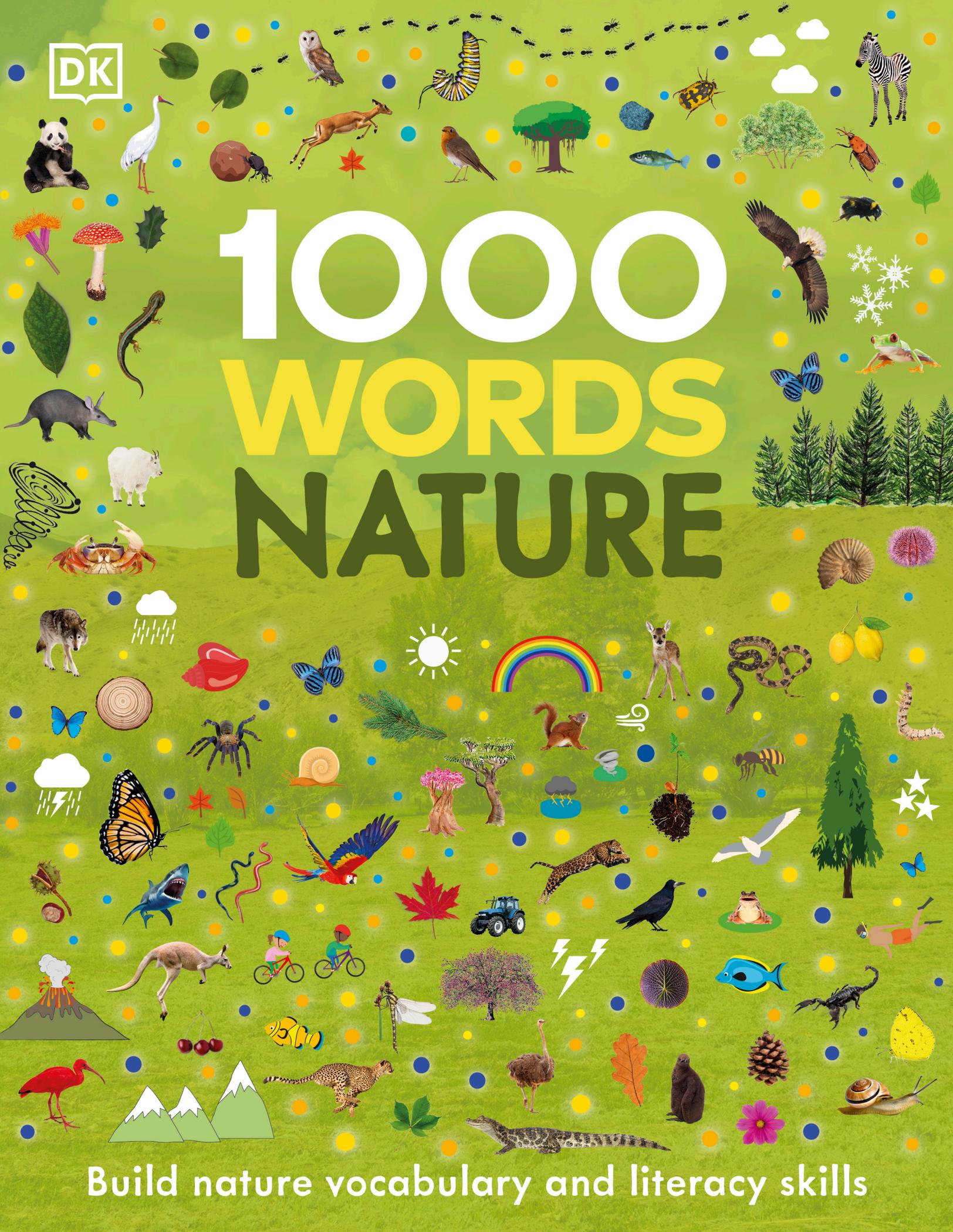




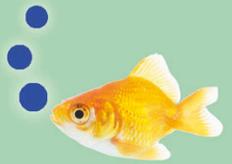
# 1000 WORDS NATURE



Build nature vocabulary and literacy skills

# 1000 WORDS NATURE

Jules Pottle



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**Written by** Jules Pottle

**Senior Editor** Dawn Sirett

**Designed by** Rachael Hare, Karen Hood,  
Samantha Richiardi, Sadie Thomas

**DTP Designer** Vijay Kandwal

**Additional Editing** Robin Moul

**Design Assistance** Sif Nørskov

**Picture Researcher** Sumita Khatwani

**Jacket Coordinator** Issy Walsh

**Production Editor** Abi Maxwell

**Pre-production Manager** Pankaj Sharma

**Production Controller** Isabell Schart

**Managing Editor** Penny Smith

**Deputy Art Director** Mabel Chan

**Publishing Director** Sarah Larter



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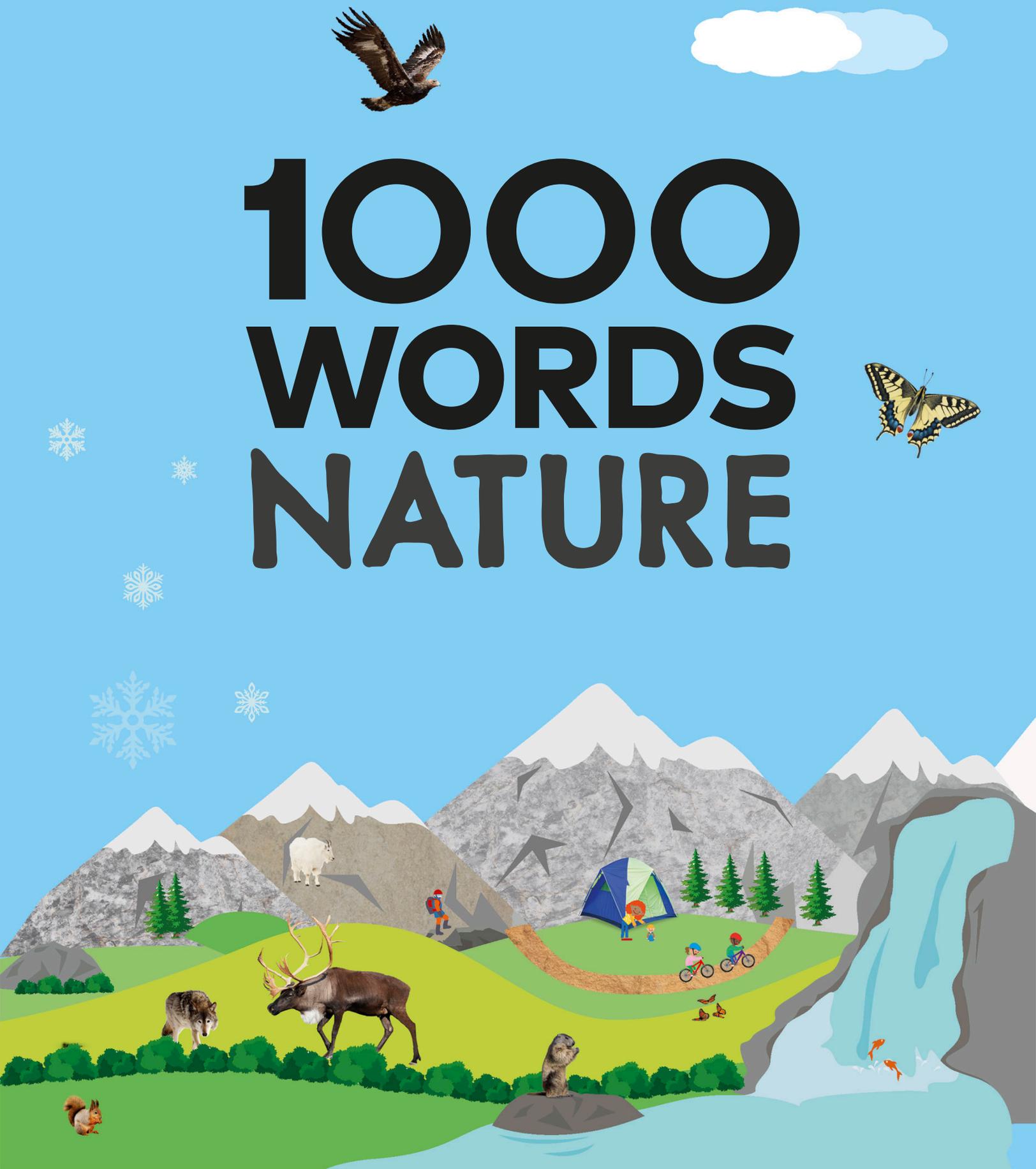
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# 1000 WORDS NATURE



# A note for parents and carers

## The importance of knowing about nature

In this technological age, being aware of the beauty and complexity of nature is an important part of our wellbeing. If you take the time to look and listen to what is around you, you'll discover all sorts of natural wonders. Even on a city street, the world is teeming with plant and animal life, and in every habitat on Earth, each living organism is important in its own way.

Young children are natural explorers. They like to touch and smell and immerse themselves in their environment. This book will give them the vocabulary to talk about what they have experienced, and build their knowledge of topics relating to wildlife, the environment, and our planet. It will prompt children to ask questions and lead them to look further and to learn more.

I grew up with “elephant” and “giraffe” as familiar words in my alphabet books, but my grandchildren may never see those animals in real life. We have reached an important moment in the future of our planet. The choices we make now will affect the lives of our children and our children’s children, so it is important that we are all fully informed of our impact on the planet and what we can do to protect it. This book is a great place to start a young child’s appreciation for the natural world and to begin to talk about living responsibly on our planet.

**Jules Pottle**

**Primary science consultant, teacher, trainer, and author**

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## **SAFETY INFORMATION**

Outdoor recreational activities are by their nature potentially hazardous. Parents need to assist and supervise their children for many of the nature activities shown in this book. Everyone should assume responsibility for their own actions and prepare for the unexpected for a safer and more enjoyable experience.

# Our planet

Earth orbits the Sun in space. Inside Earth is a hot core of liquid rock. Around the outside of Earth there are gases, called Earth's atmosphere. Earth formed a very long time ago. Its landscape and wildlife have changed over time.

Earth

outer space

Is most of Earth's surface covered with land or with water?

