



BARNUM



WHY



are zebras black and white?

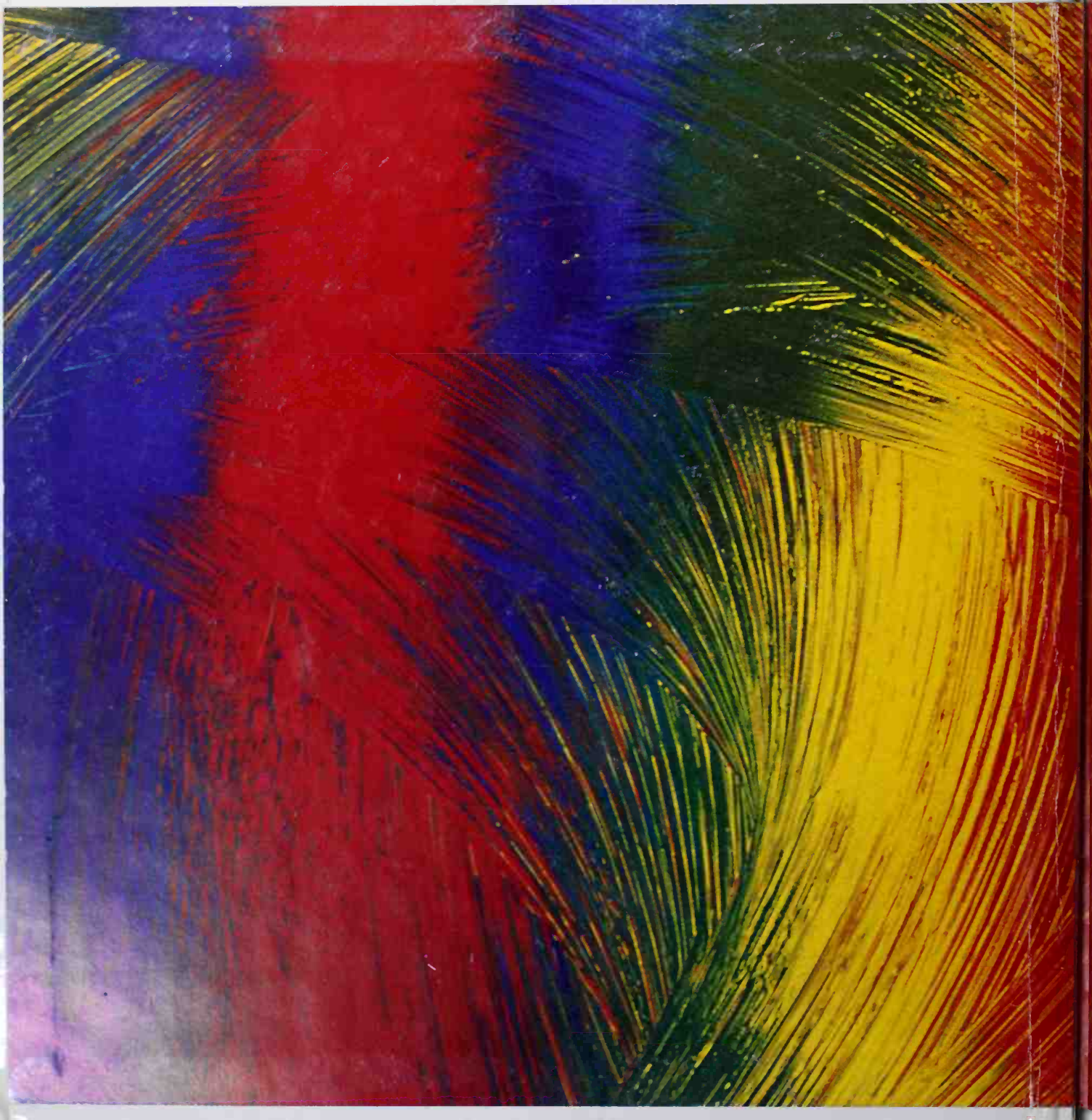


Questions children ask
about COLOR

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4/62/5



A DK PUBLISHING BOOK

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First American Edition, 1996

2 4 6 8 1 0 9 7 5 3 1

Published in the United States by

DK Publishing, Inc., 95 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10016

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<http://www.dk.com>

Photographs copyright © 1991 and 1992 Jerry Young (creeper, ladybug, title page, ladybug, jewel beetle, Why do bees and hornets...? ladybug, jewel beetle, hoverfly, Why do leaves...? ground beetle, deerhorn stag beetle)

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Distributed by Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston.

