are **cave paintings** of lions from over **30,000 years** ago! Lions symbolise **bravery, wildness, strength** and **courage**, and they're the most **common national animal** in the world. You see them on **flags, sports teams** – everywhere! They're iconic.

### You set up the Ruaha Carnivore Project in Tanzania, Africa, to reduce conflict between lions and humans. What's the main cause of this conflict?

For many people in Tanzania, especially those living close to National Parks, their **cattle** are at risk from **lion attacks**. And their cattle aren't *just* **worth money**, they're also really **significant** to people's **social status** – so protecting livestock from lions is **really important**.

### Lion killing is a cultural tradition in some tribes, for example the Barabaig tribe in southern Tanzania. Why is that?

In areas where lions are a major threat to livestock and people, young men – **warriors** – are **rewarded** by the **community** if they **kill lions**. So we talked with them about ways they could still be warriors (**protecting** their **community**, being **strong** and **brave**) but through **conservation** rather than lion killing.

### Did it take time for them to trust you?

A **long time!** We spent **two years** out in the bush trying to engage with the **Barabaig**, because we knew there was lots of lion killing, but they wouldn't **talk to us**. That changed one day when we put up **solar panels** and they arrived to **charge** their **phones**. **Technology brought us together!** We explained we weren't trying

### A massive male lion fell asleep on me!

to get them in trouble, we just wanted to **understand why** they were killing lions. **And did the Barabaig decide to work with you after that?**

Yes – but then **within a week** they'd killed **seven more lions!** We were really **upset** about it, but realised it was a **test** – they wanted to see if we **valued the lions** more than the **relationship** with the **community**. So we **didn't react**. Sure enough, a week

later they said, "Now we want to work with you." Since then we've joined together with them to prevent over **120 local lion hunts**.

### Wow! Many of the lion-killing warriors now work as lion defenders. What does that involve?

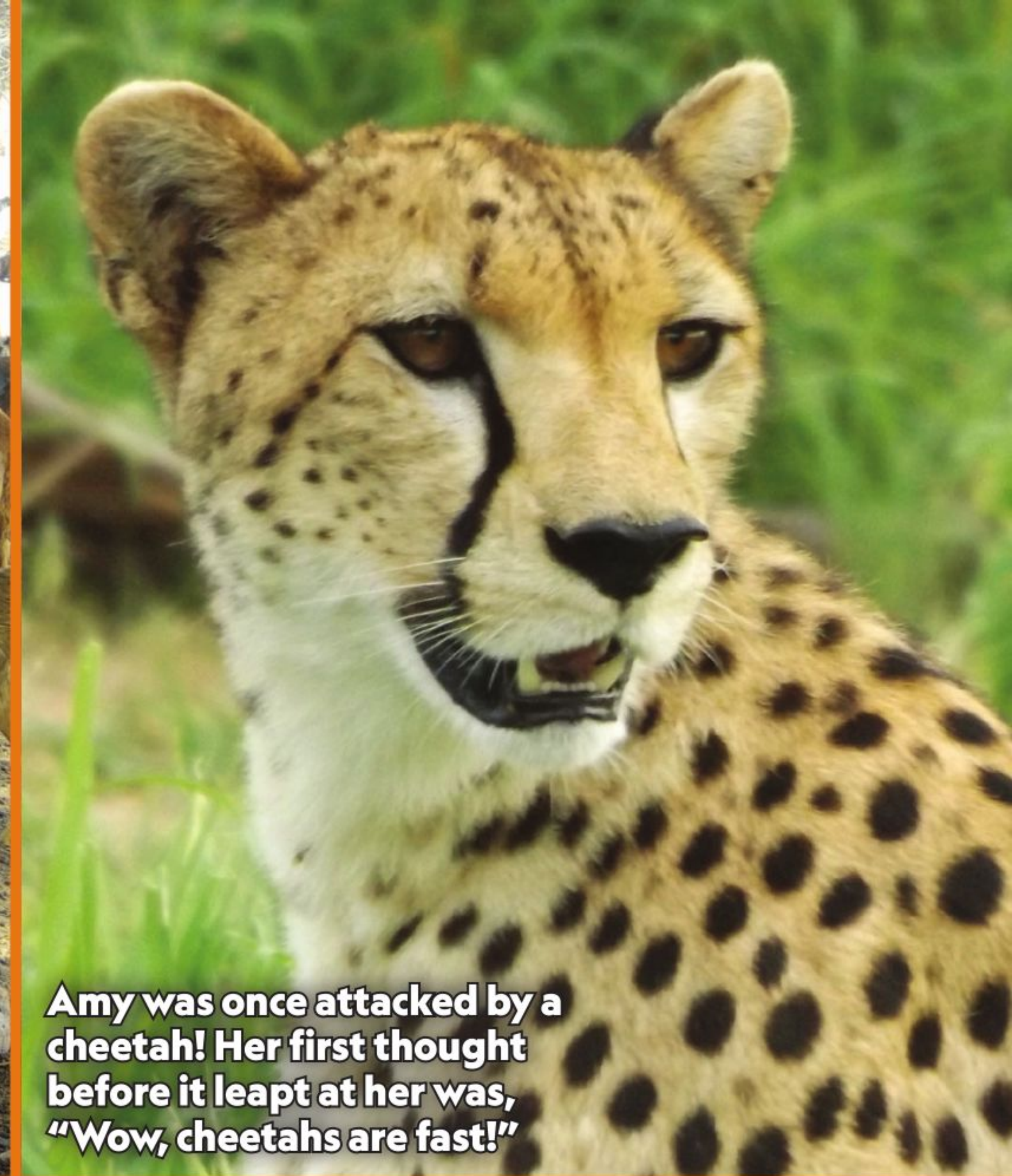
Every day, they go out and **track lions**, and if the lions come too close to cattle or people, they'll **chase them** off. They're the guardians of the community. The whole village also look after and monitor the **camera traps** and there's a **reward programme** for animals they see.

### How else have you helped protect cattle?

We reinforce livestock enclosures with **wire**, which reduces attacks by over **95%**! We also use specialised livestock guarding dogs from Europe – called **Anatolian shepherd dogs** (see pic, above).



Anatolian shepherd dogs are huge enough to chase lions away themselves!



Amy was once attacked by a cheetah! Her first thought before it leapt at her was, "Wow, cheetahs are fast!"

### Was working with dogs new for them?

The Barabaig had local village dogs but **nobody knew** you could **train them**. When we suggested it, people thought we were crazy! Then one day, we were at a village meeting and two of our dogs came by. They were getting in the way so I told them to '**sit**' in **Swahili**, and they did. The meeting ground to a halt.

"Where did you get those **magic dogs**?!" they said. "How can they speak **Swahili**?!" The villagers were **amazed** that dogs could **follow people's commands**. And that opened the door to us bringing in guarding dogs. Now the community love them. If the dogs **sense a predator**

they **bark to alert** a **herder**, who can **chase the lion away**.

### Have YOU ever felt scared of lions?

On my very **first night** working in the bush in the **Ruaha landscape, Tanzania**, I was staying in this **tiny tent** on the floor. I heard a **lion's roar**

that **sounded really close**, but I reminded myself that **roars** can **travel for 8km**, so it was probably not *that* near. But then it roared again, much **louder**. I thought, "I'm getting out of here!" Except then I remembered that if lions can't get **into** a **cattle enclosure**, what they do is go around and around it to **scare** the **cattle** into **breaking out** – and *then* they **attack** them. And I thought, "Be more **intelligent** than a cow, Amy! Don't get out!"

### So you stayed in the tent?!

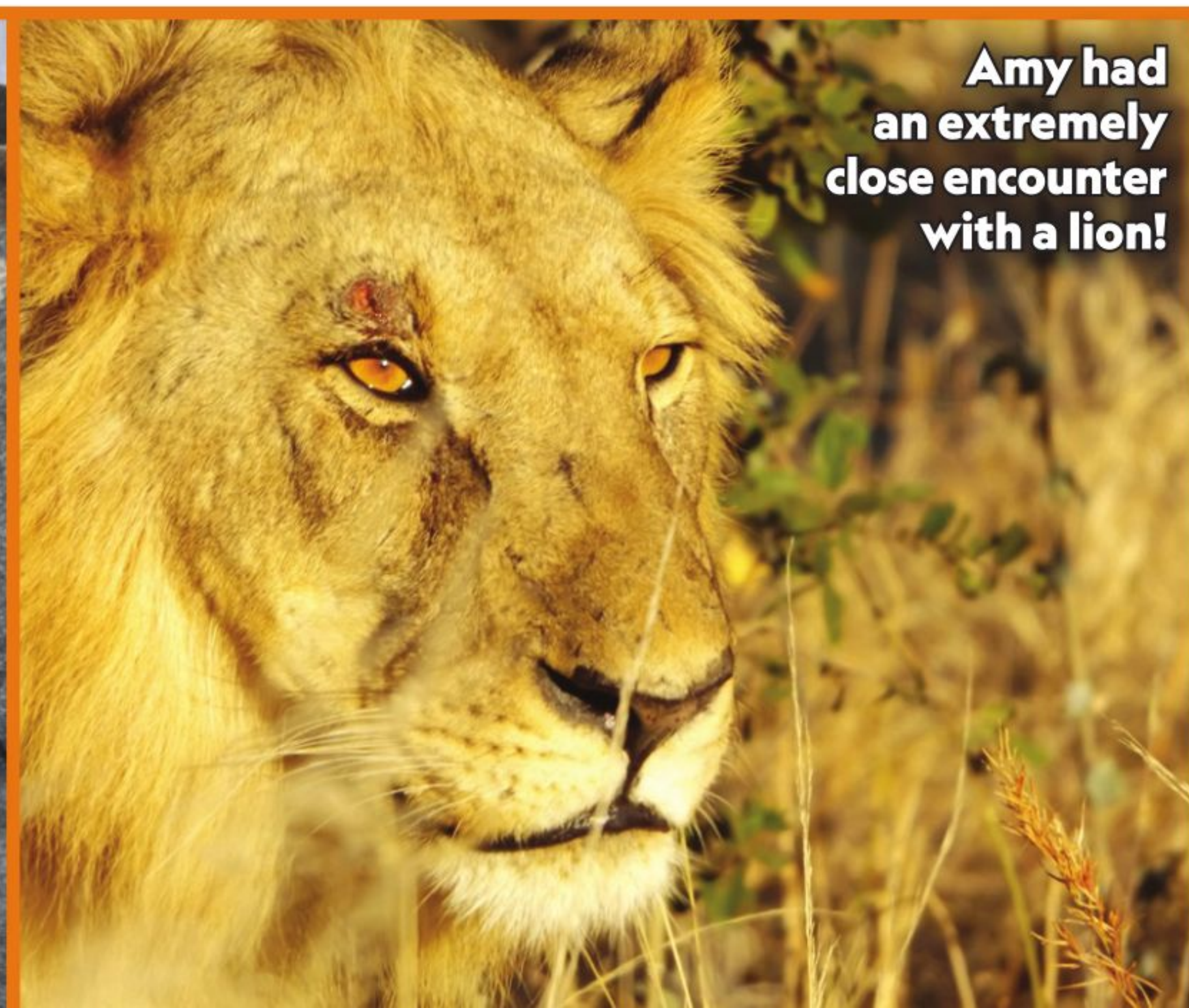
I **forced** myself to! The next thing I knew I could see this **huge male lion** **silhouetted** against the **tent** in the light of the **full moon!** He **walked around the tent, sniffing**. Deeply terrified, I searched my bag and found a **tiny knife** and a **deodorant spray** to try to **defend** myself with. But then he suddenly **slumped right down on the tent, laid across me** and just went to **sleep!** And eventually I went to sleep, too, from the sheer **exhaustion** and **adrenaline!**

**Wow, what a story! Thanks, Amy!**

One of the main threats to lions is conflict with humans.



Former lion-killing warriors now monitor wildlife!



Amy had an extremely close encounter with a lion!