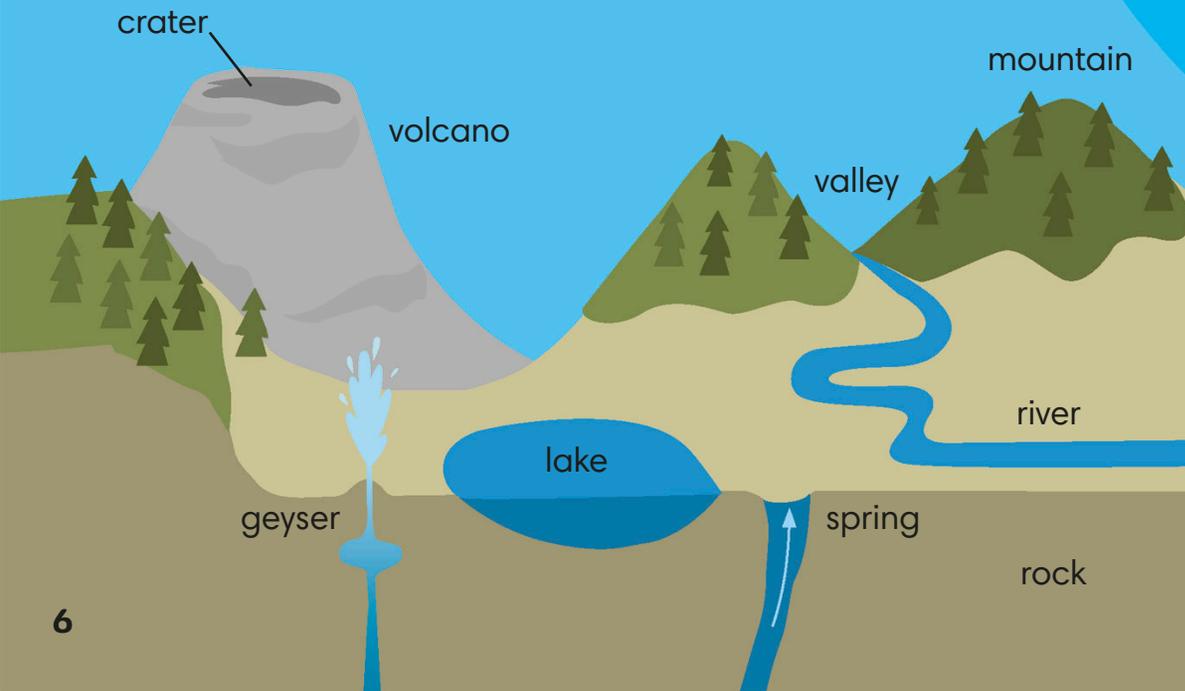


Moon



land

## Some landscape features



crater

volcano

mountain

valley

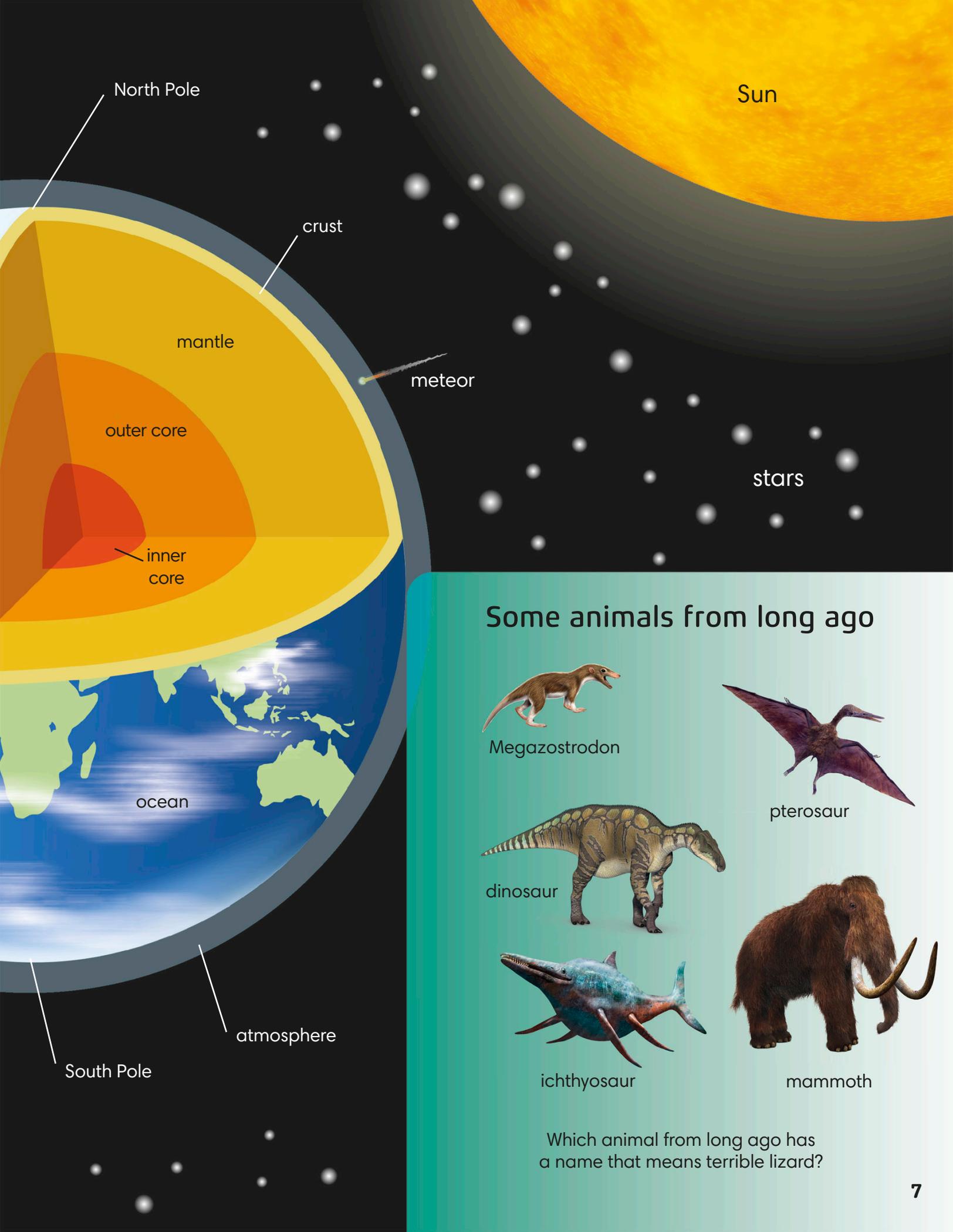
river

lake

geyser

spring

rock



North Pole

Sun

crust

mantle

meteor

outer core

stars

inner core

ocean

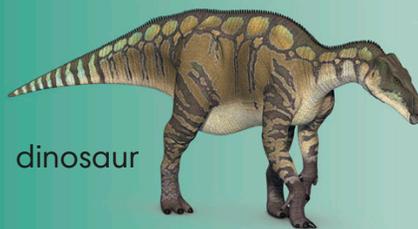
## Some animals from long ago



Megazostrodon



pterosaur



dinosaur



mammoth



ichthyosaur

South Pole

atmosphere

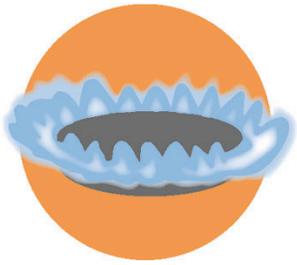
Which animal from long ago has a name that means terrible lizard?

# Our world's resources

Our world is filled with useful materials. We must try not to waste them. We also need to reduce the pollution that some materials cause.

## Non-renewable resources

fossil fuels



gas



oil



coal

## Fossil fuel transport



aeroplane



diesel truck



petrol car

## Pollution



plastic



throw away

single use

oil spill



Rubbish

wasteful



Landfill



## Helping our world

What things can we recycle and what can we reuse?