ACIP catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress.

ISBN: 0 7894 1122 9

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Questions

Why do things come in lots of different colors?

Why does the sky turn orange at sunset?

Why is the sea blue, when water is clear?

Why do bees and hornets have black and yellow stripes?

Why do zebras have black and white stripes?

Why do leaves change color in the fall?

Why do flowers have such brightly colored petals?

Why are fruits always such bright colors?



8/98⑨

WHY

are zebras black
and white?

Questions children ask
about color



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Why do things come



Most objects
are colored by
dyes or pigments.

Dyes dissolve in water
and color things
like clothes, paper,
even food. Pigments
coat surfaces and are
found in things
like paint.



Why do I get orange when I mix red and yellow?
All colors are mixtures of red, blue, and yellow. Try
mixing red and blue paint. What color do you get?



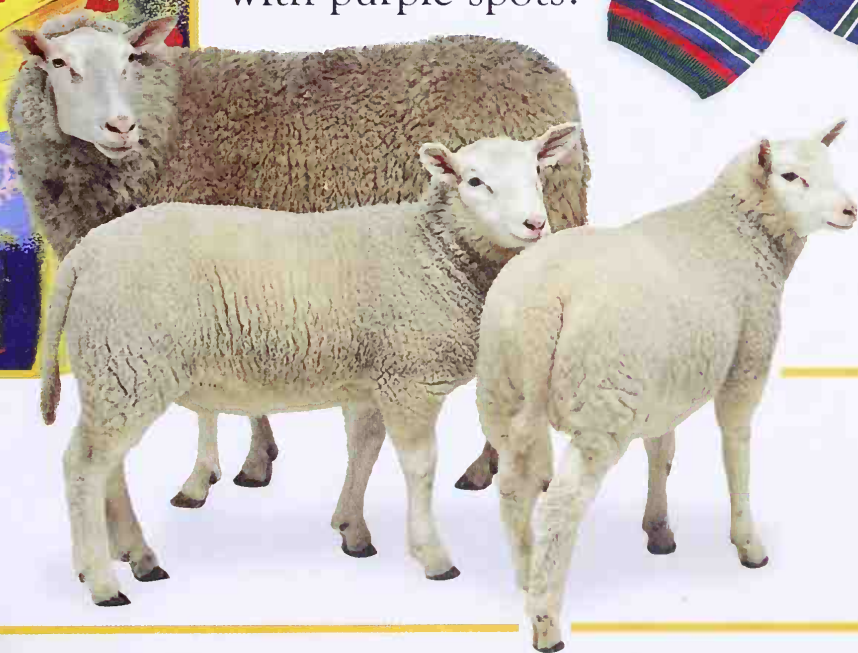
in lots of different colors?



Why is my sweater red
when sheep are white?



Sheep's wool is naturally
most often white, but
once it is shorn off, people
can dye it any
color they
want – even pink
with purple spots!





Why does the sky

As the sun sinks, its light travels through a long stretch of dusty air. This air soaks up most of the light, leaving a fiery mix of red and orange.

Why are pink flamingos pink? Flamingos eat so many shrimps and other pink creatures that it's no wonder they're pink from beak to toe.



turn orange at sunset?

Why are butterflies such pretty colors?
One reason why butterflies have beautiful patterns on their wings is to help them recognize each other and so find a mate.



Why are
parrots so
brightly colored?

Parrots are some of
nature's most startling
creations. Their bold colors
dazzle other parrots and
warn enemies not to come
too close.



Why is the sea blue,

Sunlight is a mix of colors, but when it hits the sea, all the colors except blue are absorbed by the water.



Why are tropical fish such beautiful colors? Colorful patterns aren't just for show – they help these fish hide among their coral homes.



when water is clear?



Why are goldfish bright orange?

Goldfish used to be paler colors. But about 900 years ago, people started breeding the most colorful ones, creating brighter and brighter fish.



Why do lots of fish have silver scales?

Silver scales act like mirrors and reflect light, making fish hard to see from underneath.





Why do bees and hornets

Once stung, twice shy! Yellow, black, and red are some of nature's warning colors. The stripes on bees and hornets warn birds of their painful stings.



Why do ladybugs have black spots?

Black spots on a red background warn all hungry creatures that these sweet-looking bugs release a nasty-smelling poison from their tiny knees.





have black and yellow stripes?