# BEDROOM



SCALE: 9cm = 1mm

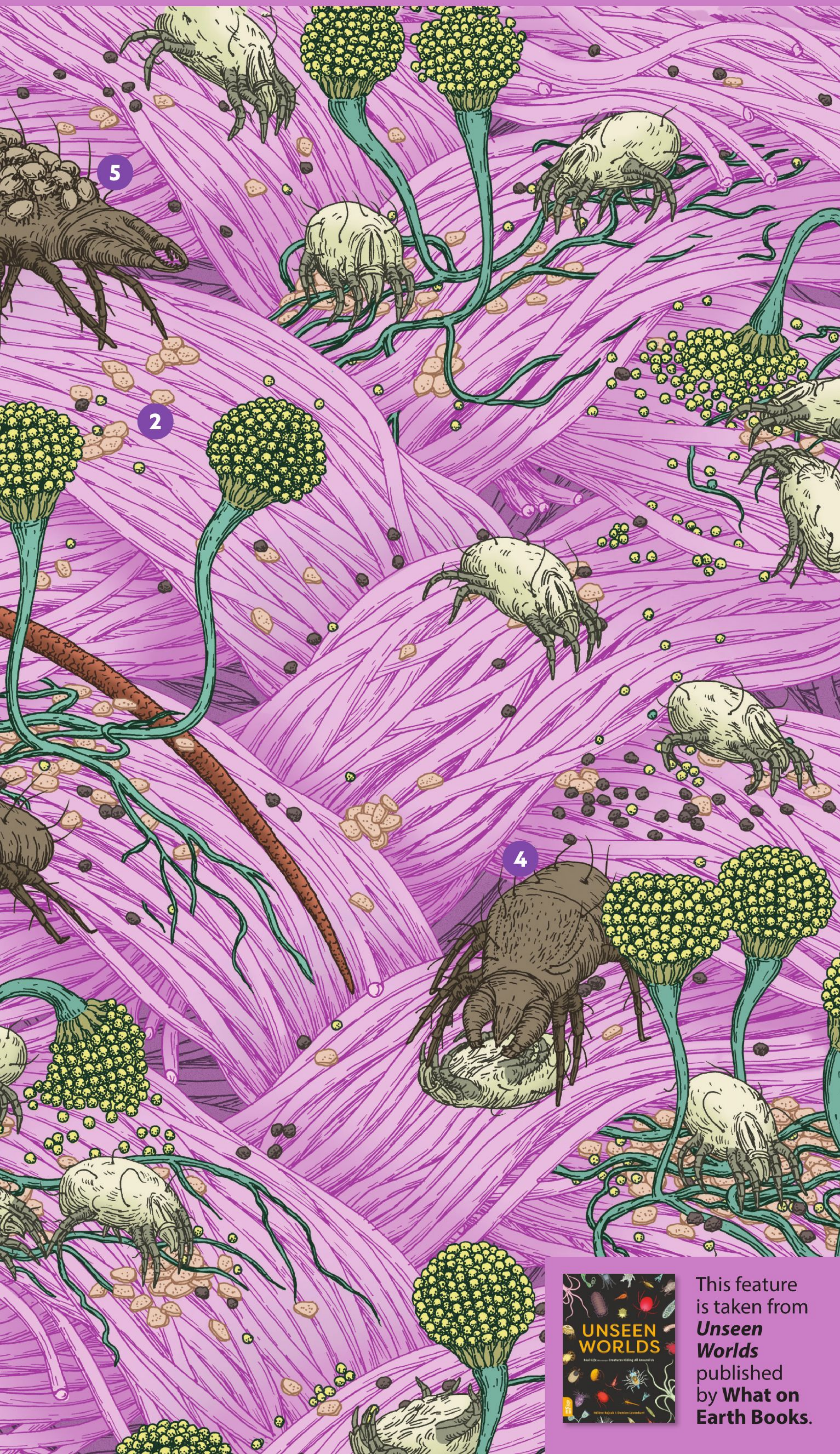
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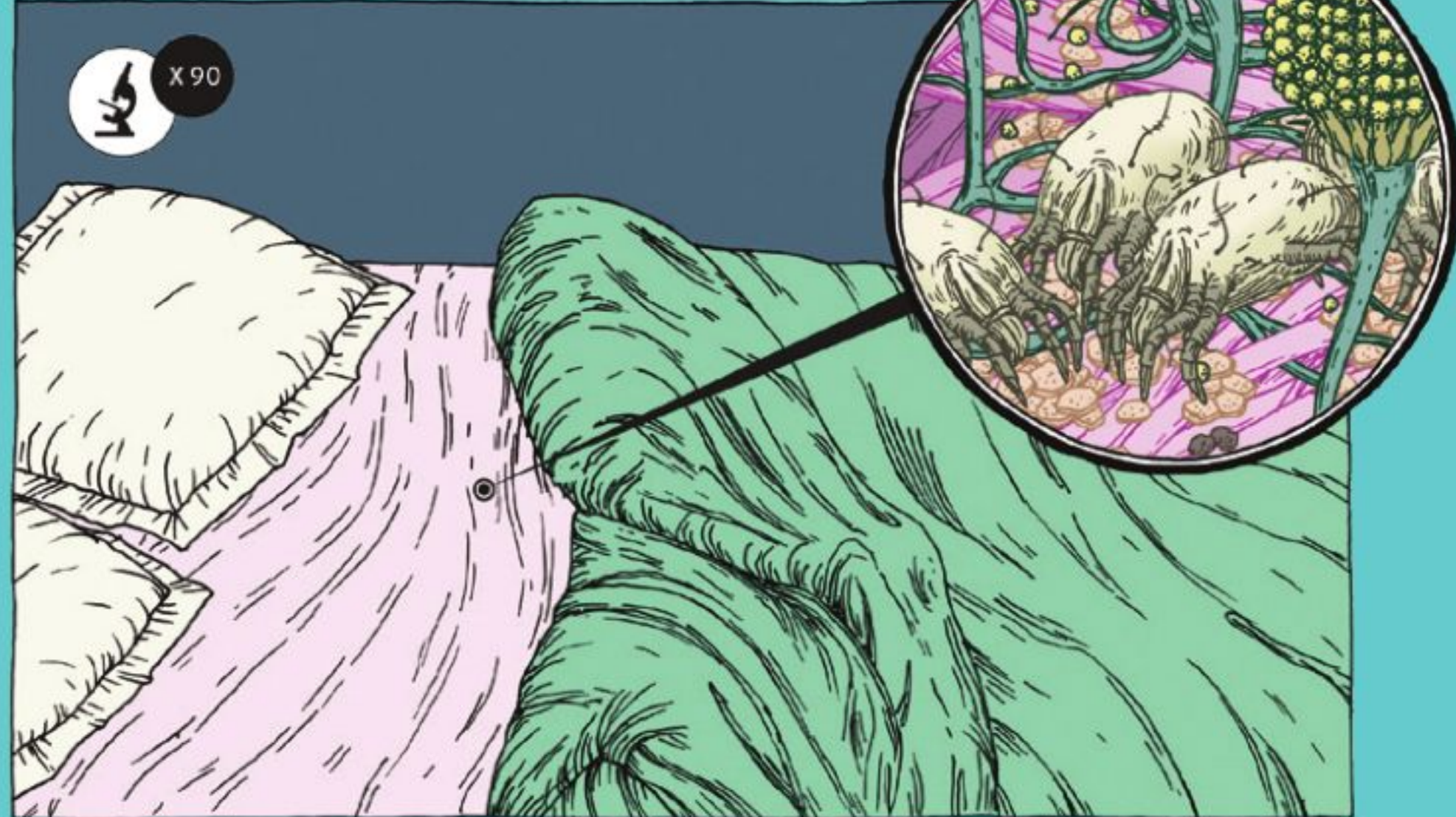


# JUNGLE!

Meet the amazing mini-beasts that share your sheets...



When you drift off to sleep at night, a whole **ecosystem** begins to stir! Among the fibres of your sheets, a **jungle of microscopic fungi** have sprouted, and flocks of **dust mites** start searching for **dead skin** to eat. They've been **woken** by your **body's warmth**. But their quiet feasting is interrupted by the arrival of larger **predatory mites**, with **giant clawed pincers**... Sweet dreams!



## 1 Dust mite

**Mites** are **arachnids**, a group of animals that also includes **spiders** and **scorpions**. There are at least a **million mite species** with varying shapes, sizes and ways of life. The most familiar are probably **dust mites** such as *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*. They live in our **house dust**, swarming over our **carpets**, **sofas** and **beds**. A single **gram** of dust can contain a colony of **thousands** of individual mites. A single **pillow** can harbour **dozens** of these colonies. A **bed** is like a **dust mite city** with millions of inhabitants!



## 2 Flake of skin

Every day we lose tiny pieces of **dead skin**, **hair** and little bits of our **nails**. A single gram of this human dust can feed **several thousand** dust mites for **months**.

## 3 Microscopic fungus

Among the **fibres** of our **mattresses** and **pillows** are great forests of *Aspergillus*. These **microscopic mushrooms** grow on **top** of the fallen **flakes of skin** that cover our beds. They **break them down**, making them **edible** for the dust mites. In turn, the mites **transport** the mushrooms' **spores**, which helps them spread.

## 4 Cheyletus eruditus male

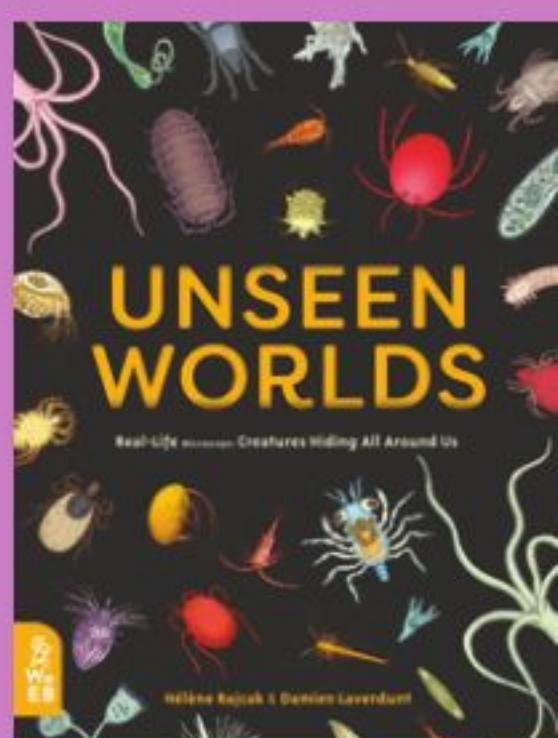
## 5 Cheyletus eruditus female

These **larger mites** are the main **predators of dust mites**. They have **two powerful pincers** that they use for **seizing** and **impaling prey**. Then they **inject** the bodies of their victims with a **fluid** that **paralyses** them and **liquifies their insides** so the predator can **suck them down**. If there is a shortage of prey, this hungry mite will **eat its own species**, too. **Females** are **slightly larger** than **males**. Just like some spiders, females **carry their babies on their backs** for several days after they hatch.



## 6 Mite droppings

Unlike some other mites, dust mites **don't attack** humans with their pincers. But their **droppings** can provoke **allergies**. As they break down, they become fine particles and enter the **lungs**. Some people react with **sneezes** or a **runny nose**. Others can have serious **asthma** attacks. Allergic individuals have to make sure to clear them out, or at least reduce their numbers.



This feature is taken from *Unseen Worlds* published by **What on Earth Books**.



THE

# BIG PICTURE

NAT GEO KIDS'  
image of the month



## Nothing to Laugh About



Amateur photographer **Adam Stevenson** snapped this shocking pic with his iPhone X, close to where he lives in **Wallabi Point, New South Wales**. Devastating **bushfires** had passed just **50 metres** from his home, and as Adam watched the sun set through the smoke, a cheeky **kookaburra** appeared and allowed Adam to walk right up to it. "We shared a moment, watching the sun fade behind the apocalyptic scene," Adam recalls. "And he was laughing!"

After the photo became a hit on social media, Adam entered it into the **Natural World** category of the **Sony World Photography Awards 2020**, where it was chosen as **Australia's National Award Winner**. Now that IS something to laugh about.