water power

## Renewable resources

sustainable energy



insulate houses

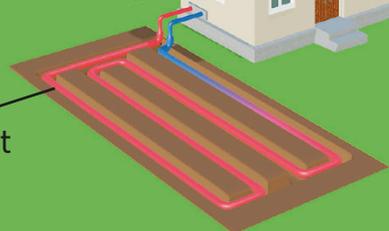
saving energy



wind turbine



solar panels



ground source heat



compost



water butt



recycling bin

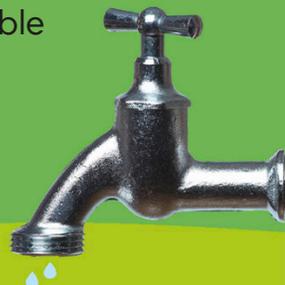


pick up litter

compostable plastic



shampoo bar

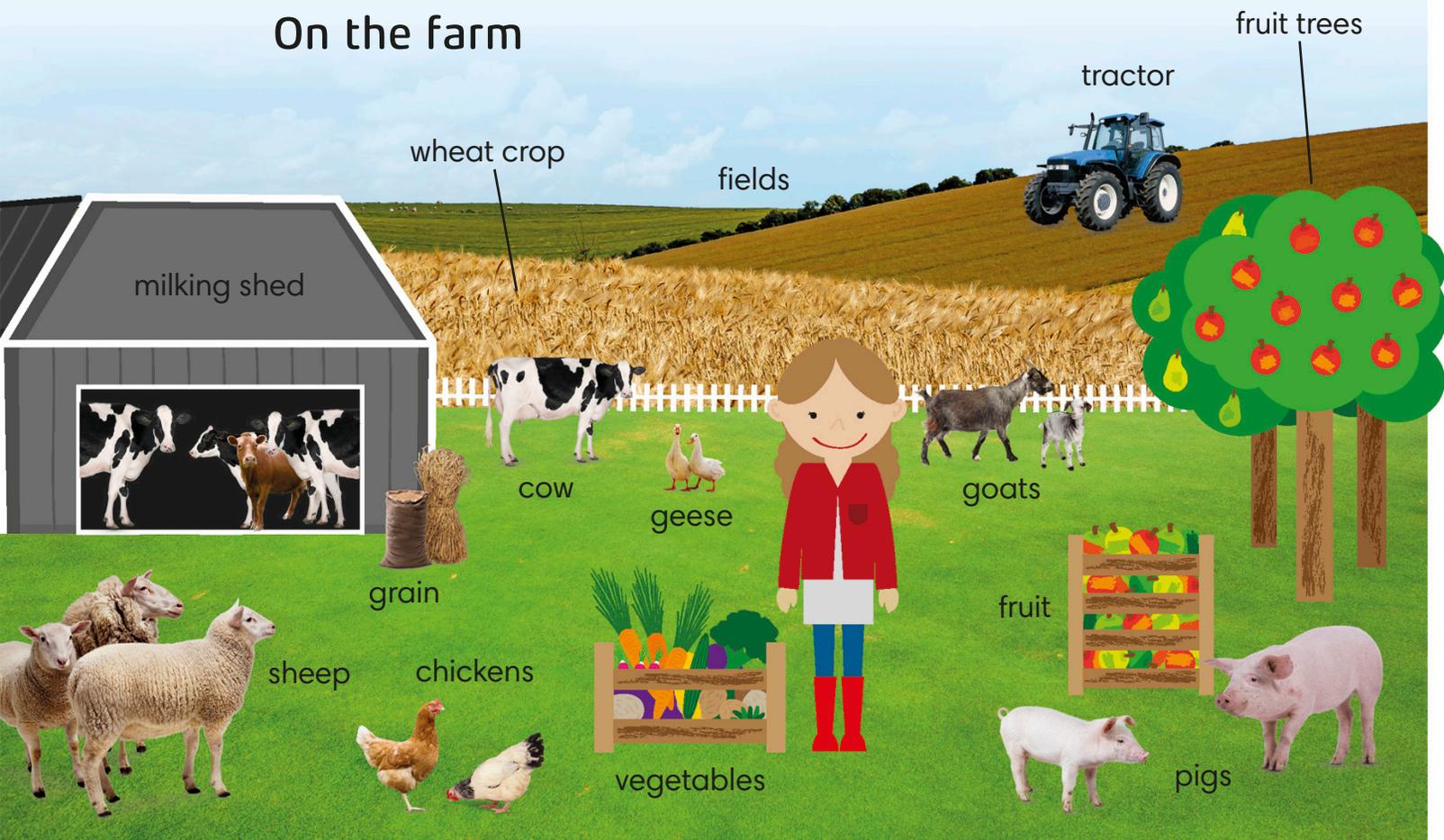


turn off the tap

# Humans and nature

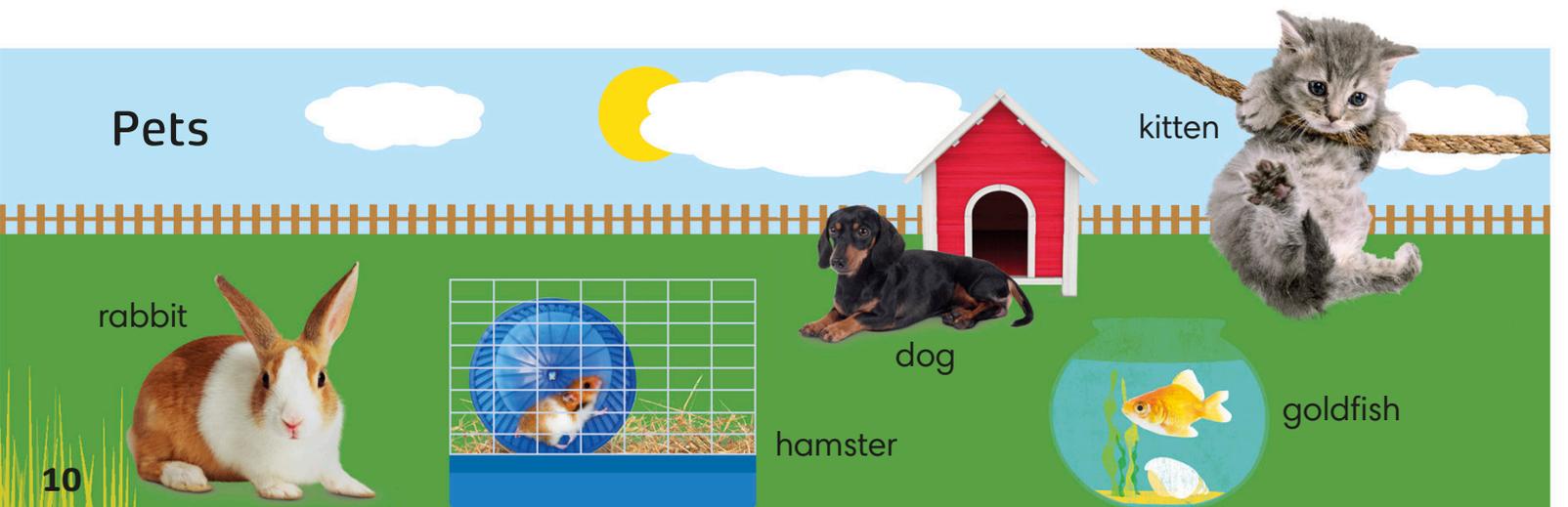
For thousands of years, we humans have made nature work for us. We should do this respectfully, taking care of our planet and the things that live on it.

## On the farm



Have you ever taken care of a pet? What do pets need?

## Pets



fish farm



## More types of farming



flower farming



rice farming

beekeeping

bees

honey



beehives



vineyard



tea plantation

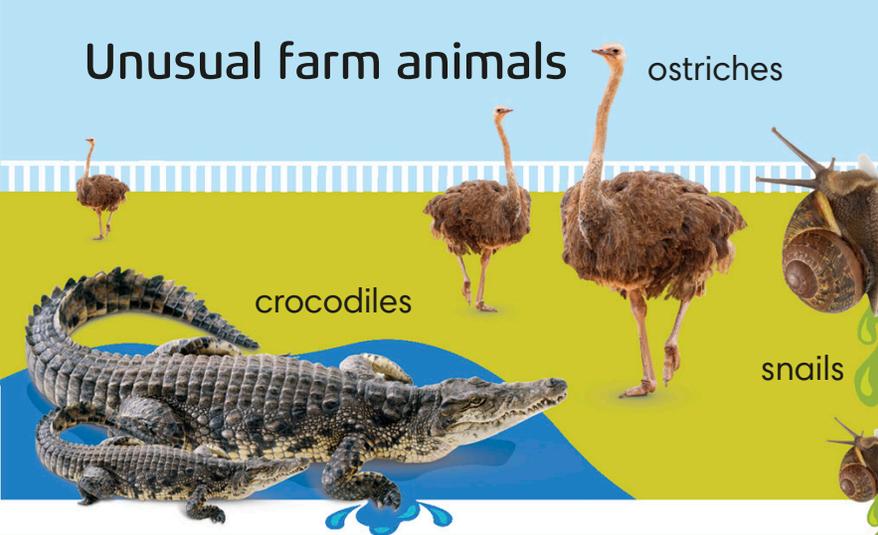
Farms around the world grow different crops. Do you know what's grown in a vineyard and used to make wine?

## Unusual farm animals

ostriches

crocodiles

snails



## Working with water



dam



canal

## Working animals

sheepdog

police horse

guide dog



## Mining



limestone quarry



coal mine

# Nature activities

There are so many fun things we can do when we go out and enjoy nature.



building a den

nature trail

binoculars

nature spotting

bark rubbing

tree hugging  
touching

splashing in puddles

pond dipping

net

fishing

nature art

collecting

Forest school

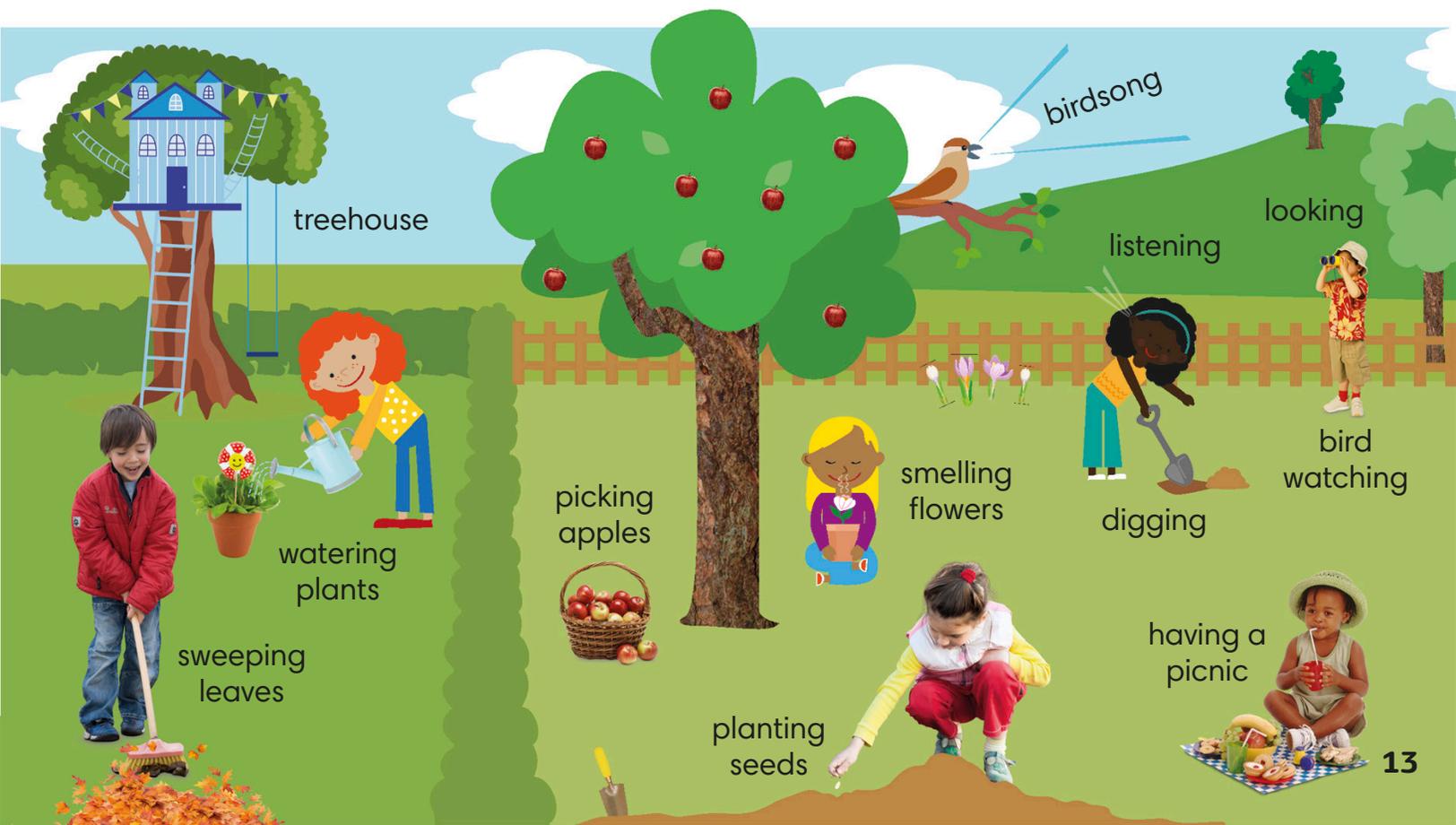
reading a map

We could start a nature collection. What things might we collect?

binning litter



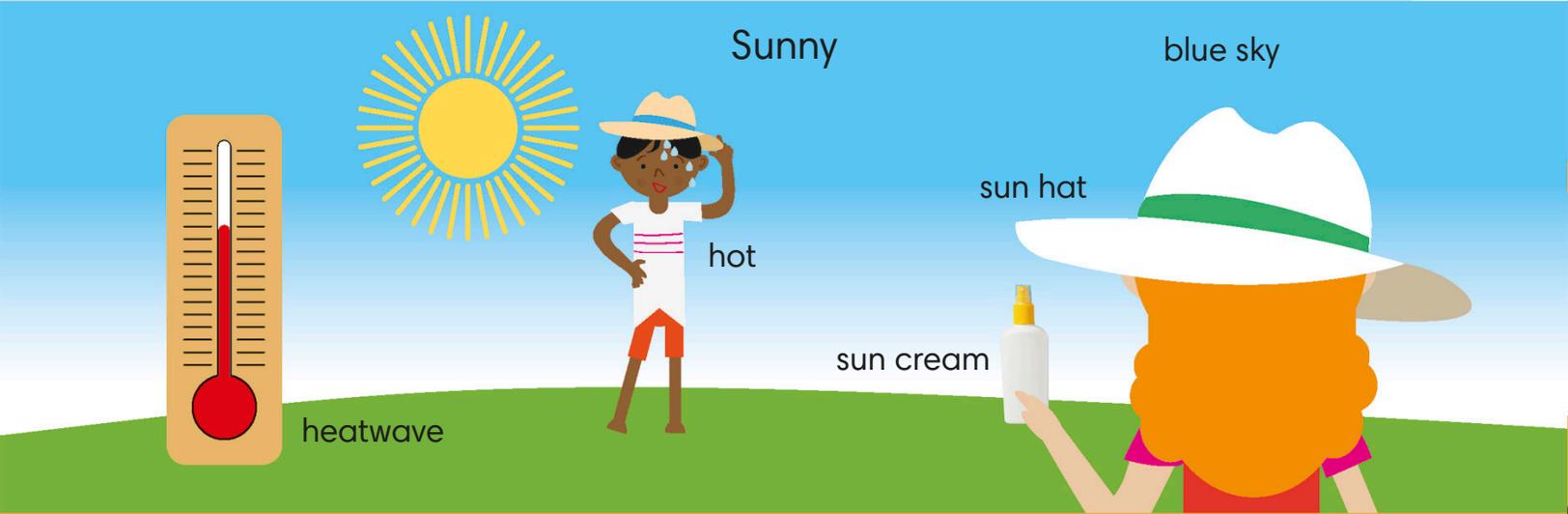
Let's choose some things we'd like to do when we go out.



# Weather

The weather is different in different places. Some countries have four seasons; others have two.

What's the weather like today?