Why are some beetles shiny?

To us, many beetles look like sparkling jewels, but to their enemies, shiny colors sometimes say, "I'm poisonous."



Why do hoverflies look just like hornets?

This looks like a stinging hornet, but it's really a harmless hoverfly.

Its black and yellow stripes trick hungry birds into thinking it can sting.



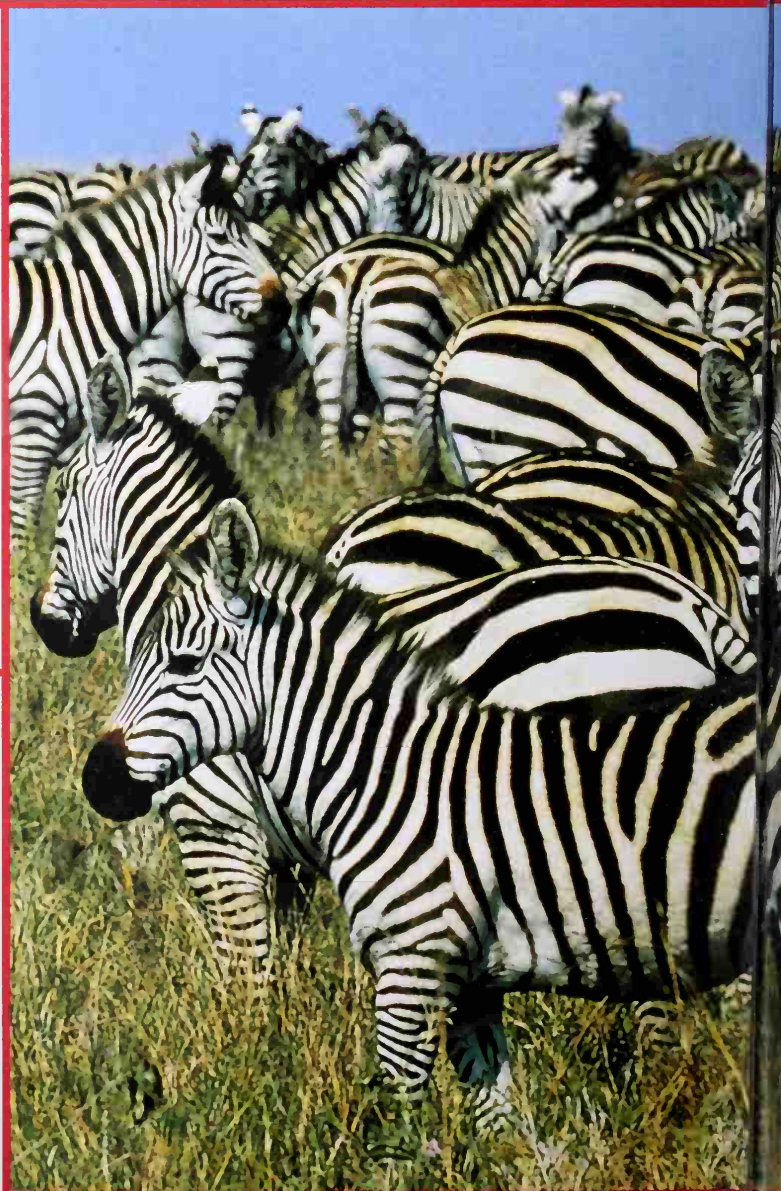


Why do zebras have black

The bold stripes on these zebras help the herd blend together, hiding them among the shadows at dusk. This confuses hungry lions searching for a meal.

Why are some cats striped?

Some cats have characteristics passed down from their wild ancestors, who often had stripes to help them hide while hunting.



and white stripes?



Why do some insects look like leaves? In nature's game of hide and seek, birds search for tasty insects. They won't spot this cricket – its clever leaf disguise saves it from being a snack!



Why do leaves



As a tree gets ready for winter, the green pigment in its leaves breaks up and useful chemicals pass back into the tree.

Other pigments left behind include orange and red, which then color the leaves.



Why are leaves green?

Plants need the green pigment in their leaves to turn sunlight into life-giving energy.



change color in the fall?



Why are some trees always green?

Evergreen, or “forever green,” trees have strong, thick leaves that can survive even cold, windy weather.



Why are lots of leaves shiny?

A waxy surface is like a leaf’s coat, protecting it from wind, rain, and sun.