● Check out all the winning images at [worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards](https://worldphoto.org/sony-world-photography-awards)







# CLOUDBURST

Prepare for a thrill-ride through Central Africa in this gripping environmental adventure!

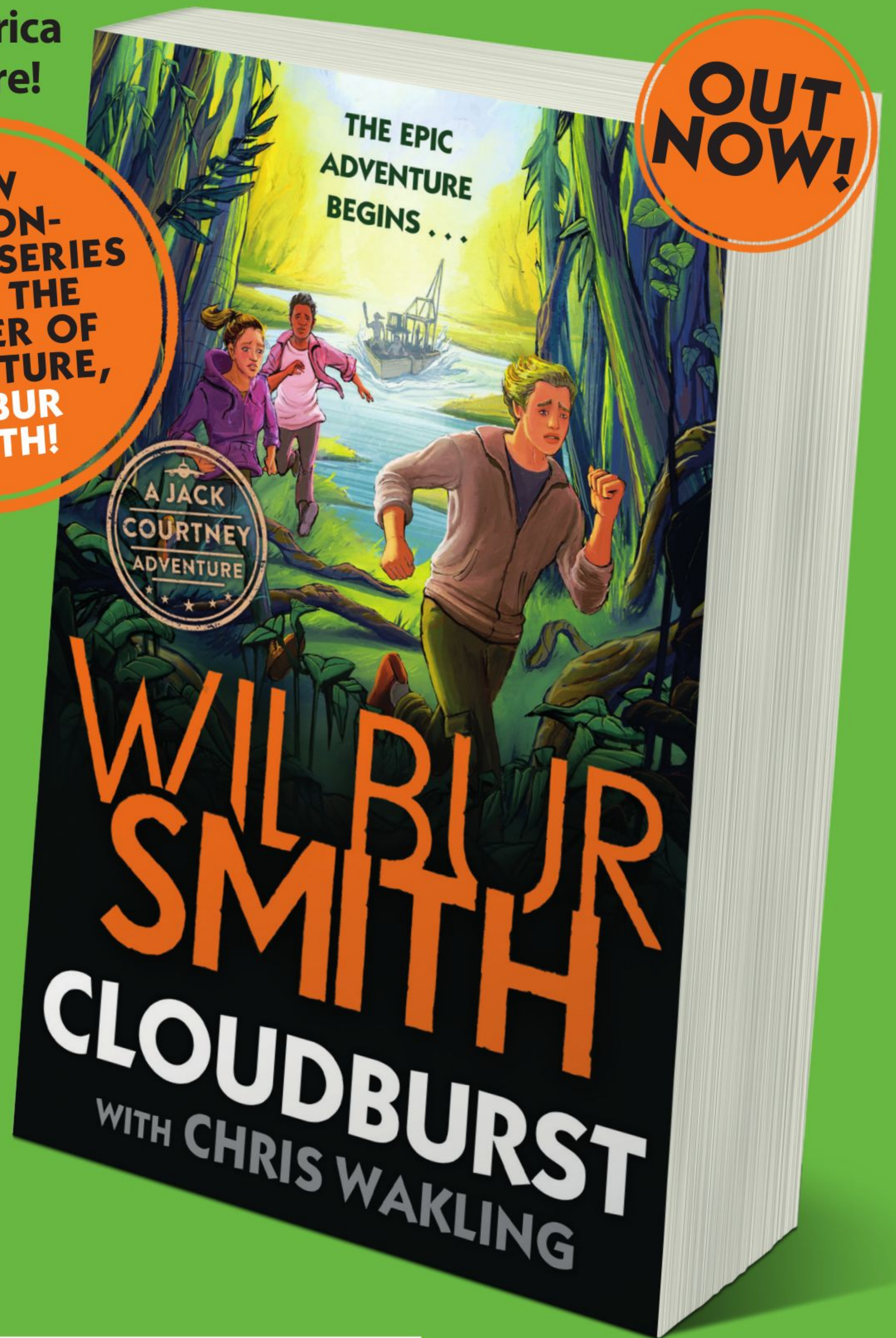
Fourteen year-old Jack is the youngest member of the **Courtney family**. He's lived in the **UK** his whole life, but this summer his parents are travelling to the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** for an **environmental conference**, and they've promised to take Jack and his friends with them. Cool!

When his parents go **missing**, nobody seems to have any answers, but Jack's sure that it's got something to do with the nearby **tantalum mines**...

Can Jack keep his wits about him and work with his best friends **Amelia** and **Xander** to save his parents – and his own life, too?!

NEW  
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PACKED SERIES  
FROM THE  
MASTER OF  
ADVENTURE,  
**WILBUR  
SMITH!**

**OUT  
NOW!**



## WHO'S WHO?

Meet the main characters in this exciting new read!



### JACK COURTNEY

Brave and headstrong, Jack worries that his **father blames him** for the **death** of his elder brother **Mark**, and he's determined to make amends.

### AMELIA PIPER

Hyper-intelligent, direct and a tad **socially awkward**, **Amelia** is above all loyal to Jack Courtney, who she's known since they were **babies** on the same maternity ward.

### XANDER ADEBAYO

Easy-going, perceptive and **charismatic**, **Xander** is **half Nigerian**, good with **tech**, and Jack Courtney's **closest schoolfriend**.

**WIN!**

## CLOUDBURST BOOKS

We've got five copies of this brill book up for grabs! Just answer this question by 28 May to be in with a chance!

**Q** Which of these great apes is NOT found in the DRC?  
a) Gorilla b) Orangutan c) Bonobo

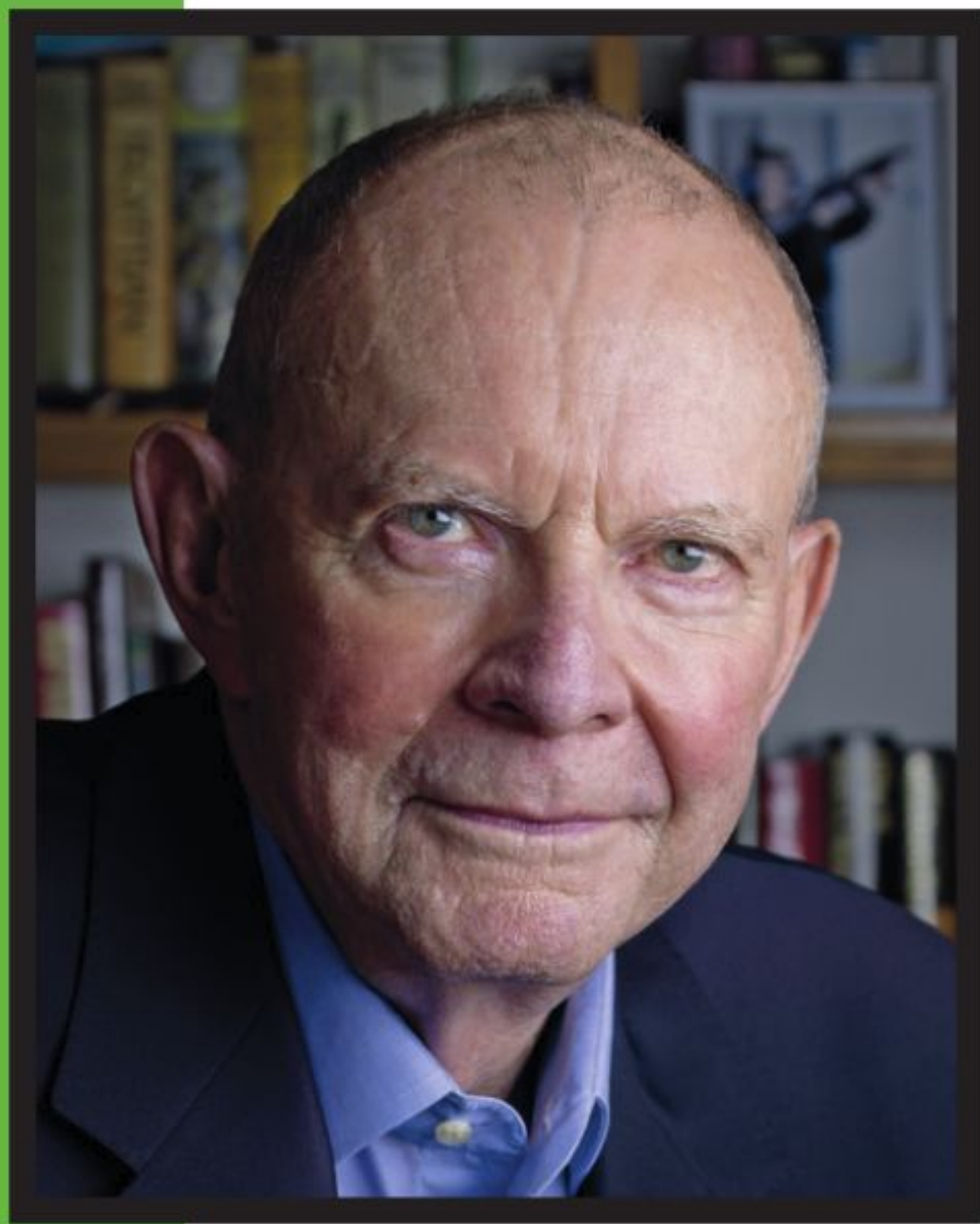
Enter at [natgeokids.com](http://natgeokids.com)

Piccadilly  
PRESS



## AUTHOR CHATS!

The master of adventure novels, Wilbur Smith teamed up with top travel writer Chris Wakling to write this cool new series. We asked them about their brill book!



**Hi Wilbur! Your hero Jack is the youngest member of the Courtney family who you've been writing about for a long time. Can you tell us about that?**

The fictional **Courtney family** appeared in my first novel, *When the Lion Feeds*, first published in **1964**. Since then the Courtneys have become the **longest-running family** saga in publishing history, spanning over **20 books** and more than **50 years**.

**Wow! You're best known as an author of adult books and have sold 130 million copies**

**worldwide. Why did you decide to write for children?**

I was **inspired** by what **young people** are doing to **question what is happening** with the **environment**. It felt like a good idea to try to **speak directly to them** through my characters and my writing.

**Why do you think adventures are important?**

Having an **adventure** is the only way you are certain to **learn something about yourself** and **your world** at the same time. If that is not available to you, then **reading adventure stories** may broaden your horizons in unexpected ways!

**What are you hoping that readers will take away from reading the book?**

I hope they will **learn something about Africa**, about the **cruelty** and **kindness** of **mankind**, the **beauty of nature** and **wildlife**, and discover something about **themselves** in the process.



**Hi Chris! What was it like writing a book with the famous Wilbur Smith?!**

I've only ever written books **on my own** before – it's a **lonely** process. So working with Wilbur is **great, collaborative fun**. We **brainstorm ideas** and bat drafts back and forth. Wilbur is the master at **ratcheting up tension**. He sharpens the story and I make it sing! **What kind of research did you do?**

**Lots!** I read up on '**resource wars**' in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (where the book is set), and learned how **tantalum** – the stuff used to make our **mobile phones** – is **dug by hand** from African mines. I also interviewed a **BBC expert** on **mountain gorillas**, and watched some **amazing wildlife films** (a tough job but somebody's got to do it!).

**You also work as a travel writer. Have you been on any real-life adventures?**

I've **dived with sharks** in **Australia**, **narrowly avoided being kidnapped** in **Kashmir** [a region divided between three countries – **India, Pakistan** and **China**] and **slept in a tent surrounded by lions** in **Kenya, Africa**. I've also **eaten fire-ants** in **Puerto Rico** [an island in the **Caribbean**.] They taste **peppery** and you have to chew them quickly.

**Yikes! What are you hoping that readers will take away from reading the book?**

A sense of **excitement, affection** for **Jack** and his friends, and a **burning desire** to read their next adventure, which, spoiler alert, is called **THUNDERBOLT**.

## FAMILY QUIZ!

*Cloudburst* is set in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The second largest country in Africa, over the years it's been plagued by **colonialism, conflict** and **corruption**. Take this test to find out how much you and your family know about the Central African country...