Cloudy



overcast



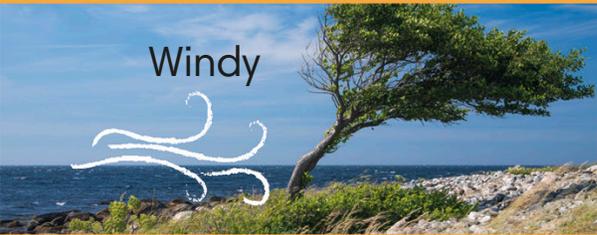
cirrus clouds



stratus clouds

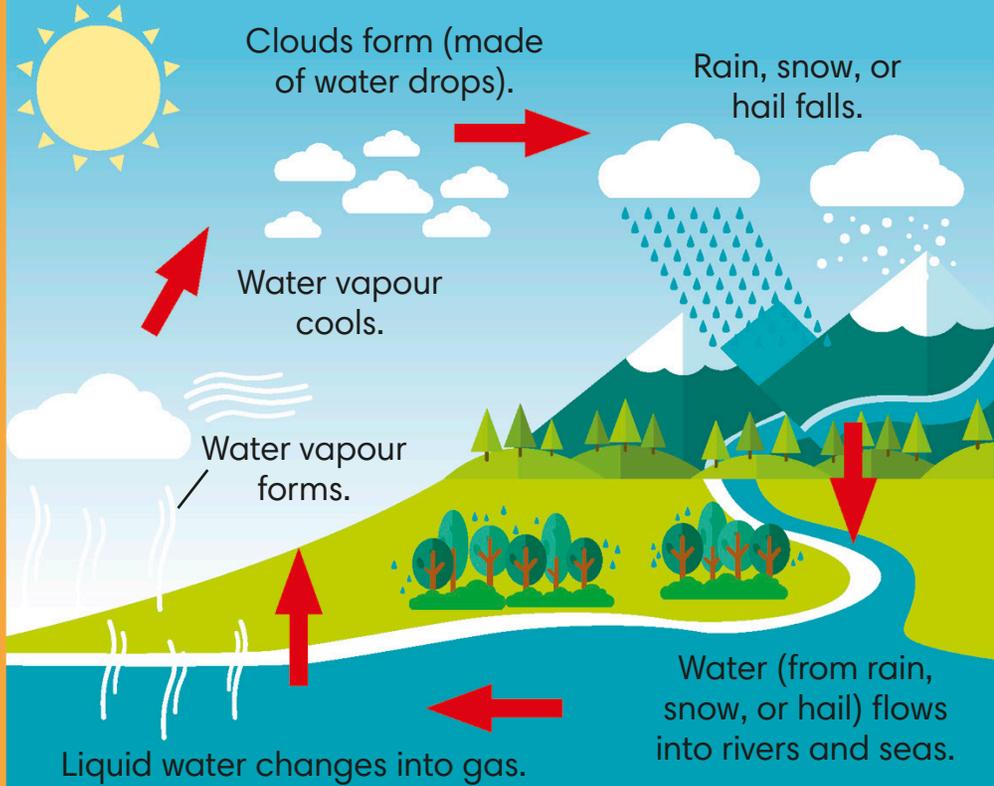


cumulus clouds



Windy

## The water cycle



## Four seasons



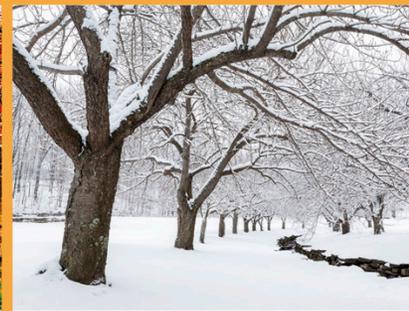
spring



summer

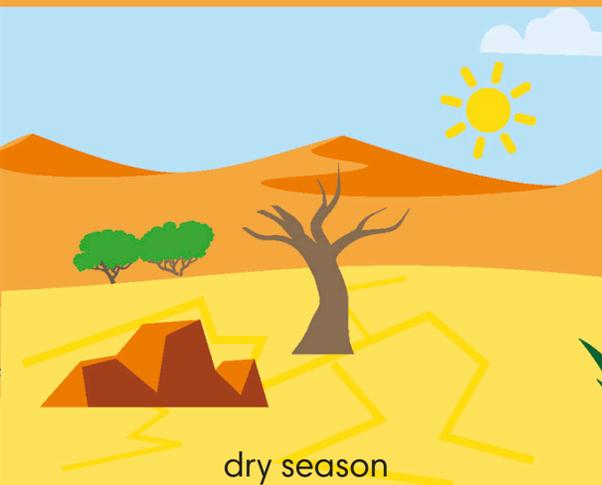


autumn



winter

## Two seasons



What type of weather do you like best?

# Extremes

From hurricanes and floods to dry deserts and frozen lands, our planet has some extreme weather and some incredible locations.

Spot a type of foggy weather that is caused by air pollution.



## Extreme weather



drought

arid



flood



tsunami



cyclone



hurricane



tornado



smog



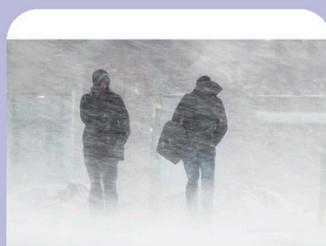
sandstorm



extreme heat and wildfires



hailstorm



blizzard



ice storm

freezing

## Incredible locations

Dead Sea,  
Asia



lowest land area  
on Earth

Mount Everest,  
Asia



highest land area  
on Earth

Furnace Creek,  
North America



hottest recorded  
temperature

Vostok Station,  
Antarctica



coldest recorded  
temperature

Atacama Desert,  
South America



driest place

Mawsynram,  
Asia



has highest rainfall

Angel Falls,  
South America



highest waterfall

Grand Canyon,  
North America



longest canyon

Kilauea Volcano,  
Oceania



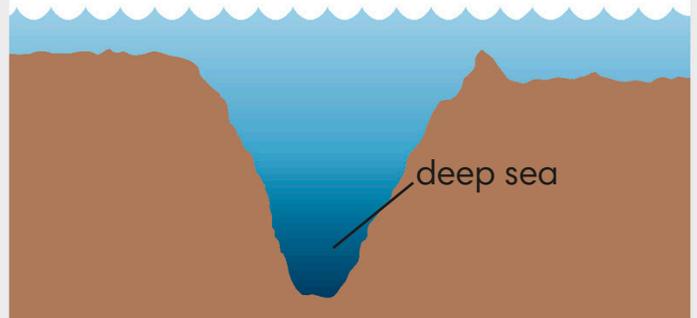
Earth's most  
active volcano

Great Barrier Reef,  
Pacific Ocean



largest coral reef

Mariana Trench,  
Pacific Ocean



deepest part of the ocean

Which of these amazing places would you like to explore?

# Kingdoms of living things

Different features help scientists put all living things into groups. Here are the five major groups, called kingdoms, and some of the smaller groups that are within each kingdom.

## Plants

### Flowering plants



apple tree



rose



grass

### Non-flowering plants



conifer



fern



mosses and liverworts

## Fungi



mould



mushrooms

## Protists



red algae



protozoan

## Monera



bacteria

## Molluscs



snail



oysters

## Crustaceans



woodlouse



crab

## Arachnids



spider

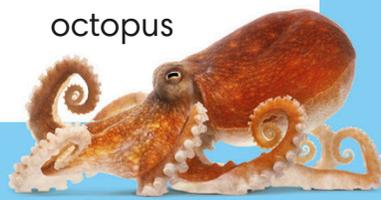


tick

## Cephalopods

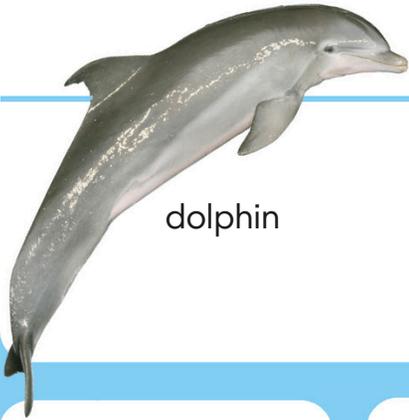


squid



octopus

# Animals



dolphin

## Mammals



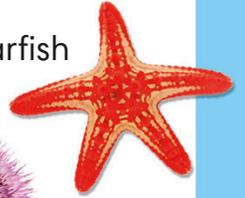
kangaroo



human

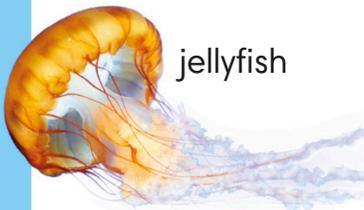
## Echinoderms

starfish



sea urchin

## Cnidarians



jellyfish



coral

## Birds



robin



penguin

## Reptiles

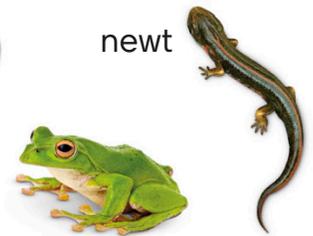


snake



crocodile

## Amphibians



newt



frog

## Poriferans



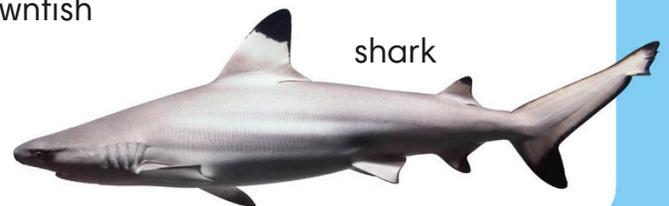
sponge

Let's think of some more mammals and some more reptiles.

## Fish



clownfish



shark

## Insects



ant



butterfly

## Myriapods



millipede



centipede

## Annelids



leech



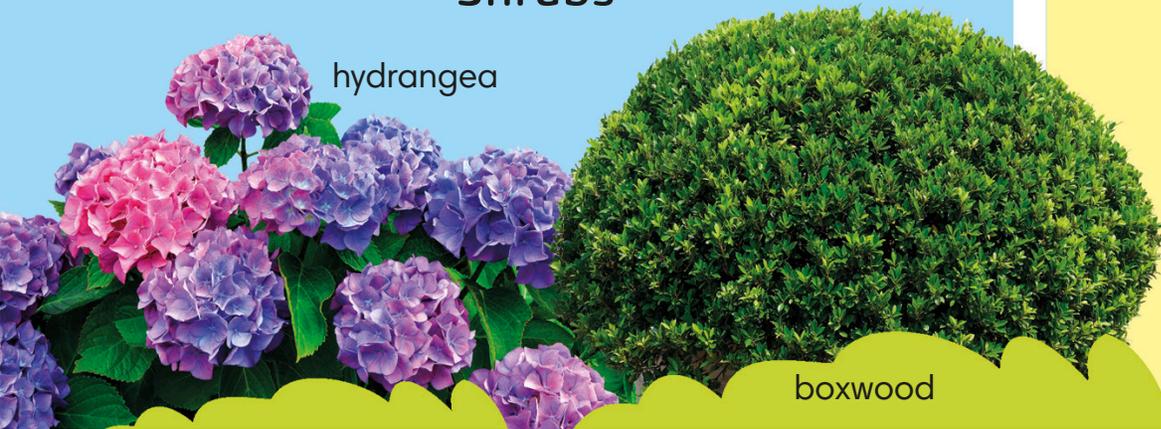
earthworm

# All sorts of plants

There are many different plants, but they all do something amazing – they use water, air, and sunlight to make their own food. This process is called photosynthesis.

Herbs can be used to flavour food. What herbs have you tried?