Why do flowers have such

Flowers use color to attract birds, bees, and other creatures to taste their sweet nectar. The visitors leave behind pollen from other flowers – exactly what the plant needs to make its seeds.

Why are some flowers red?

To nectar-eating birds, a red flower is like a big, bright STOP sign. Birds see red clearly, so they won't miss these flowers.





brightly colored petals?



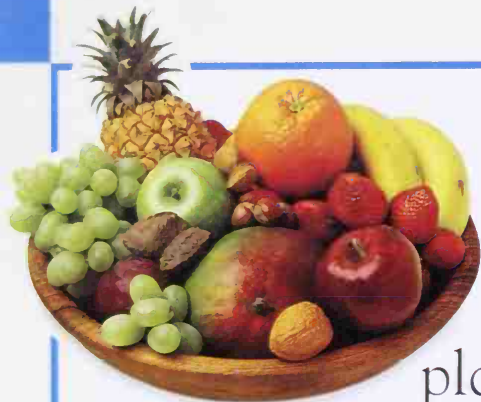
Why do some flowers have stripes? Flower stripes are like landing lights on an airport runway. They guide bees to the nectar inside.



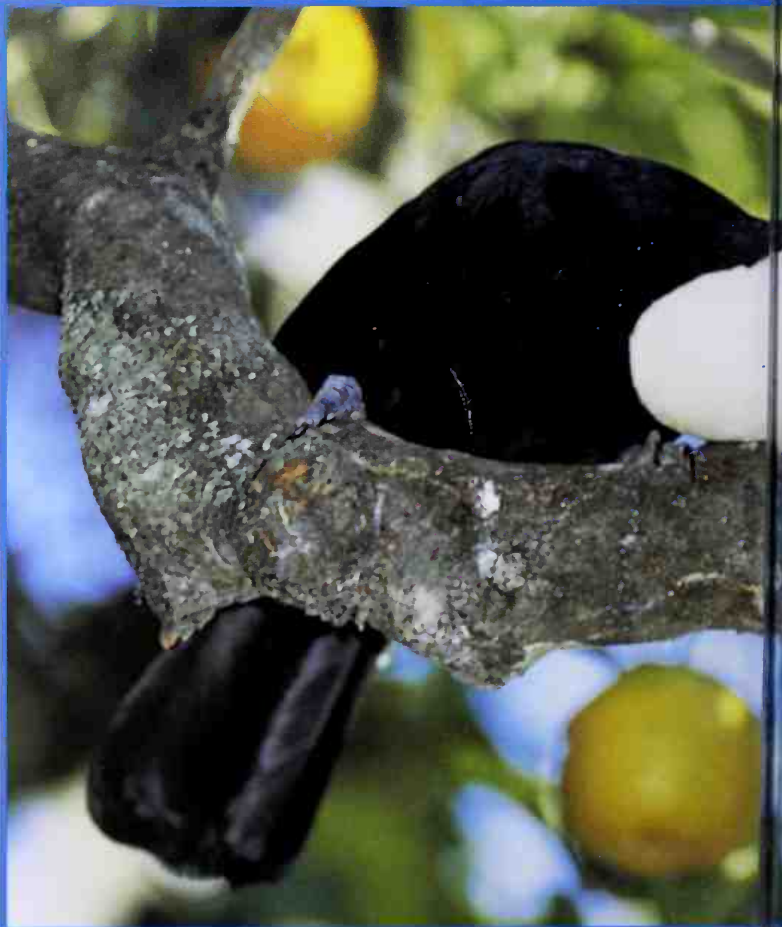
Why are some flowers yellow? Bees get a buzz from yellow flowers. When they see yellow, they zoom down in search of nectar.



Why are fruits



Many plants grow colorful fruits to lure hungry creatures into eating them. The animals then spread the plants' seeds, found in the fruit, far and wide.



Why are peppers different colors?

Green peppers are unripe. When they ripen, they turn shades of yellow, orange, red, or other colors.



always such bright colors?