**1 What is the official language of the DRC?**  
a) Swahili b) Spanish c) French

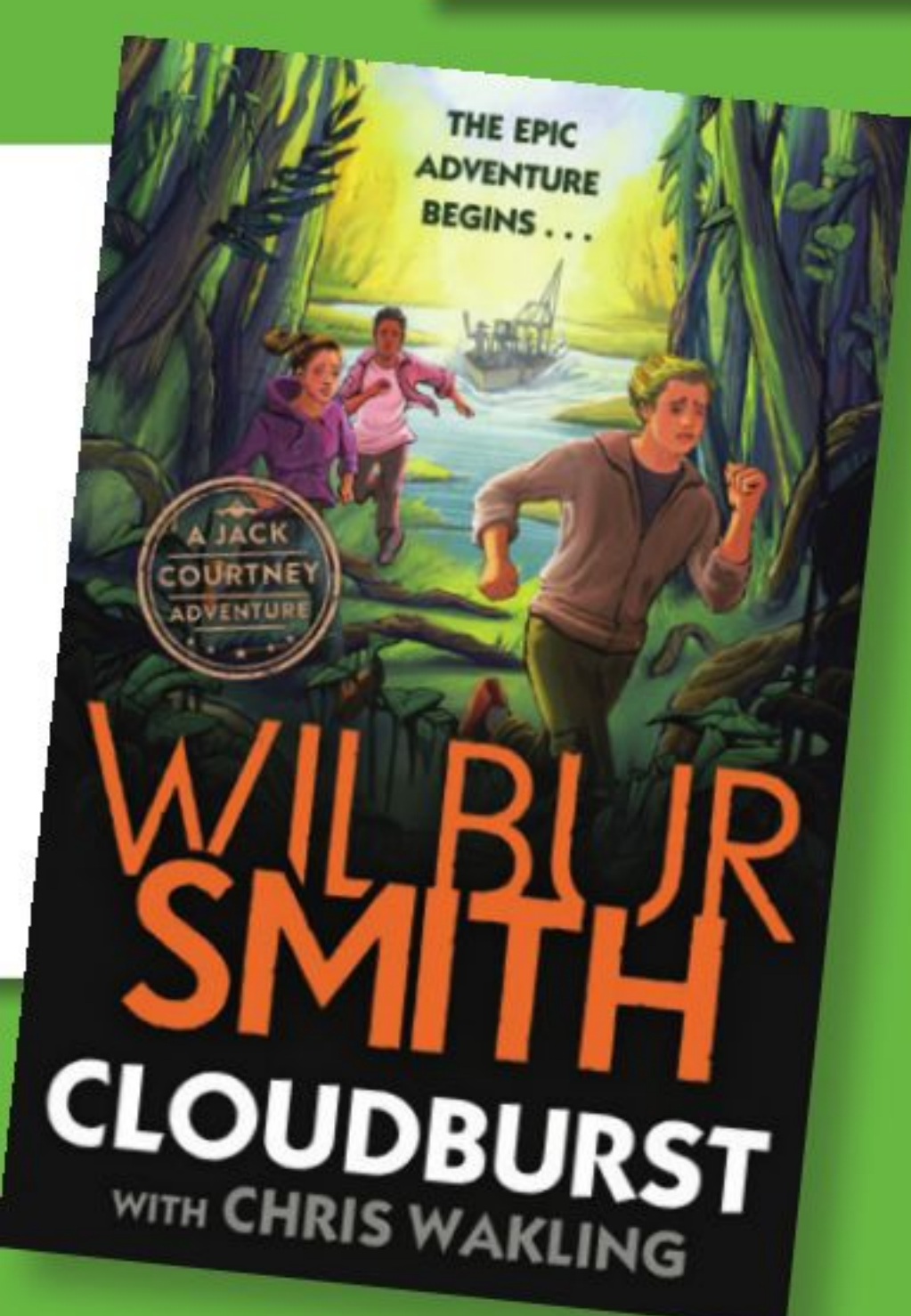
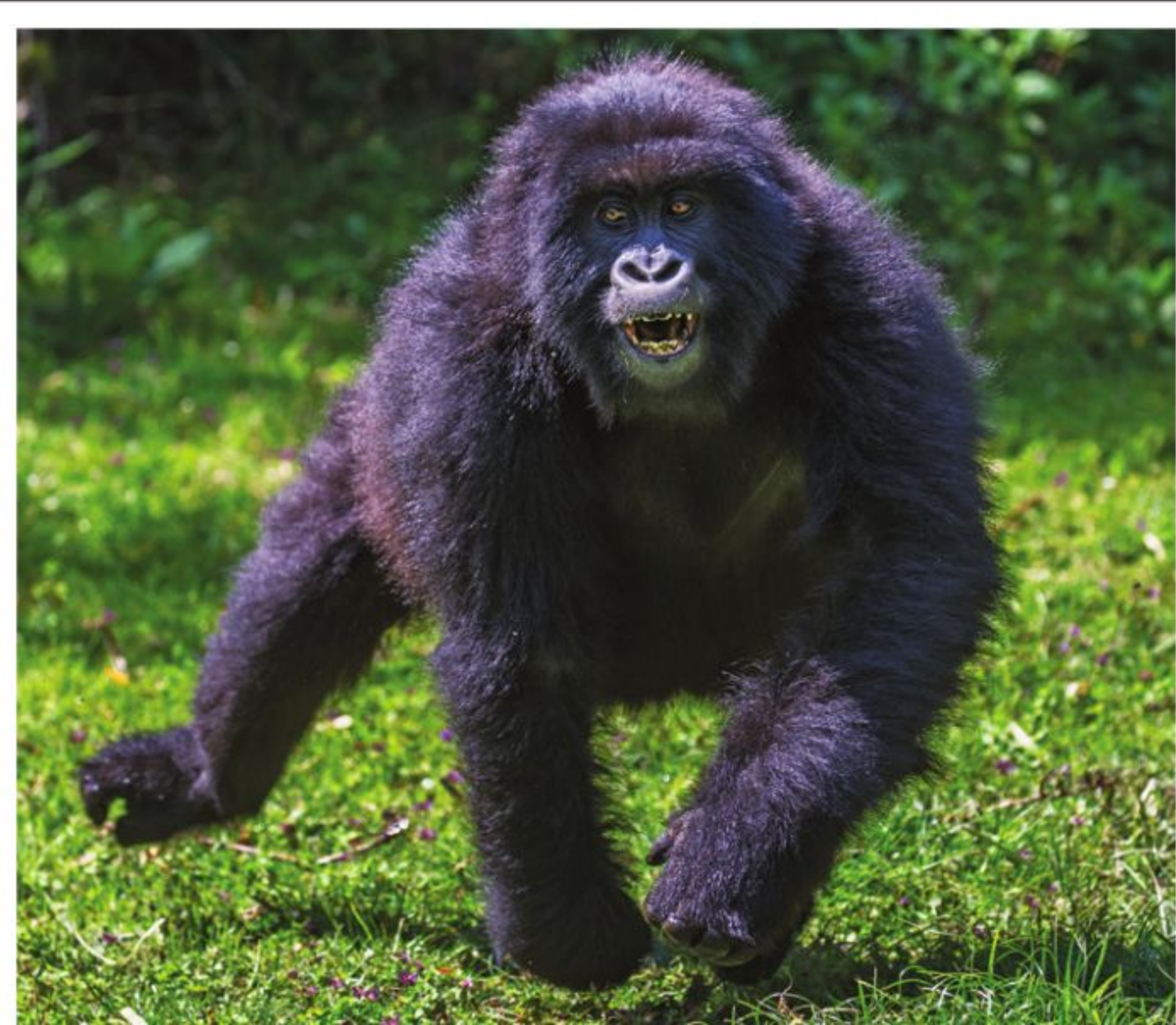
**2 Which three African countries are wild mountain gorillas found in?**  
a) DRC, Morocco & Madagascar b) DRC, Rwanda & Uganda c) DRC, South Africa & Malawi

**3 What should you do if a gorilla charges at you?**  
a) Scream b) Call 000 c) Stay calm and quiet, crouch down and avoid eye contact

**4 What is the DRC's Congo River known for?**  
a) Being the world's deepest river b) Its pink water c) Flowing underground

**5 Tantalum is one of the many minerals mined in DRC. Which of the following ISN'T it used in?**  
a) Mobile phones b) Surgical implants c) Vegan food

Answers at bottom of page





# JUNIOR EXPLORERS' CLUB

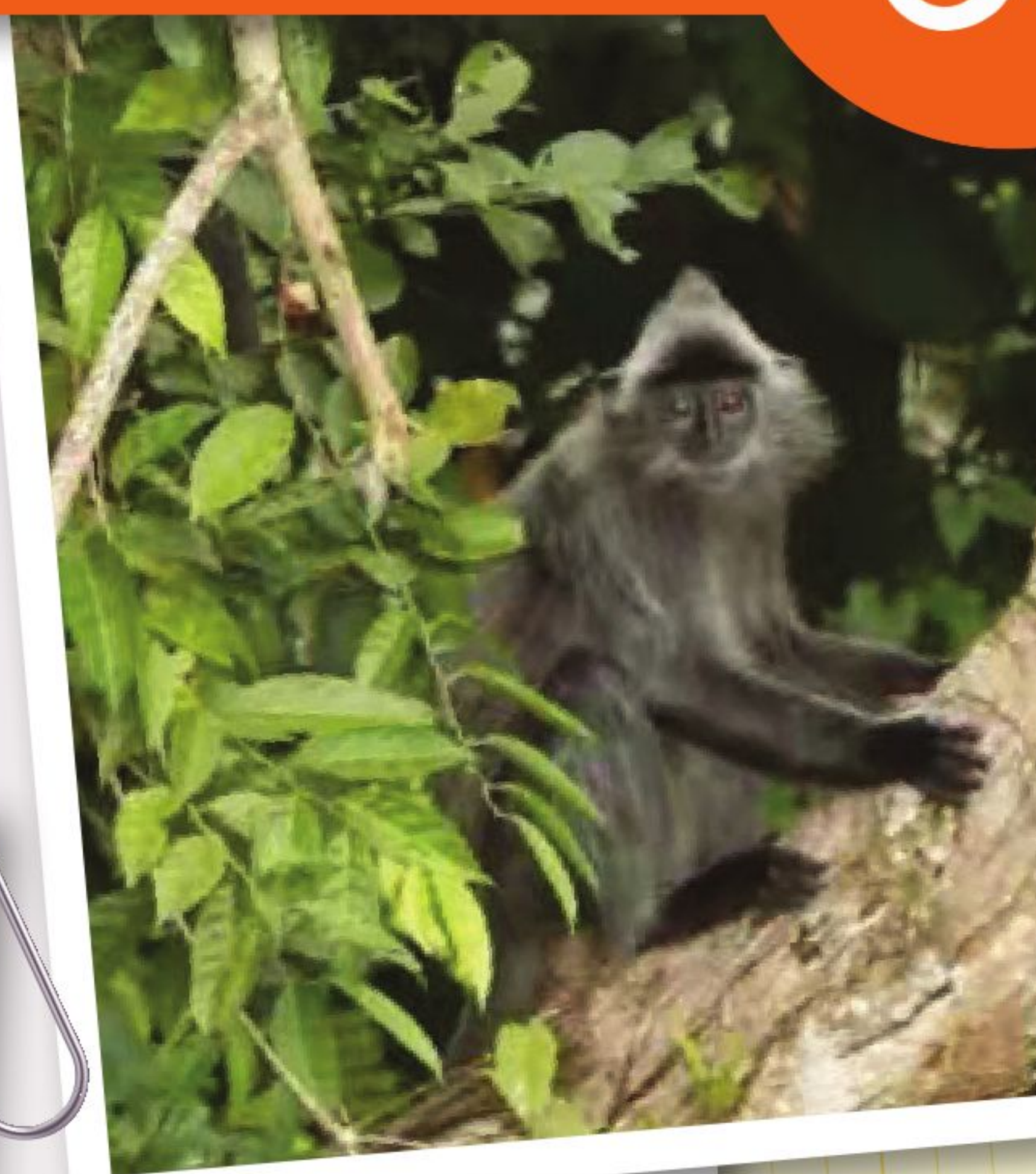
## WILDLIFE WATCH



I live in **Brunei, Southeast Asia**. Outside my house there are lots of wild animals, including these **silver leaf monkeys**. They are **grey** but their babies are **golden**. They eat **leaves** and **fruits**. They are very shy and never open the rubbish bin!