## Shrubs



## Herbs

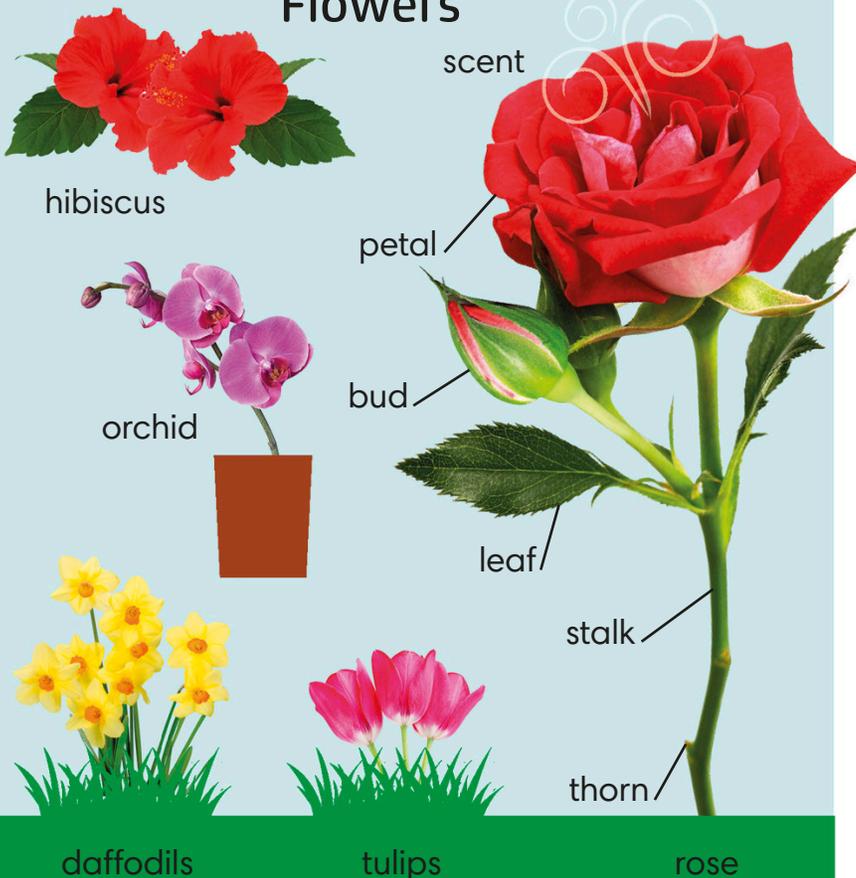


basil



thyme

## Flowers



Guess where baobab trees store water.

## Weird plants



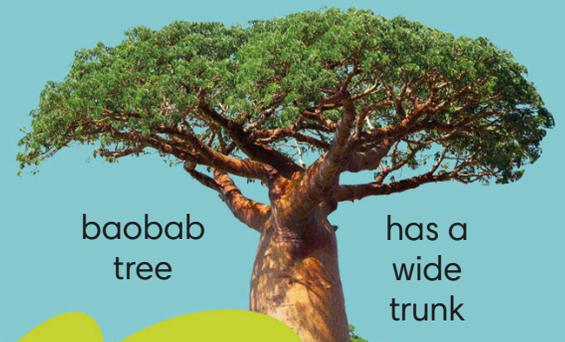
Venus flytrap

catches flies!



air plant

doesn't need soil



baobab tree

has a wide trunk

## Climbers

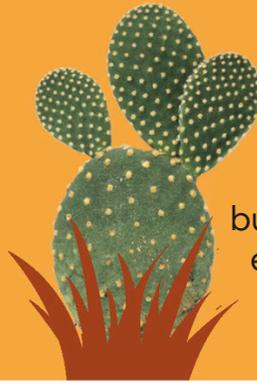


ivy



runner bean

## Cacti



bunny ear

golden barrel



## Trees

### broadleaved



maple



weeping willow



palm

### conifers



fir



pine

## Fruit and vegetables we eat



orange



apple



kiwi fruit



carrots



cabbage



broccoli

## Water plants

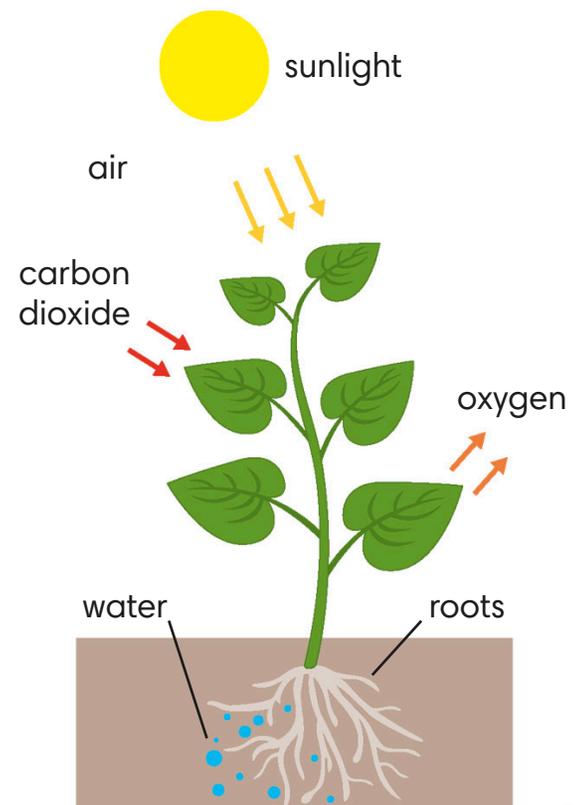


seaweed



water lily

## Photosynthesis



# A closer look at trees

A tree is a tall plant with a thick stem called a trunk. Like all plants, trees improve air quality by absorbing carbon dioxide and giving out oxygen.