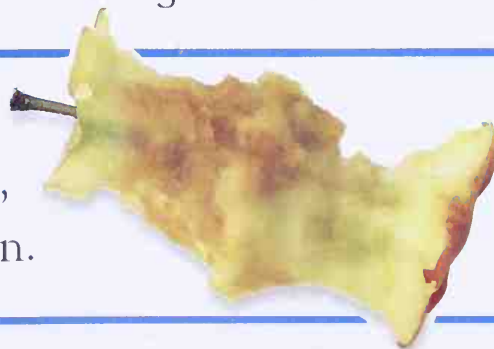


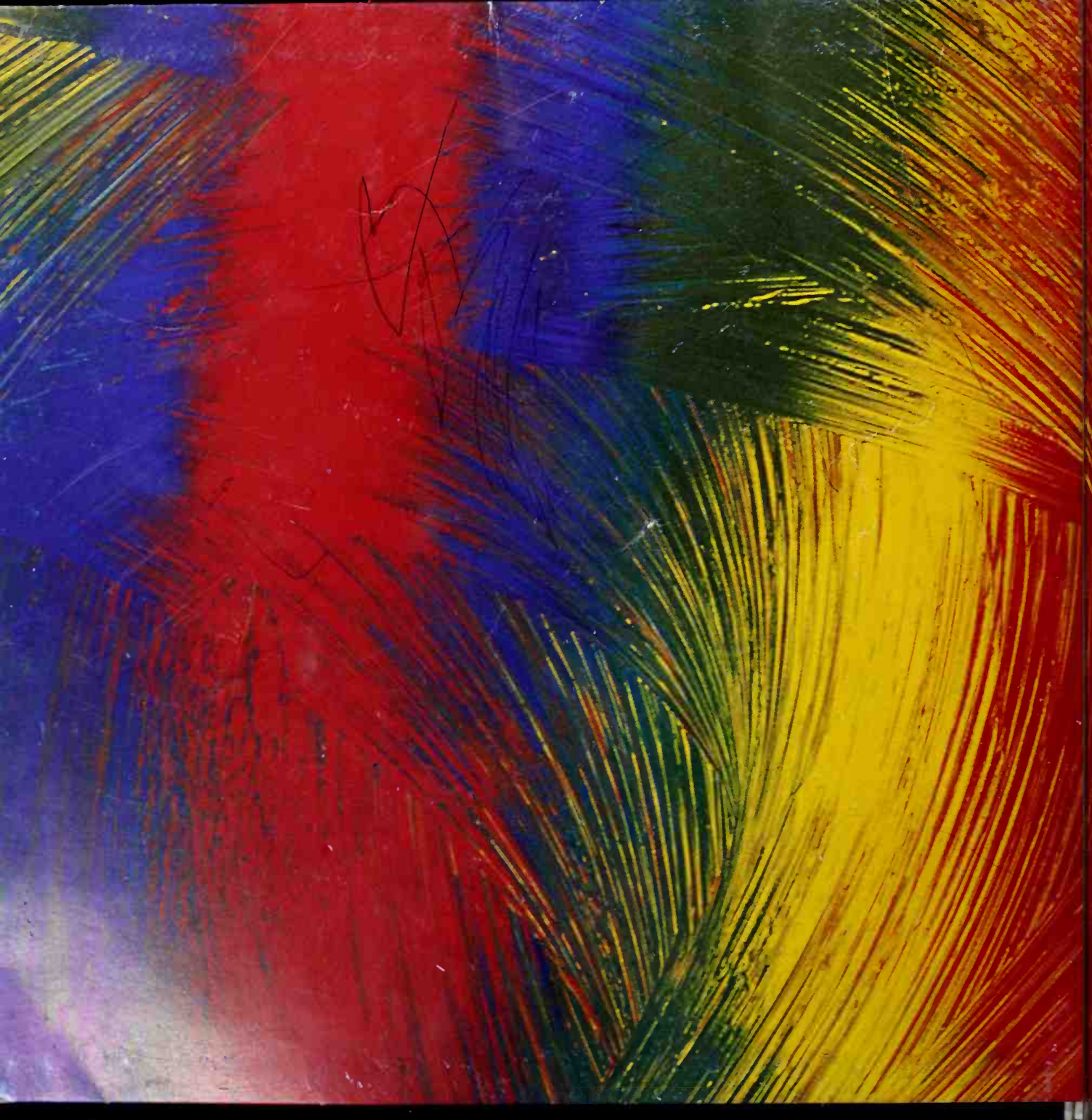
Why do I have to eat
green vegetables?

“Eating green” isn’t easy, but it’s
very important. Vegetables are
full of the vitamins and minerals
you need to grow tall and strong.

Why do apple cores turn brown?

Once you bite through the skin of an apple,
air reaches the soft flesh and turns it brown.









WHY



Why are fruits always such bright colors?
Why does the sky turn orange at sunset?
Why is the sea blue?



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ISBN 0-7894-1122-9



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