**Hanna, 6**

● What a great view to wake up to, Hanna!



Silver leaf monkeys are also known as silvery lutungs!

POSTCARD FROM...

Lake Wakatipu



Sabine snapped this fab flightless bird!



Hi NG KiDS! Look what I snapped during a **bush walk** at **Tawharanui** in **Auckland** – wild **takahē** wandering around! I managed to tip-toe closer, so I was about **1.5m** away. Then I pressed the button on my camera just in time to snap the takehē '**posing**' perfectly, just like in the sign

(above). It's true! Takahē DO live there – I saw them with my own eyes!

**Sabine, 11**

● Great pic, Sabine! This New Zealand native was once thought to be extinct, but thanks to a conservation programme it's doing well!

## FEED THE BIRDS

My **family** has a history of **caring for birds**. My **great-grandfather** fed **pigeons** in **Singapore** and my **grandmother** feeds **parrots** at her house in **Doonside**. Every day I give the birds in my area a **healthy breakfast** of **potatoes** and **cooked rice**. Feeding birds makes me **happy**, and I also get to observe how they **behave**. I've noticed that **cockatoos** and **maggies** overpower **smaller birds** to seize the lion's share! I might be an **ornithologist** when I grow up.

**Joshua, 9**

● We think you'd make a great ornithologist Joshua!



In one day alone, 19 parrots came to Joshua's house!



COVER STAR!



Meet Theo

**Name:** Theo

**Age:** 11

**Breed:** Long-haired, unknown

**Dislikes:** Fireworks, thunder and lightning

**Likes:** Food, exploring, playing with his siblings and cuddles by the fire in winter

**Owner:** Lincoln, 9



We want to hear from you! Send in your artwork, jokes, craft pics and pet photos. Tell us about your wildlife sightings, hobbies, interests and opinions! A selection of our faves will be printed on this page! Email us at [editorial@ngkids.com.au](mailto:editorial@ngkids.com.au)  
 Every reader on these pages will receive a copy of **Atticus Van Tasticus: The Map of Half Maps**, all about a hilarious pirate!



# WILD CAT CONSERVATION

with Ben Britton



Tara fed a lamb – so cute!

Hi NG KiDS -  
 I went to Lake Wakatipu near Queenstown in New Zealand, and visited a farm called Mt Nicholas Station. We had an amazing tour! First we got to hold the sheep shearer and feel the wool from their best sheep. Then I learnt how to feed a lamb, a calf and a horse. We also saw sheep dogs at work (left). It was really cool to see the sheep react to the sheep dogs.  
 Tara, 9

● Sounds like you had a baa-rilant time on the farm, Tara!



## ART ZONE!

Hi NG KiDS,  
 This is my colour pencil drawing of a lilac-breasted roller. This roller is one of my favourite birds and it is considered one of the most colourful birds in the world.

Vanessa, 12

● Beautiful drawing, Vanessa!

## RAT ATTACK

Hi Nat Geo,  
 I made the rat biscuits from issue 56. I gave some of them to my neighbours and they were very happy. I think this is the best issue so far!

Poppy, 7

● Thanks Poppy! They look yum!



## DID YOU KNOW?

A tiger's **stripes** are like our **fingerprints** – no two tigers having the same stripes! This is handy when it comes to **telling individuals apart** in the wild!

## LET'S MEET THE SIBERIAN TIGER

### Where do they live?

Siberian tigers are found in a small area of **south-eastern Russia**, and small numbers also live in **China** and **North Korea**.

### What do they eat?

These cats are **skilled hunters** and will feed on **boars, bears, elk and deer**. But they'll **opportunistically** feed on smaller animals like **fish, rabbits and pikas**.

### How do they live?

Like most cats, Siberian tigers are **solitary**, roaming many kilometres and hunting on their own. The only time you'll see more than one Siberian tiger is if they're **mating**, or a **mother** is with her cubs.

### How big do they grow?

The Siberian tiger is the **largest cat** in the world – males weigh up to **300kg**!

Their head-body length can reach just over **2m** and their tails are just under **1m** long!

### How do they communicate?

These cats communicate through **scents, sounds and visual signals**. They mark their territory by **spraying urine** and **scratching trees**. Siberian tigers make a variety of sounds – **hisses, growls and snarls** when they're **defensive**, and a "**chuff**" sound as a **pleasant greeting**. They also **roar** to **warn** other tigers of their location or to invite potential **mates** into their areas!



## Ben's fave fact!

A Siberian tiger can eat up to **27kg** of food in **ONE** sitting! That's one hungry tiger!

To learn more about Wild Cat Conservation go to [wildcatcentre.org.au](http://wildcatcentre.org.au)



# MAX MEETS... BARNEY, THE FIRE INVESTIGATION DOG

This month, NG KiDS' time-travelling mouse, Max, visits Barney in the UK – a canine hero who solved hundreds of crimes!

ANIMAL  
HEROES!



Wotcha readers! This month we're hanging out with a real canine hero: Barney the Fire Investigation Dog!

Good boy, Barney!

WOOF!

Fire investigation handler, Kerry Burns (funny name for a firefighter!) picked up black collie cross Barney from a dogs home in 2002.

Hello boy! Do you have a nose for trouble?

Yap!

Kerry worked for Buckinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service, who had been employing Dog Teams since the late 1990s.

Dogs' noses can detect smells far more accurately than any machine. When there's been a fire, dogs like Barney can pinpoint its cause, helping police work out whether a fire was started deliberately.

Sniff! Sniff! Definitely unleaded petrol. Bought on 8 June 2004 from Bob's Petrol Station, probably lunchtime...

Barney also wore fancy little boots when he was investigating. These protected his delicate paws from sharp objects like glass and nails.

Looking sharp there, Barney!

They also helped him cover a large distance in a short time, essential for gathering evidence quickly.

He wore a highly reflective harness and line (long lead) so that Kerry could spot him easily in smokey or dark conditions, and stop him going anywhere too dangerous!

You can see me, but I can't see you! Help!

Barney loved his job and even though he faced danger every day, he couldn't wait to get in and solve the crime!

Go on boy!

Ooh, biscuits! I smell burnt biscuits!

Barney was a triumph, all thanks to his highly-skilled training and the special bond he'd built up with his owner Kerry.

Their teamwork helped the investigations of nearly 300 fires, even leading to convictions in very major crimes!

Good boy!

Squirrel!

Barney would point with his nose when he found evidence

Barney's hard work was recognised nationally and, in 2010, readers of a national newspaper voted Barney winner of The Hero Dog Award in the Dogs Trust Honours!

CLAP!

CLAP!

CLAP!

CLAP!

CLAP!

CLAP!

Biscuits? Are there any biscuits?

Soon after, Barney retired to live out his days with owner Kerry, curled up in front of a fire with his little slippers on.

Snore!

Well done, Barney! You deserve it!



**Bet You  
Didn't  
Know!**

# 7 fortunate facts about luck

**1**

Only  
**1 in 10,000**  
clovers has  
**four leaves.**

**2**

**Pigs**  
are symbols of  
**prosperity**  
and **good luck**  
in **China.**

**3**

**Triskaidekaphobia**  
is the fear of the  
**number 13.**

**4**

People  
in **Spain** eat  
**12 grapes** on  
**New Year's Eve**  
for **luck.**

**5**

In  
**Germany,**  
it's **good luck**  
to **touch a**  
chimney sweep's  
**brush.**

**6**

Several cultures  
believe that  
getting **pooed on**  
by a **bird** brings  
**good fortune.**

**7**

In **English**  
**folklore,**  
a **bride** finding  
a **spider** in her  
**wedding dress**  
is considered  
**lucky.**



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# NG KiDS

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Full of adorably fun, **hand-drawn illustrations**, the story features a **rambunctious** clan of **cheeky monkeys** (and a lone **cow**) who are there to lend a hand (and hoof) in the baking fun!

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# FUN

# STUFF

GAMES, LAUGHS, AND LOTS TO DO!

## Green Scene

PLAY

You're the newly elected **mayor** of this busy city. The first thing you want to do? Transform it into the greenest town in the world! Start by finding **15 pieces of litter** from the list below. Then locate **eight blue recycling bins** and **two green compost bins** to clean up the city.

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Cardboard box     | 9 Egg box             |
| 2 Crumpled-up paper | 10 Paper bag          |
| 3 Fizzy drink can   | 11 Banana peel        |
| 4 Paper cup         | 12 Glass bottle       |
| 5 Phone book        | 13 Magazine           |
| 6 Cereal box        | 14 Takeaway container |
| 7 Newspapers        | 15 Milk carton        |
| 8 Half-eaten apple  |                       |

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49



# WHAT IN THE WORLD?

## WILD STYLE

These images show close-up views of African animals. Unscramble the letters to identify what's in each picture. **Bonus:** Use the yellow letters to help you answer the joke below.