sun

oxygen

## Tree leaves



lobed



prickly



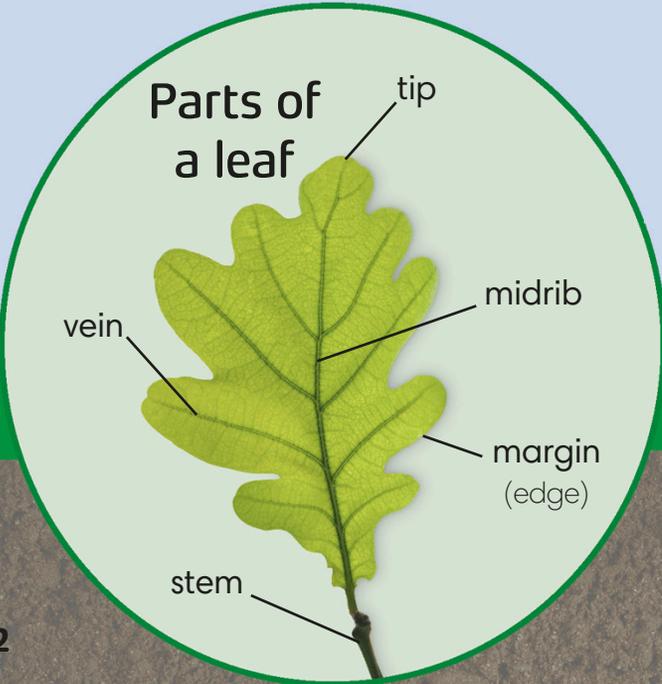
pointy



wavy edges

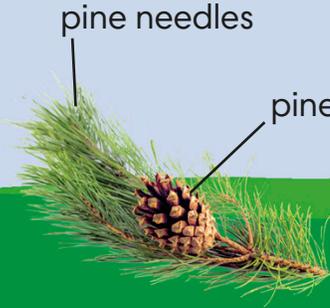


needles



### Parts of a leaf

tip  
midrib  
margin (edge)  
stem  
vein



pine needles

pine cone



twigs

roots



evergreen  
keeps leaves all year

pine tree

branch

bark

trunk



carbon dioxide



### Tree flowers



cherry blossom



hazel catkins



apricot buds

### Tree fruits



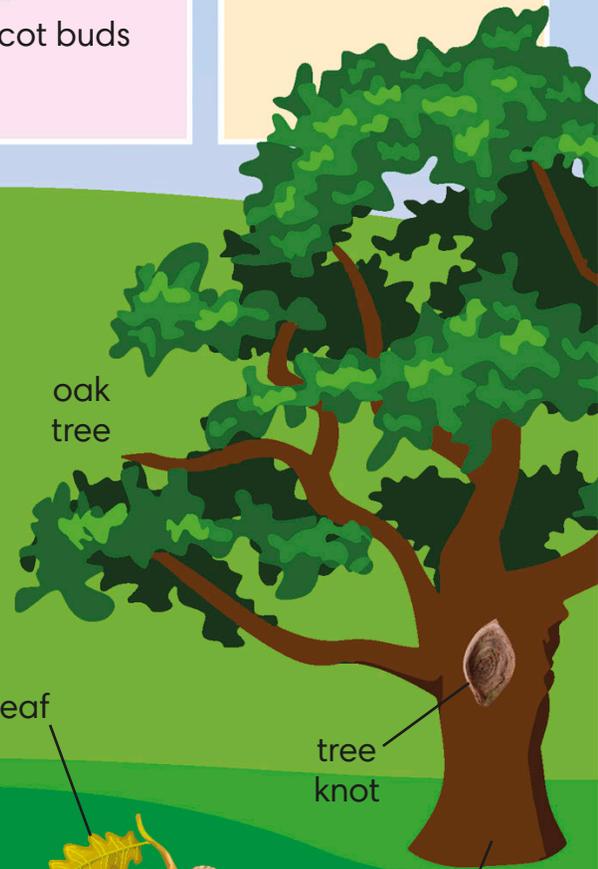
apples



plums



lemons

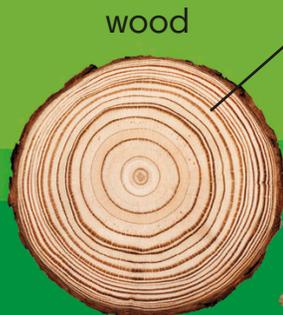


oak tree

oak leaf

tree knot

acorns



wood

tree rings

sticks

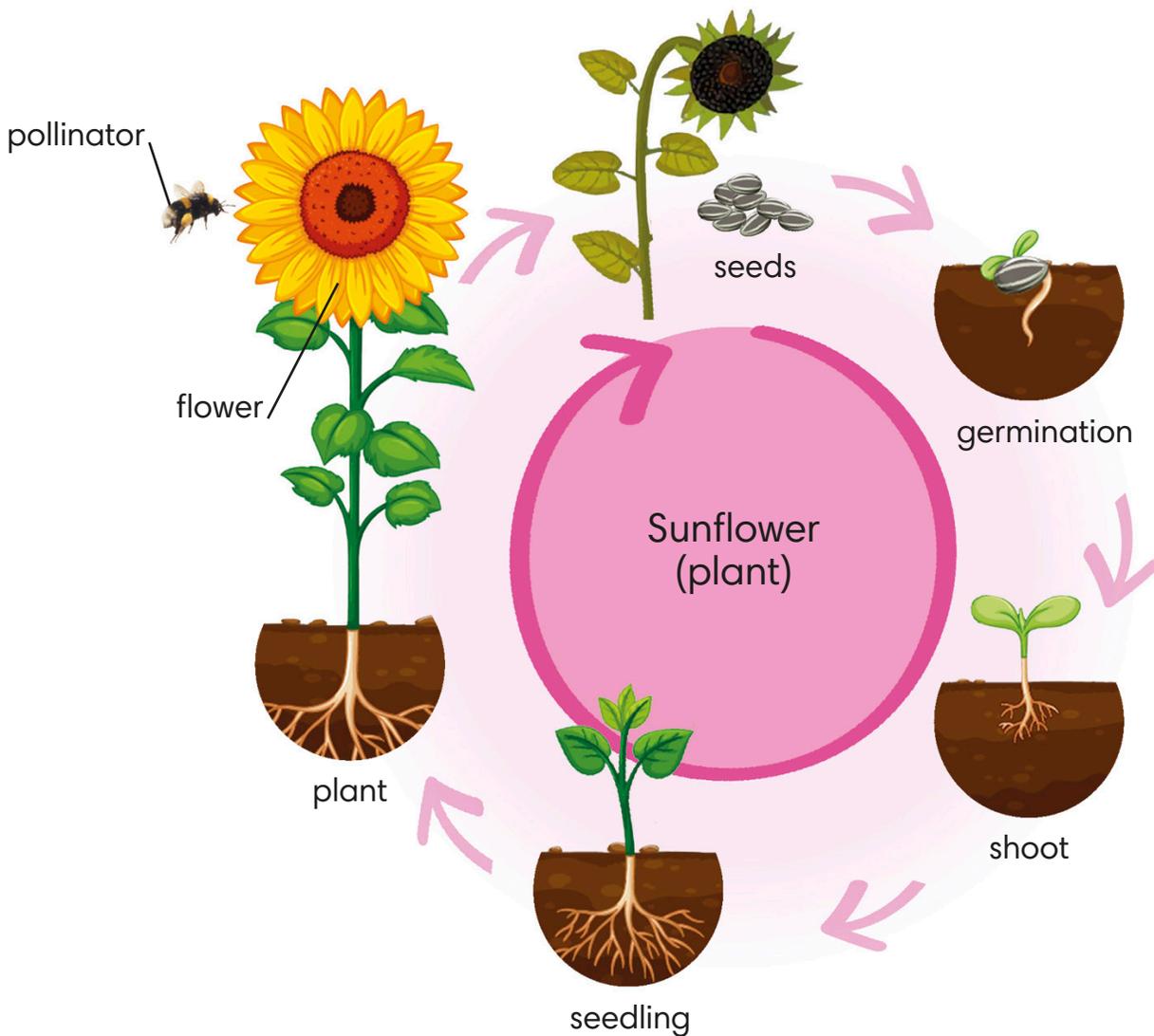


deciduous  
loses leaves  
in autumn

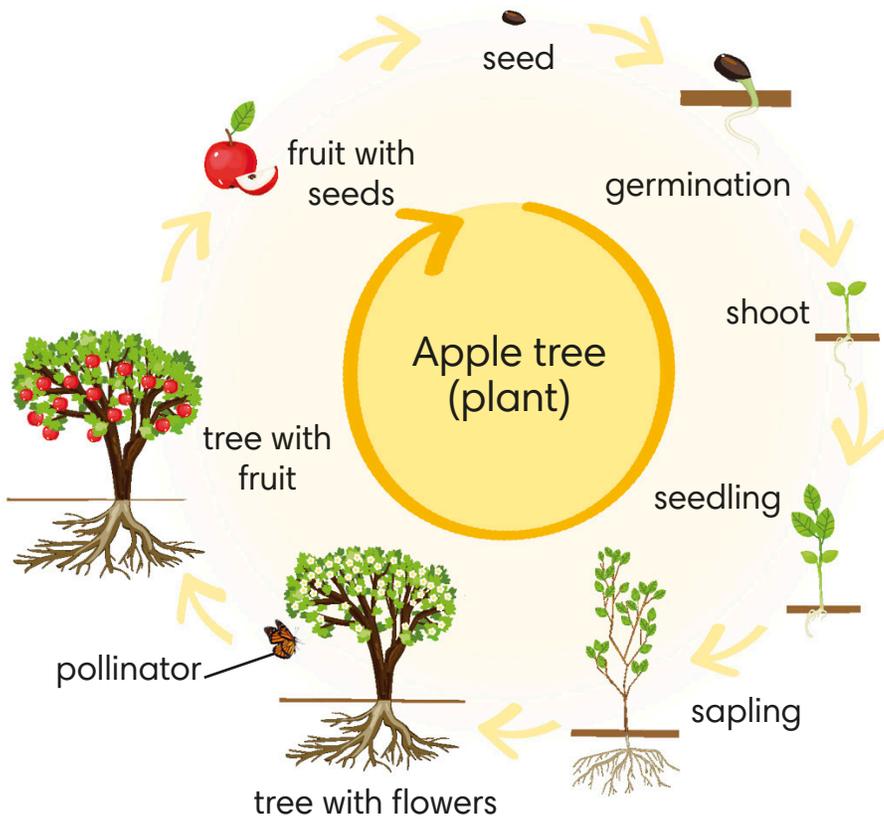
The seed of an oak tree is inside an acorn.  
Where would you find the seeds of a pine tree?

# Plant and fungus life cycles

Most plants grow from seeds, bulbs, or tubers. Fungi grow from tiny spores.



Have you planted any seeds? How did you take care of them?  
Think of some things you did to help them grow.

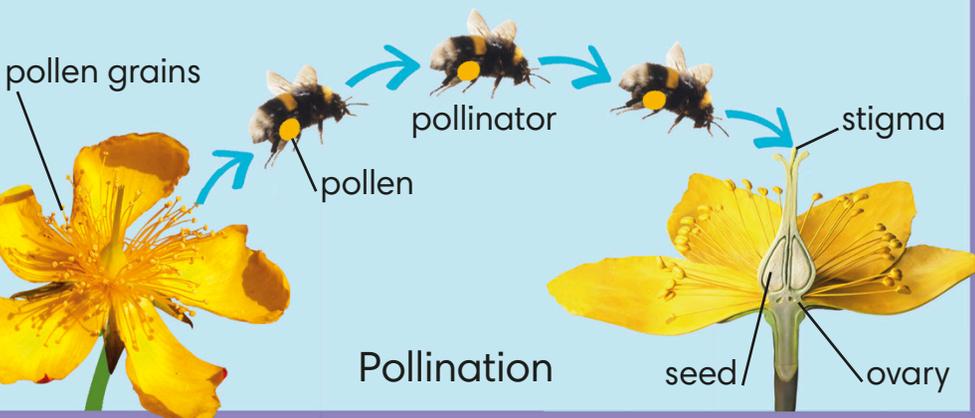


## More seeds



pea pods

avocado stone

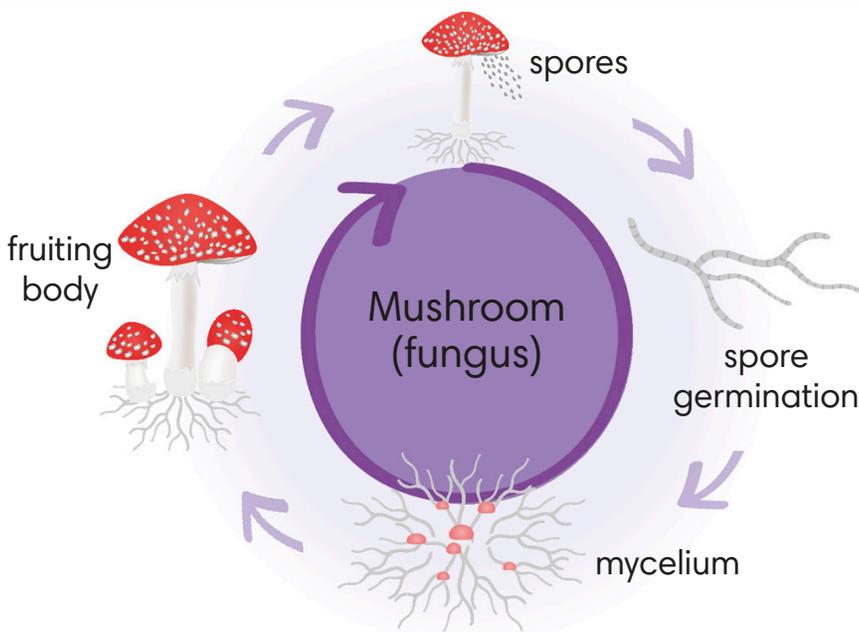


## Bulbs and tubers



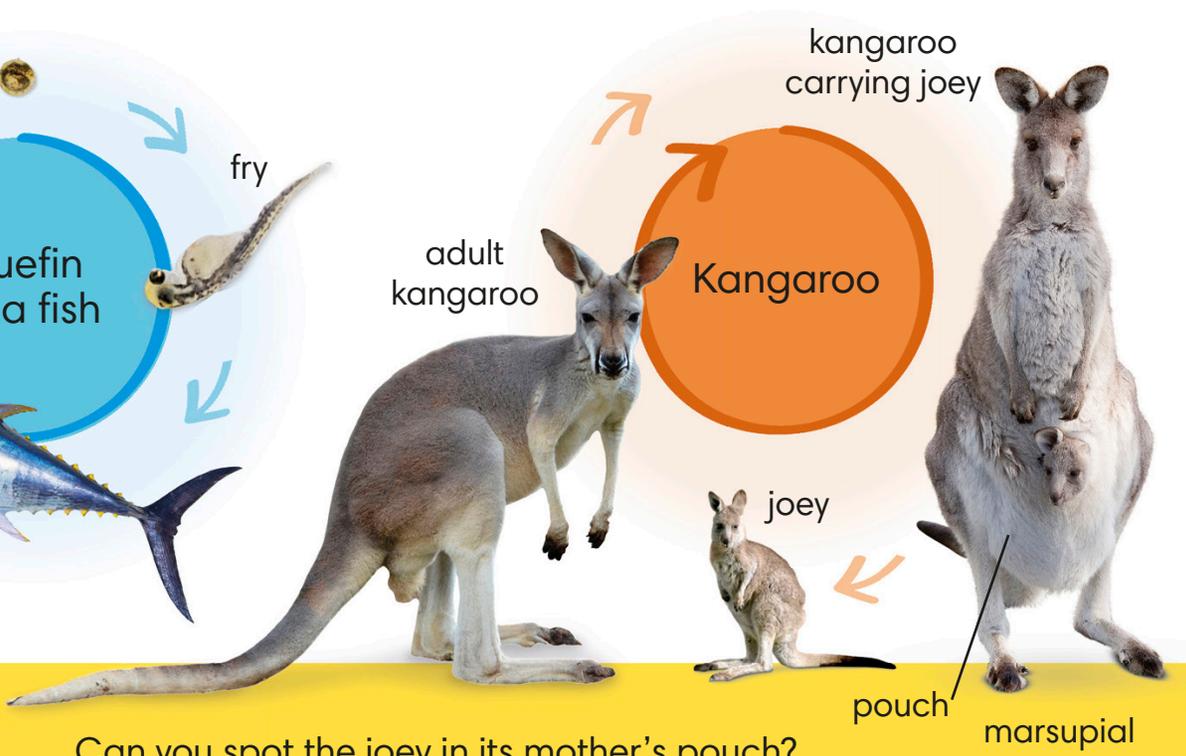
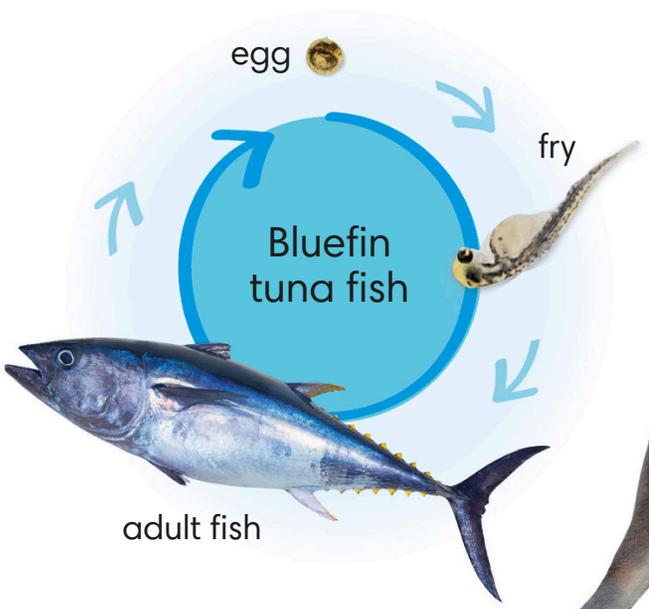
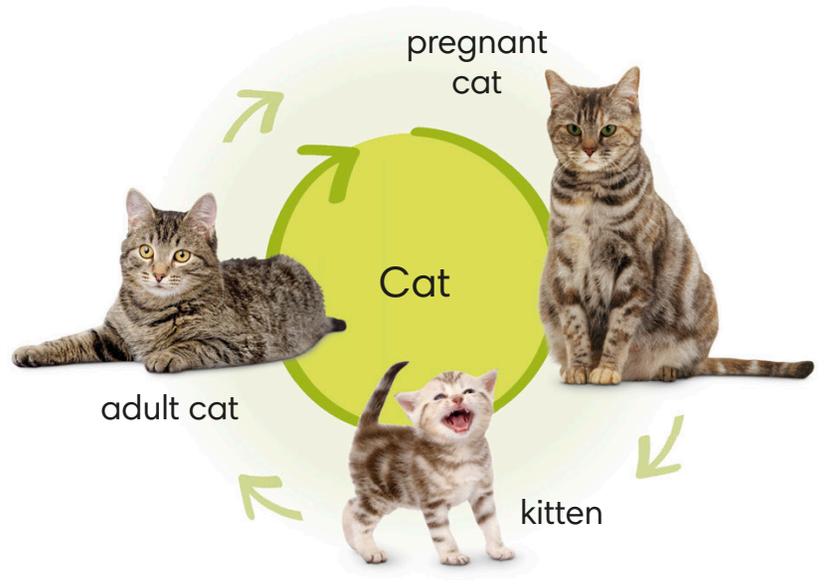
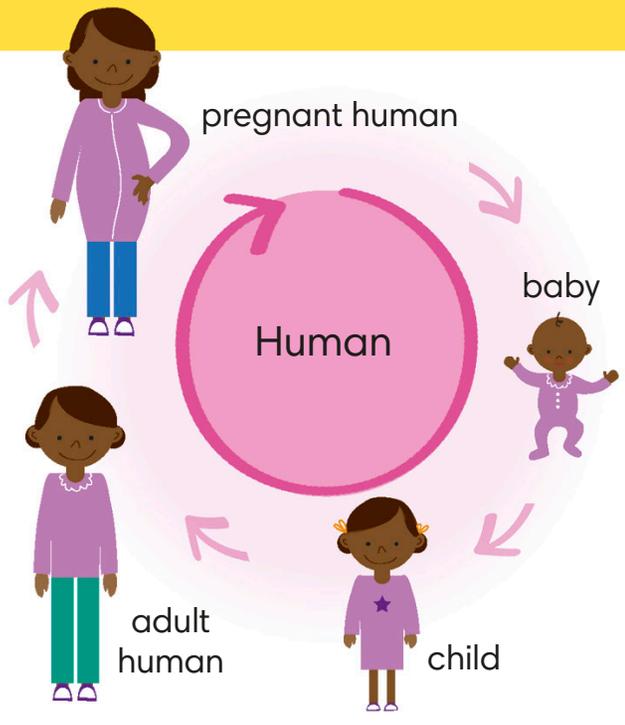
potato tuber

tulip bulbs

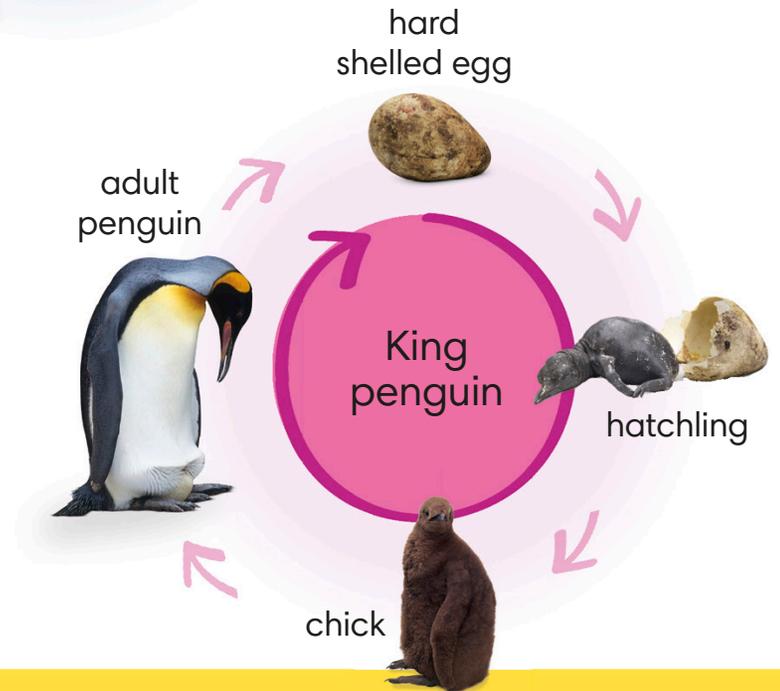
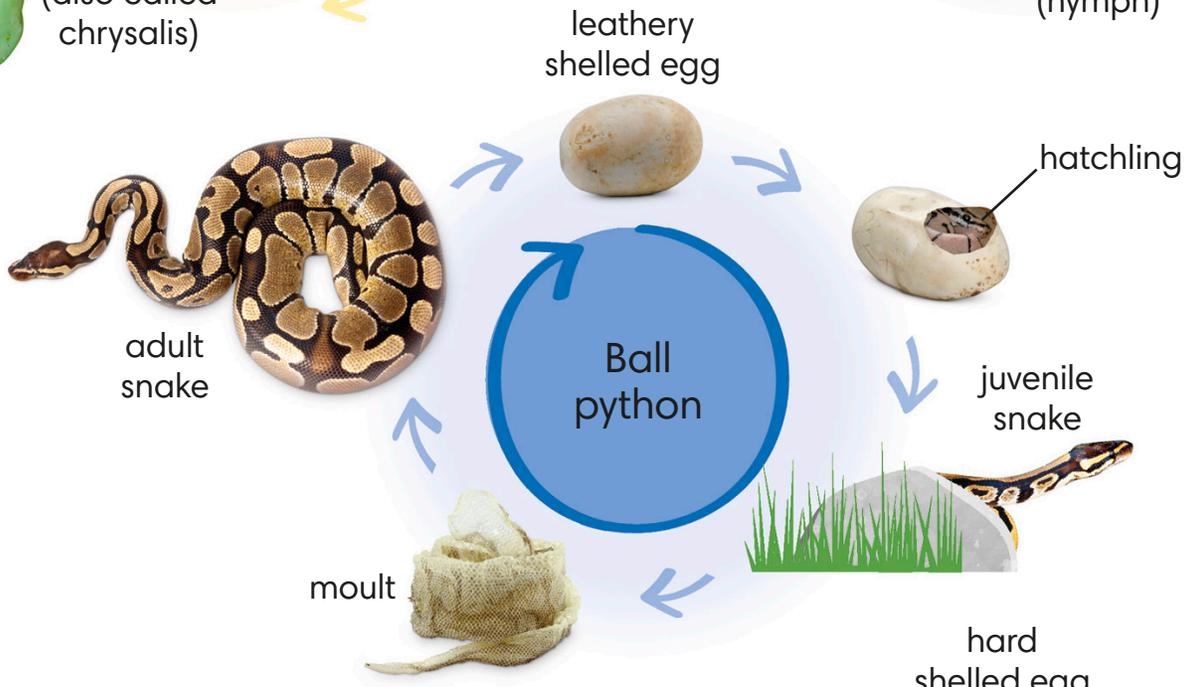
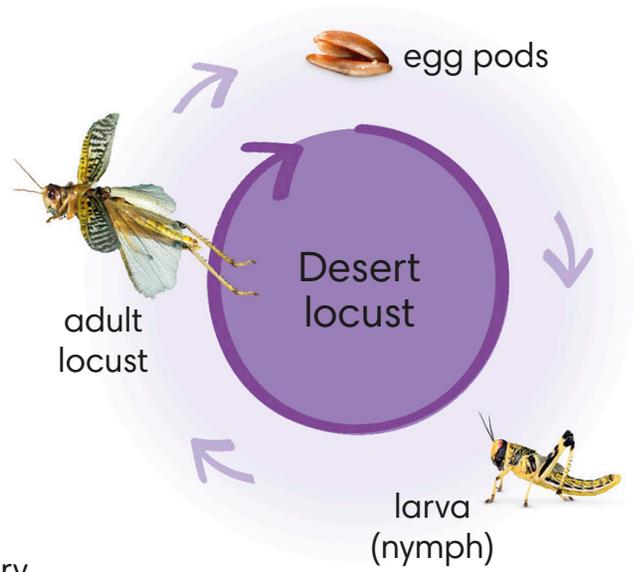
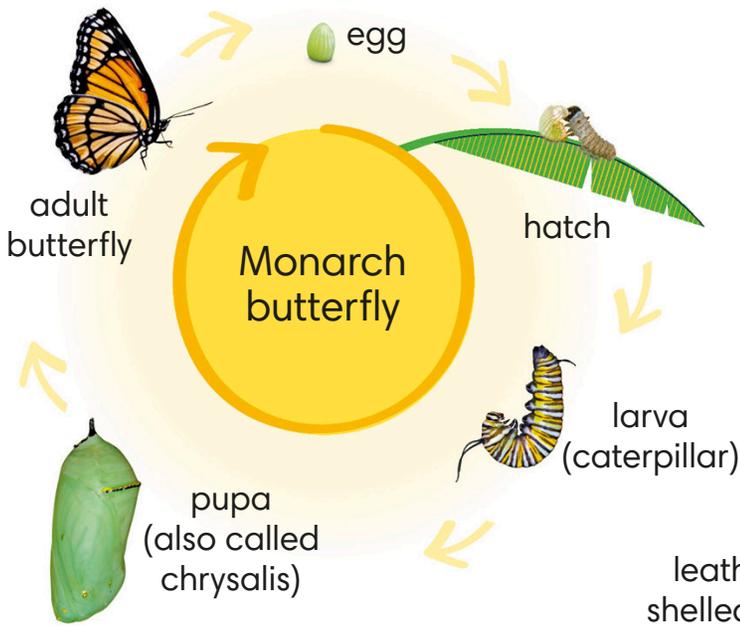


# Animal life cycles

Cats have kittens, and the kittens grow into cats. Then those cats have kittens. Let's learn more about animal life cycles.