Answers on page 49



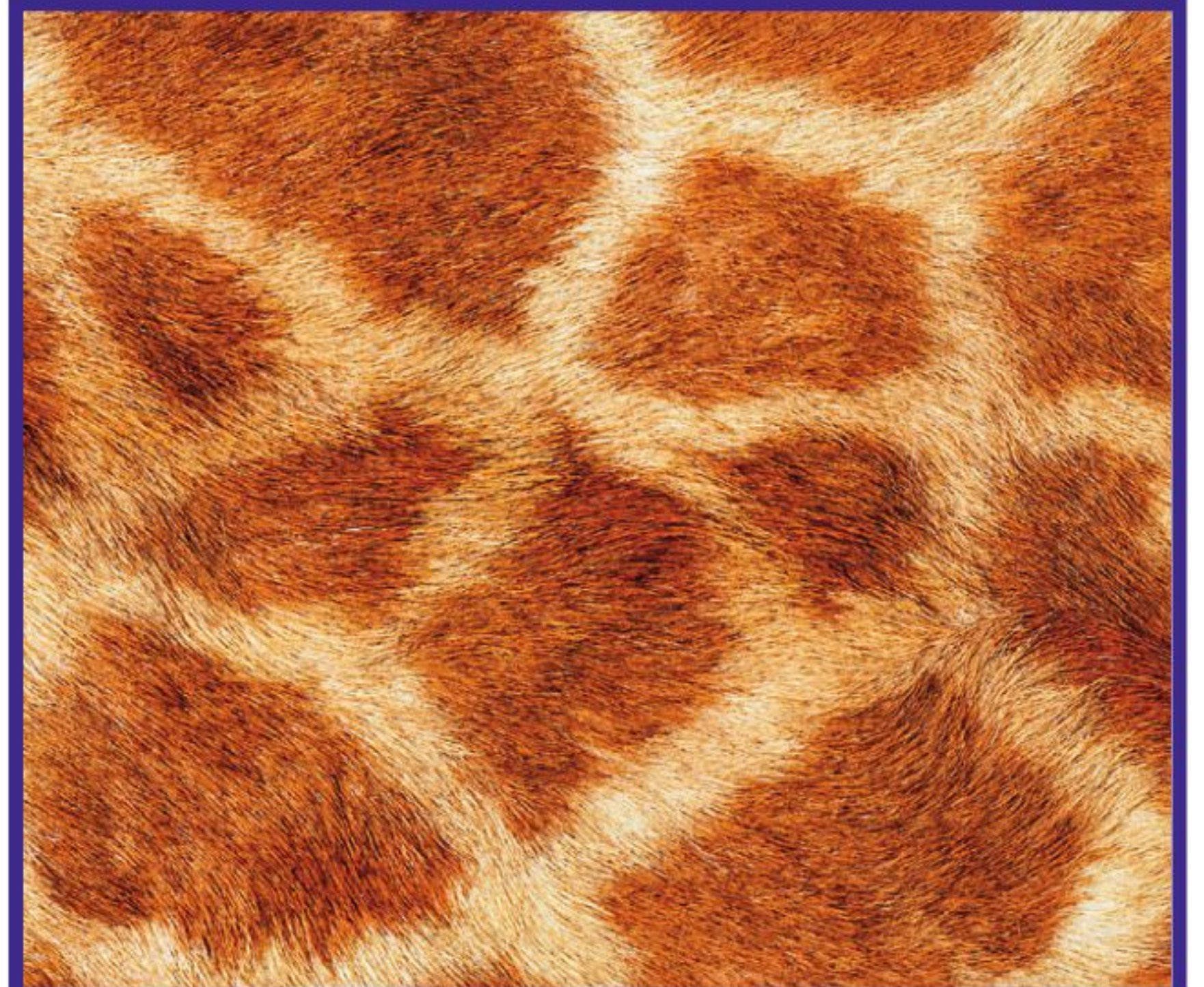
A R E B Z

\_\_\_\_\_



L I G A M N O F

\_\_\_\_\_



F A E I R G F

\_\_\_\_\_



A H L N E P E T

\_\_\_\_\_



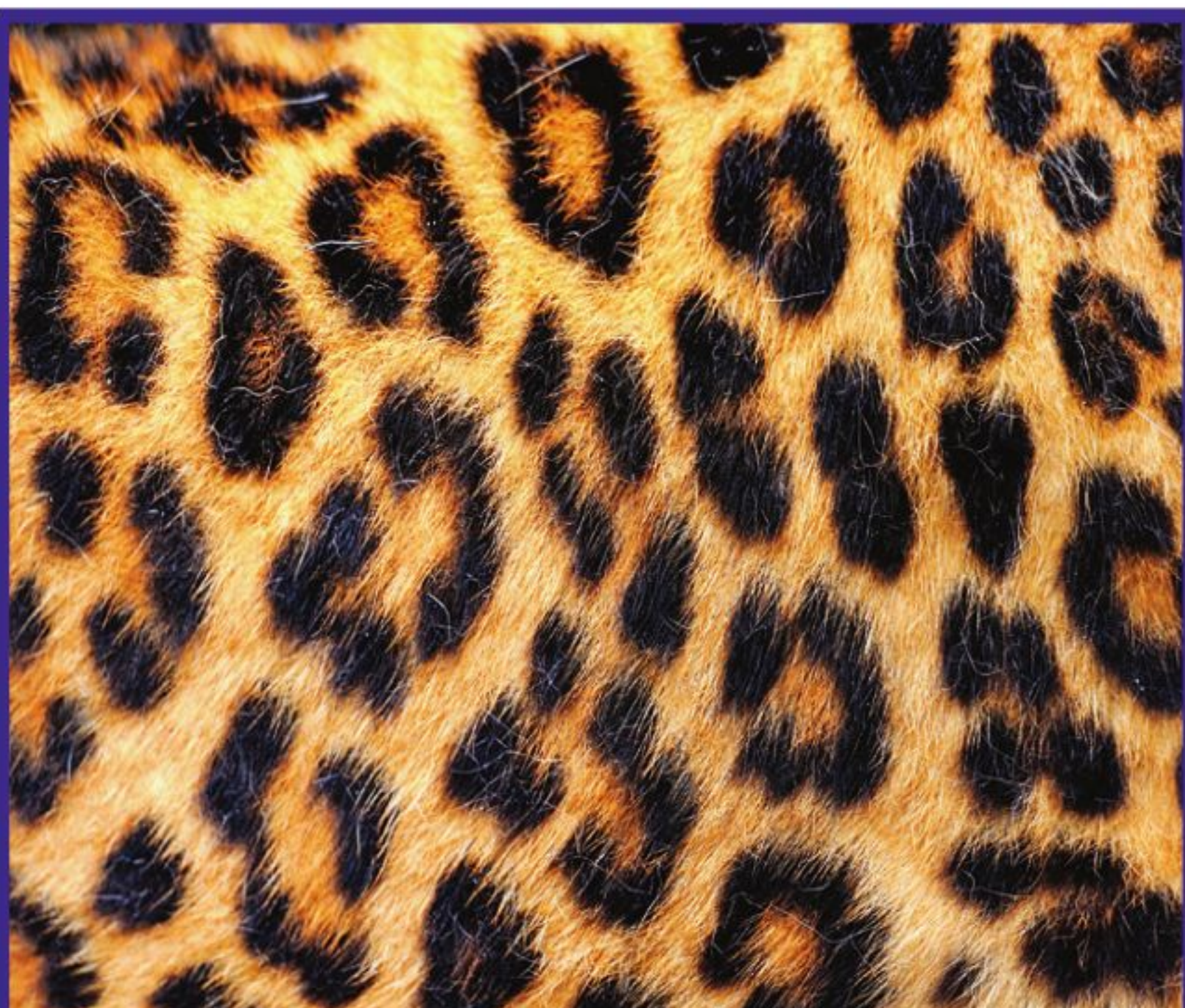
A L M D I L N R

\_\_\_\_\_



N A C H O M E E L

\_\_\_\_\_



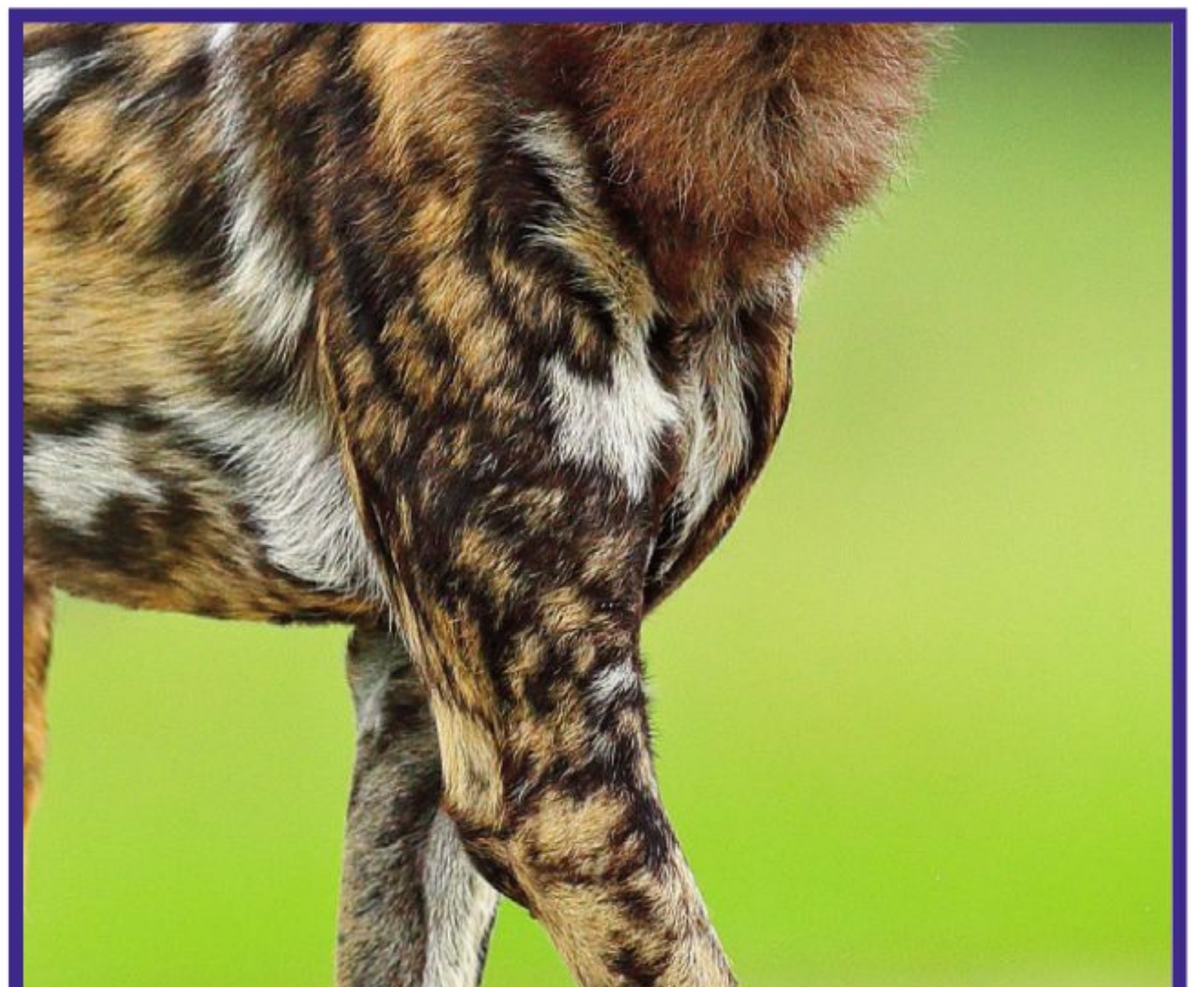
D E L R P O A

\_\_\_\_\_



T R S E I T O O

\_\_\_\_\_



R I F A C N A  
I D L W O G D

\_\_\_\_\_

**JOKE:** What's a snake's favourite subject at school?

**ANSWER:** H \_ S \_ \_ \_ \_ Y



[illegible]

There's chaos on this crazy movie set in Hollywood – 11 things beginning with the letter 'c' have gone missing! Can you work out which items are missing so that the show can go on?

**ANSWERS ON PAGE 49**



# ANIMAL PUZZLES

ANSWERS ON PAGE 49



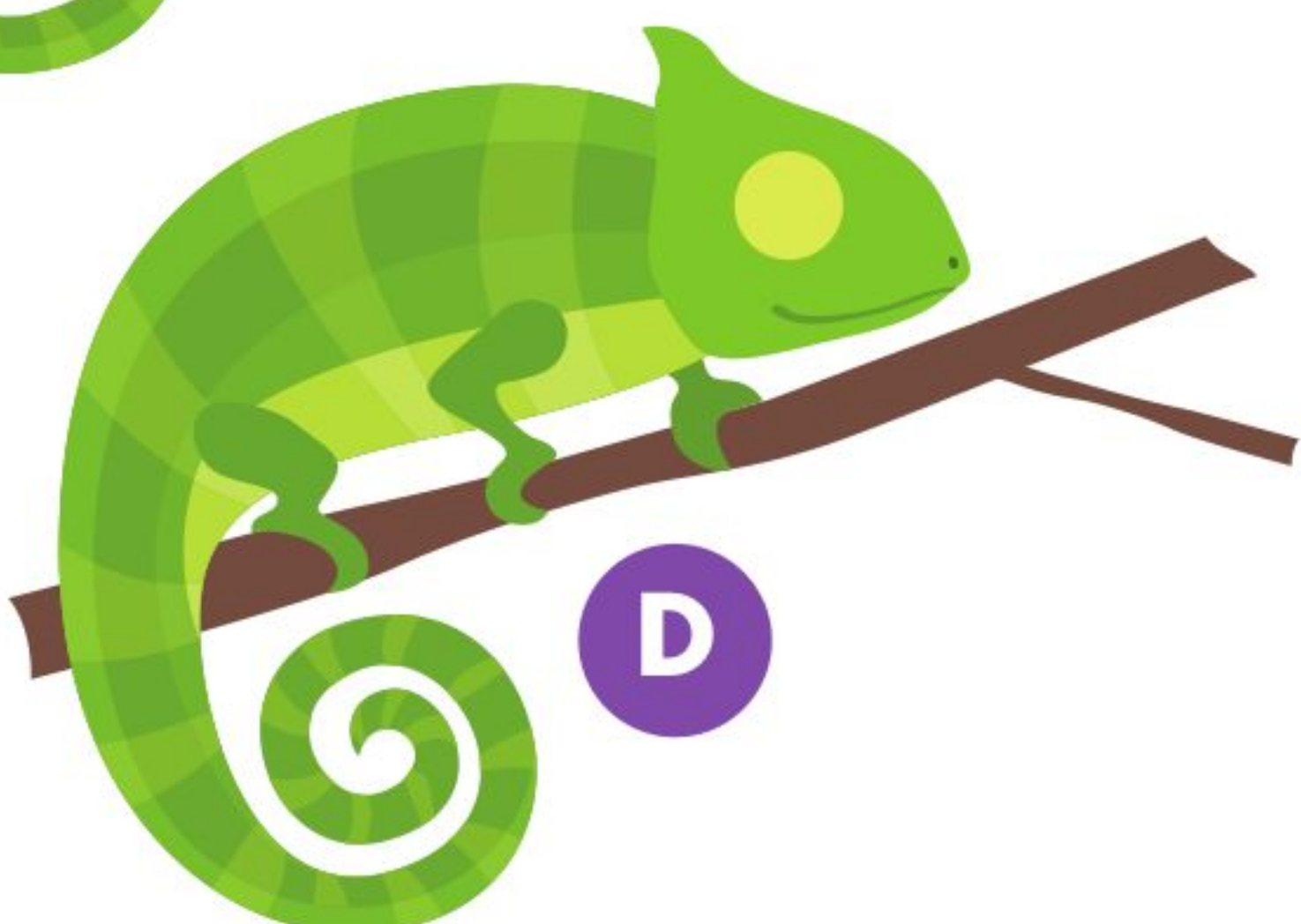
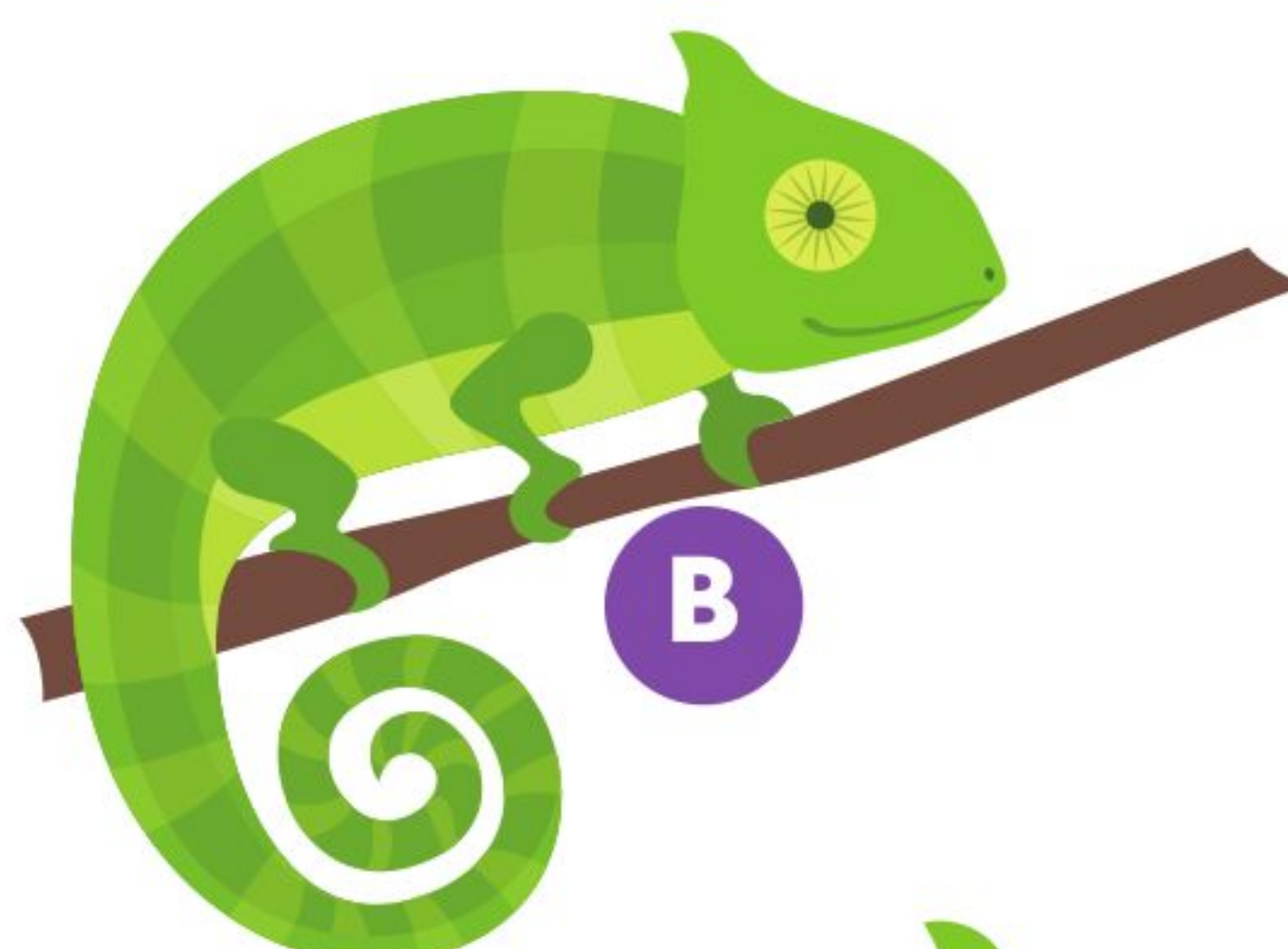
## MUM MAZE

Can you guide this little **joey** through the **maze** to find its **momma**?



## REPTILE MATCH-UP!

Which **two** of these **chameleon** pictures are **identical**?





# FUN STUFF MAKE IT

# BAKED DIP

You could make this for your mum this

## What you'll need

- Cherry tomatoes ● A few washed baby spinach or kale leaves
  - Herbs (optional – we used parsley and coriander) ● Spring onion
  - Free-range egg ● Grated cheddar
  - Salt and pepper ● Toast, to serve
- Equipment:** ● Ramekins ● Oven

## Start here!

- 1** Use your fingers to squish some cherry tomatoes. Put 4-5 of them in a ramekin along with some of the juice.

- 2** Chop up the greens and herbs and add them to the ramekin. Snip in some spring onion, too.

- 3** Carefully break an egg into the ramekin and add a pinch of salt and pepper.

- 4** Sprinkle a small amount of grated cheese on to the top of the egg.

## TOP TIP

You could try different **types of chopped veg** in the bottom, or use **feta** instead of cheddar!

- 5** Put the ramekin on a baking tray and ask an adult to place in an oven, heated to 180°C / Gas Mark 4, for 12-18 mins until the egg white is set but the yolk is still runny. Yum!

Serve with  
buttered  
soldiers and  
dip in!



# COOKY EGG

Mother's Day!



## BABY NAMES!

Can you match these creatures to the common names for their babies? **Answers below.**



1 SHARK



2 SWAN



4 ECHIDNA



3 JELLYFISH



5 LLAMA

A PUGGLE

B EPHYRA

C PUP

D CRIA

E CYGNET

Answers: 1)c; 2)e; 3)b; 4)a; 5)d

# FUN STUFF ANSWERS

## GREEN SCENE (page 44)

Litter is shown in yellow, recycling and compost bins are blue.



## MOVIE MADNESS (page 46)

Cabin, camera, canary, candle, car, cell phone, chair, clock, coat, coffee cup, cupcake.



## WHAT IN THE WORLD (page 45)

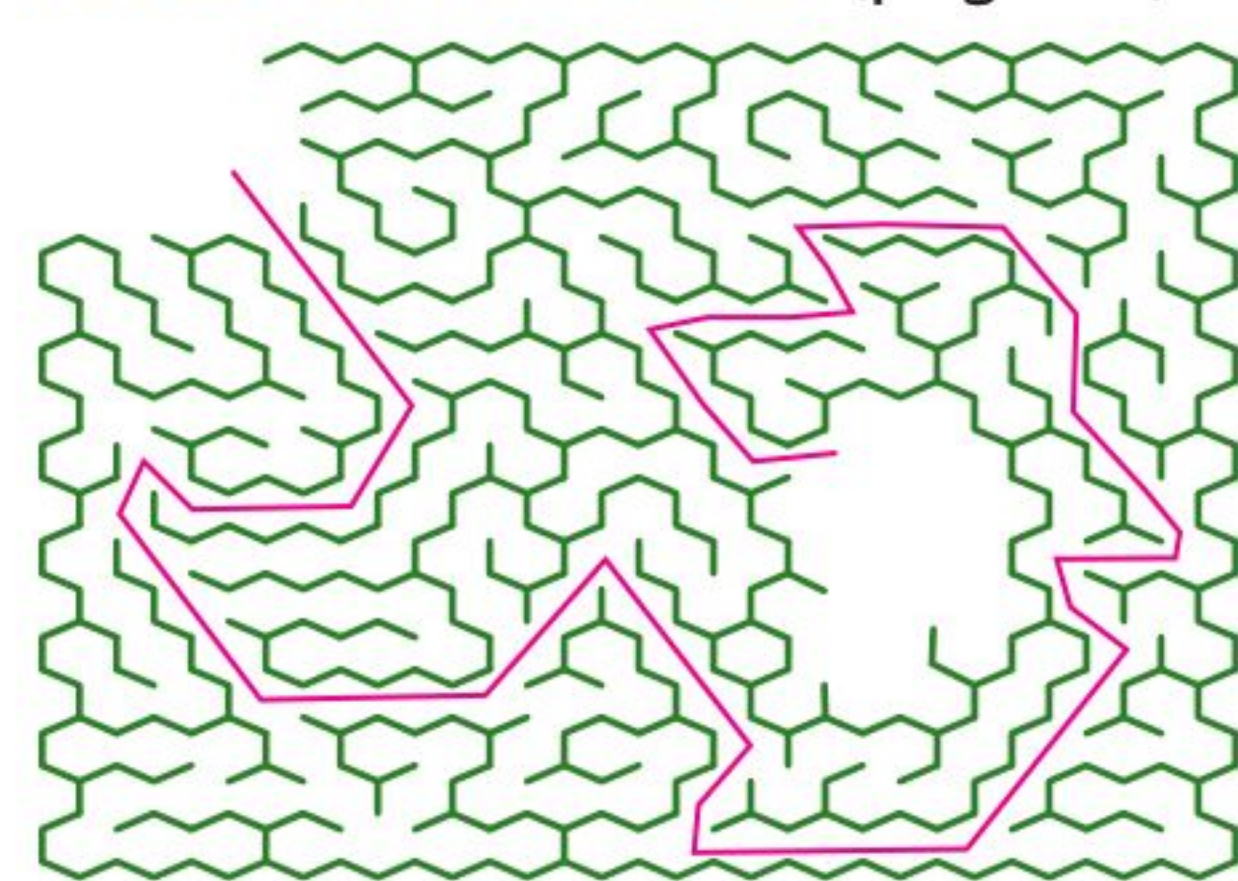
**Top row:** ZEBRA, FLAMINGO, GIRAFFE.

**Middle row:** ELEPHANT, MANDRILL, CHAMELEON.

**Bottom row:** LEOPARD, TORTOISE, AFRICAN WILD DOG.

**Bonus:** HISSTORY

## MUM MAZE (page 47)



## REPTILE MATCH-UP! (page 47)

A and E are the same.

## THE LAST LAUGH

Q. Did you hear about the frog that parked on double yellow lines?  
A. It got toad away!

Q. How do lions row boats?  
A. They use r-oars!

Q. What do you call a multistorey pig farm?  
A. A sty-scraper!

Q. What did the buffalo say to his kid when he went on a trip?  
A. Bison!

Q. What did the wolf say to the other wolf?  
A. Howl's it going?!

Q. What do chimps wear when they're cooking?  
A. Ape-rons!



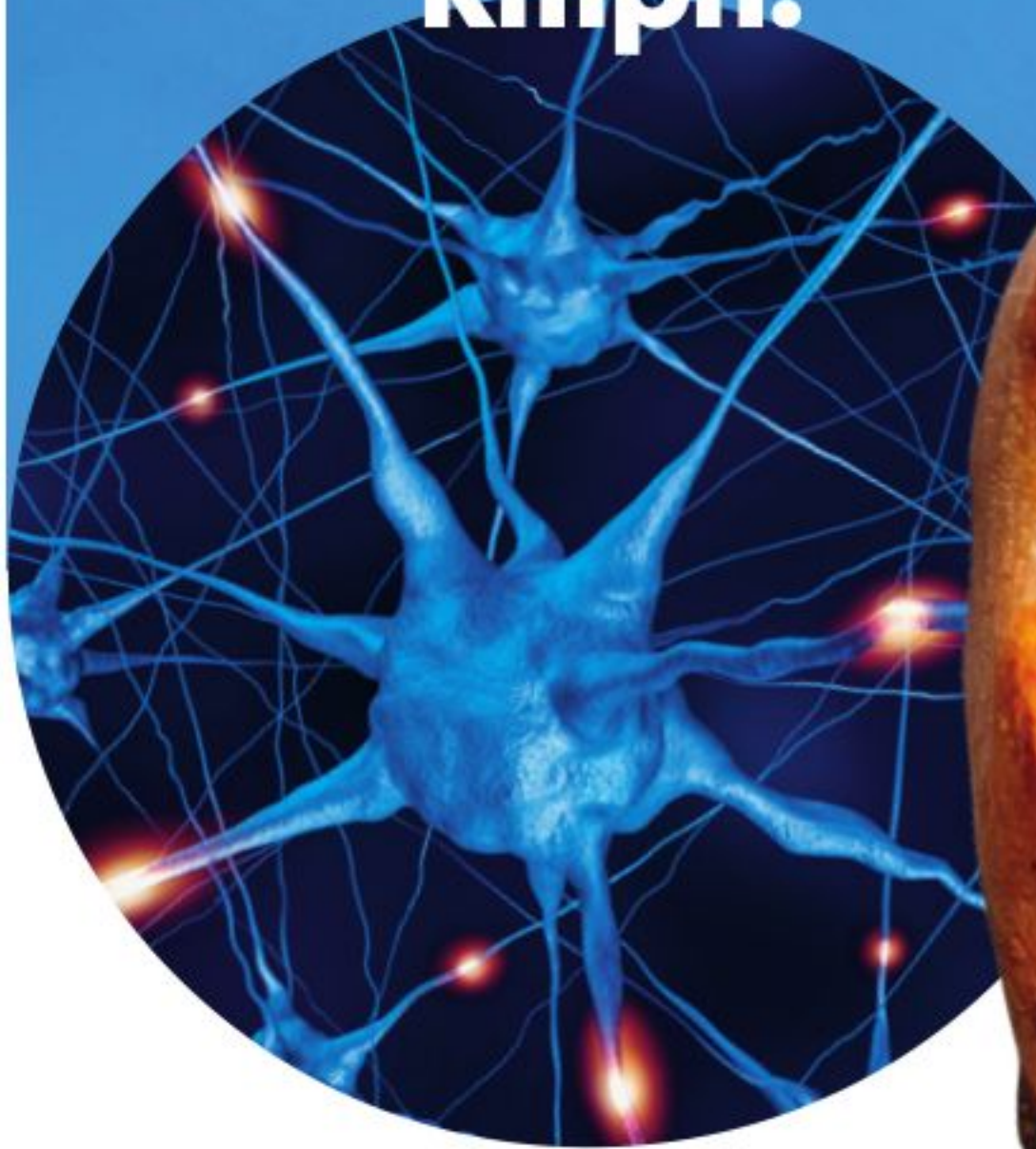
# weird but true!

Check out these  
outrageous facts...

MESSAGES  
FROM YOUR  
BRAIN

can travel  
along your  
nerves at  
more than

**322**  
kmph.



**DOLPHINS**  
can hear  
**SOUNDS**  
UNDERWATER  
that are  
**24 KM**  
**AWAY.**



If you travelled  
at the  
**SPEED**  
**OF LIGHT,**  
you could reach  
**PLUTO**  
in just 4.5 hours.



In outer space,

# liquids

become sphere shaped.

The first bubble gum, made in 1906,  
was called **'Blibber-Blubber.'**

The world's

# LARGEST PIZZA

was

# 40 METRES

across and weighed

# 23,250 kg,

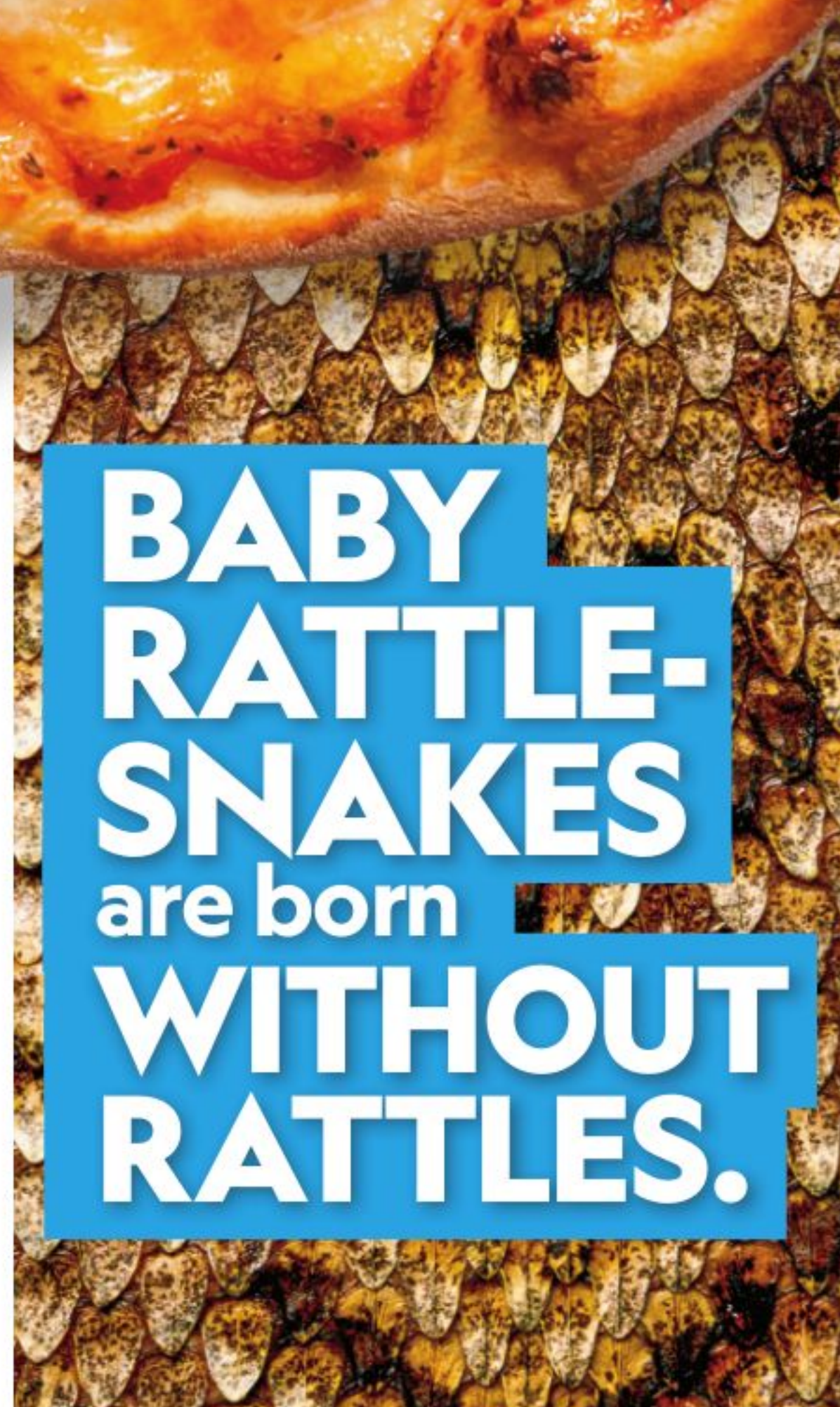
# AS MUCH AS THREE MALE AFRICAN ELEPHANTS.



**SOME**  
**SALAMANDERS**  
can **REGROW**  
their  
**TAILS,**  
**LEGS,**  
and even  
parts of  
their  
**EYES.**



**BABY**  
**RATTLE-**  
**SNAKES**  
are born  
**WITHOUT**  
**RATTLES.**



If you

# NEVER CUT YOUR HAIR,

it could  
grow  
more than

# 12 METRES

in your  
lifetime.



About  
**10,000**  
**CELLS**  
from your body  
could fit  
on the  
head of a  
**PIN.**





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**In next month's  
NG KIDS...**

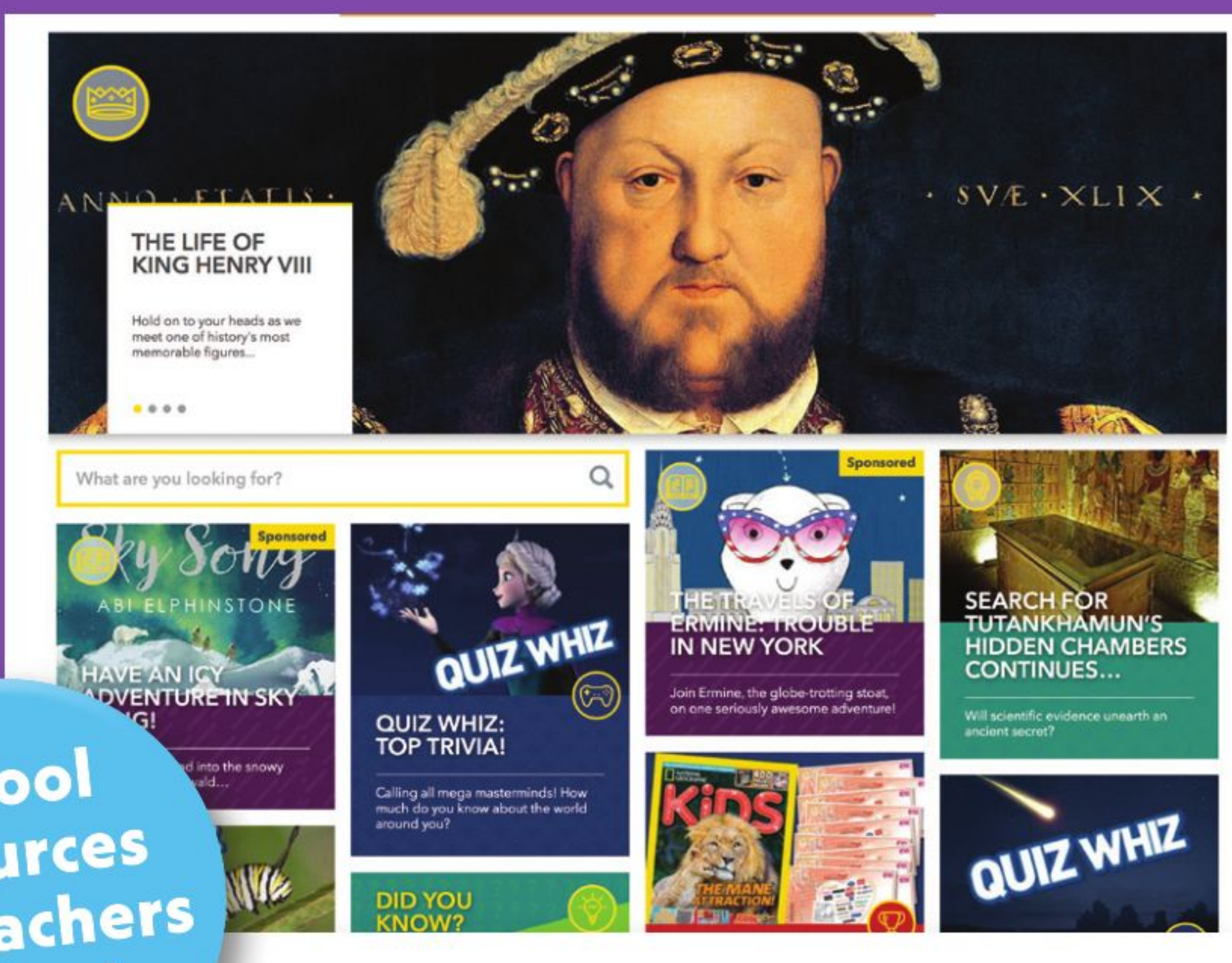
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facts!**



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are helping  
wild  
animals!**



**Guinness  
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Records!**



**Meet the  
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in your  
bed!**

**Make an  
easy egg  
snack!**



**4 POSTERS!**