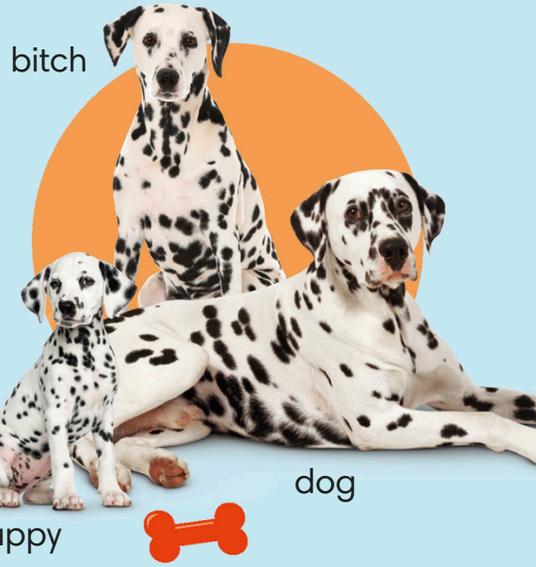
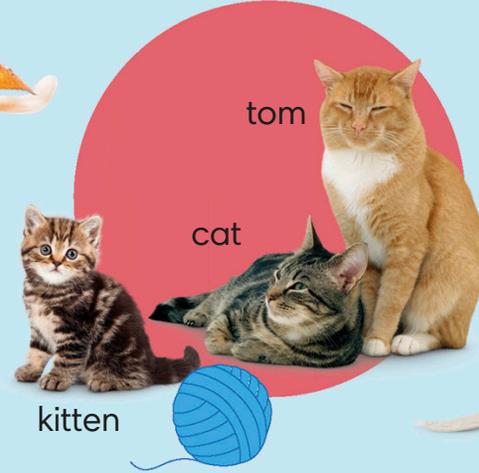
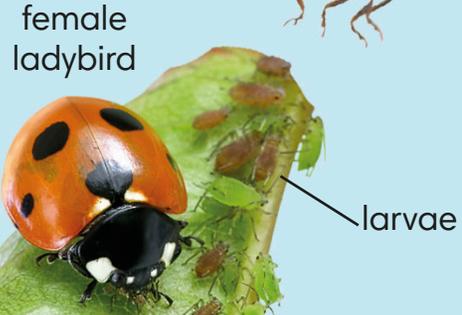
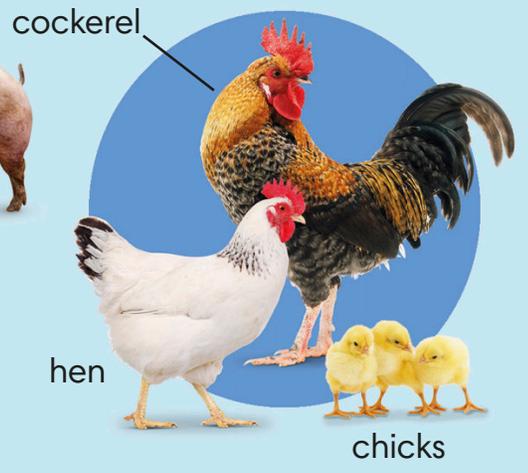
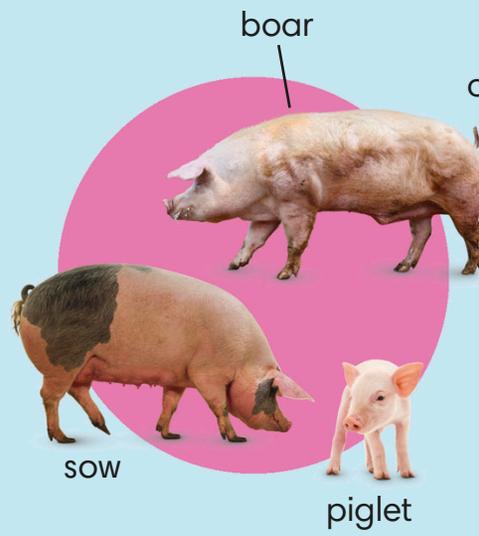
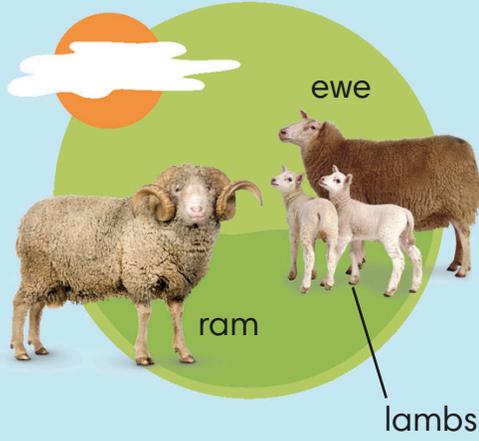
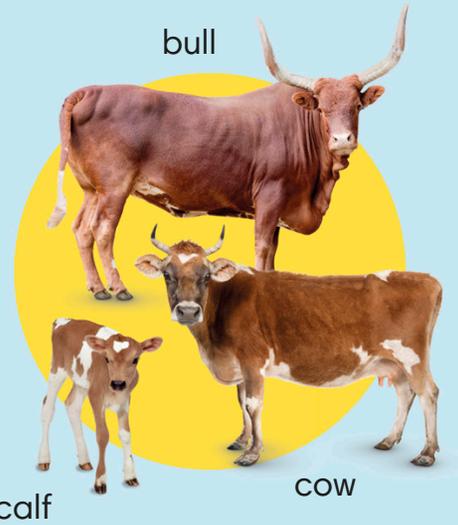
Can you spot the joey in its mother's pouch?

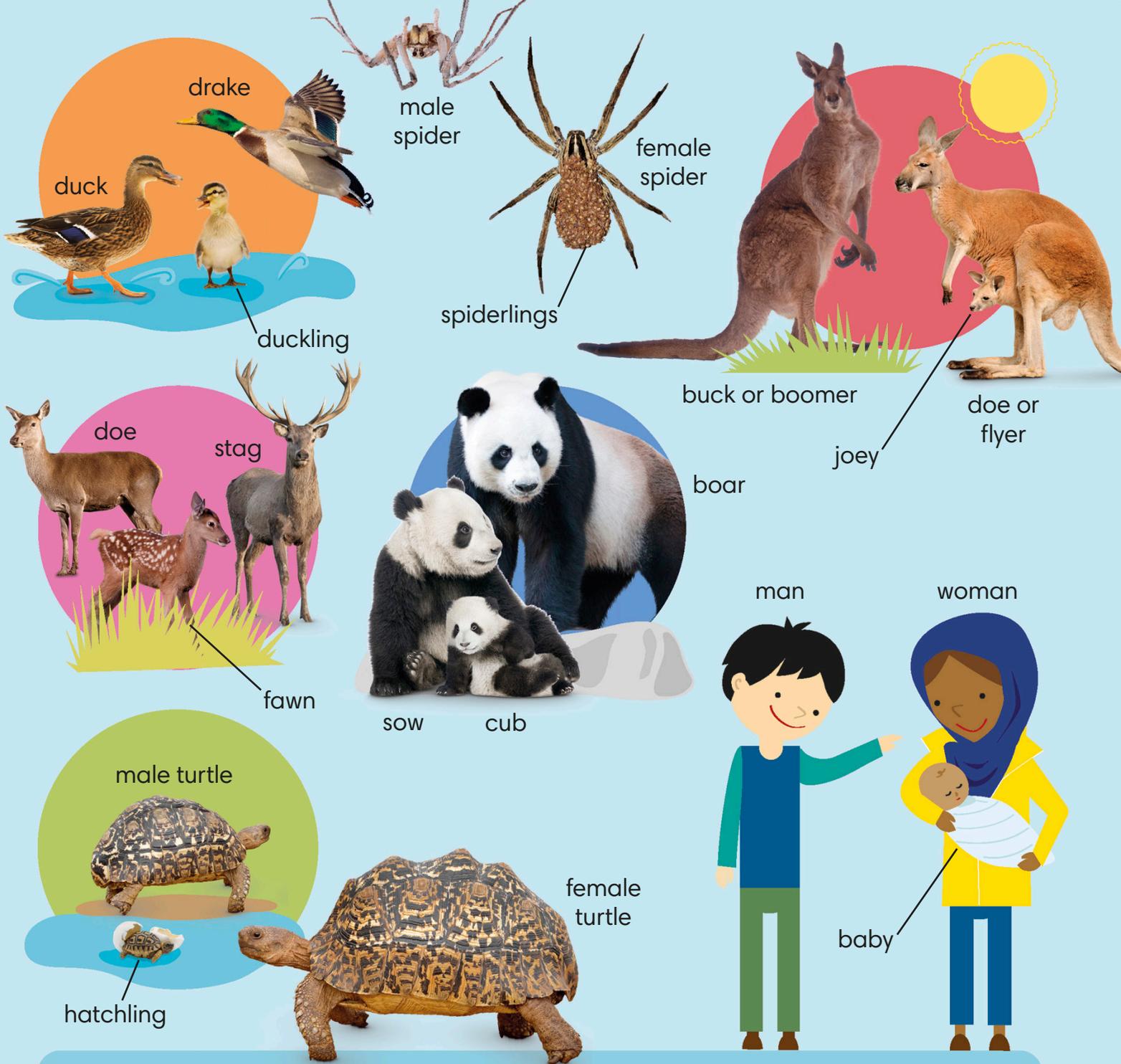


Do you know where frogs lay their frogspawn?

# Animal families

Can you name the female, male, and baby in each of these animal families? Some have special names and others don't.





## Animal groups

What names for groups of animals do you know?



pride of lions



pod of dolphins



flock of sheep



colony of ants

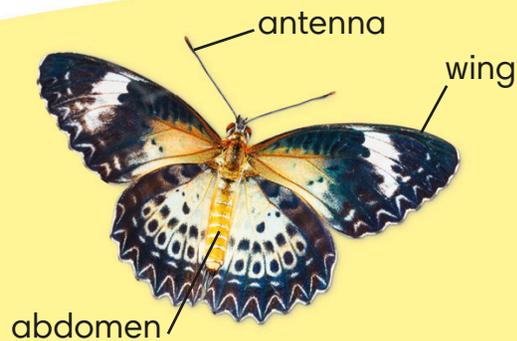
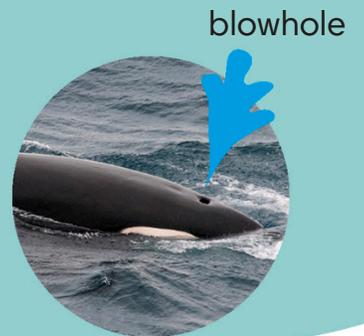
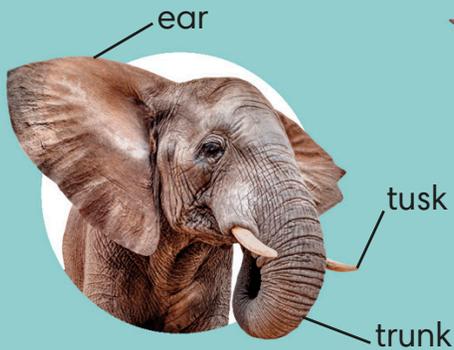
# Heads, bodies, and feet

Think of an animal. Imagine its head, body, and feet. Are they the same as yours?

## Heads

Which animal has the biggest ears?

feathered crest



# Feet (and hands!)

tube feet



flipper



paws



talons



hooves



sticky pads



prolegs



webbed feet



claws



fin



fingers



toes



Why do waterbirds have webbed feet?

## Bodies



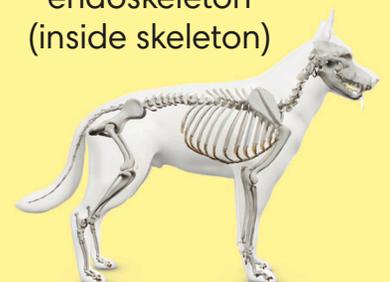
four-legged



exoskeleton  
(outside skeleton)

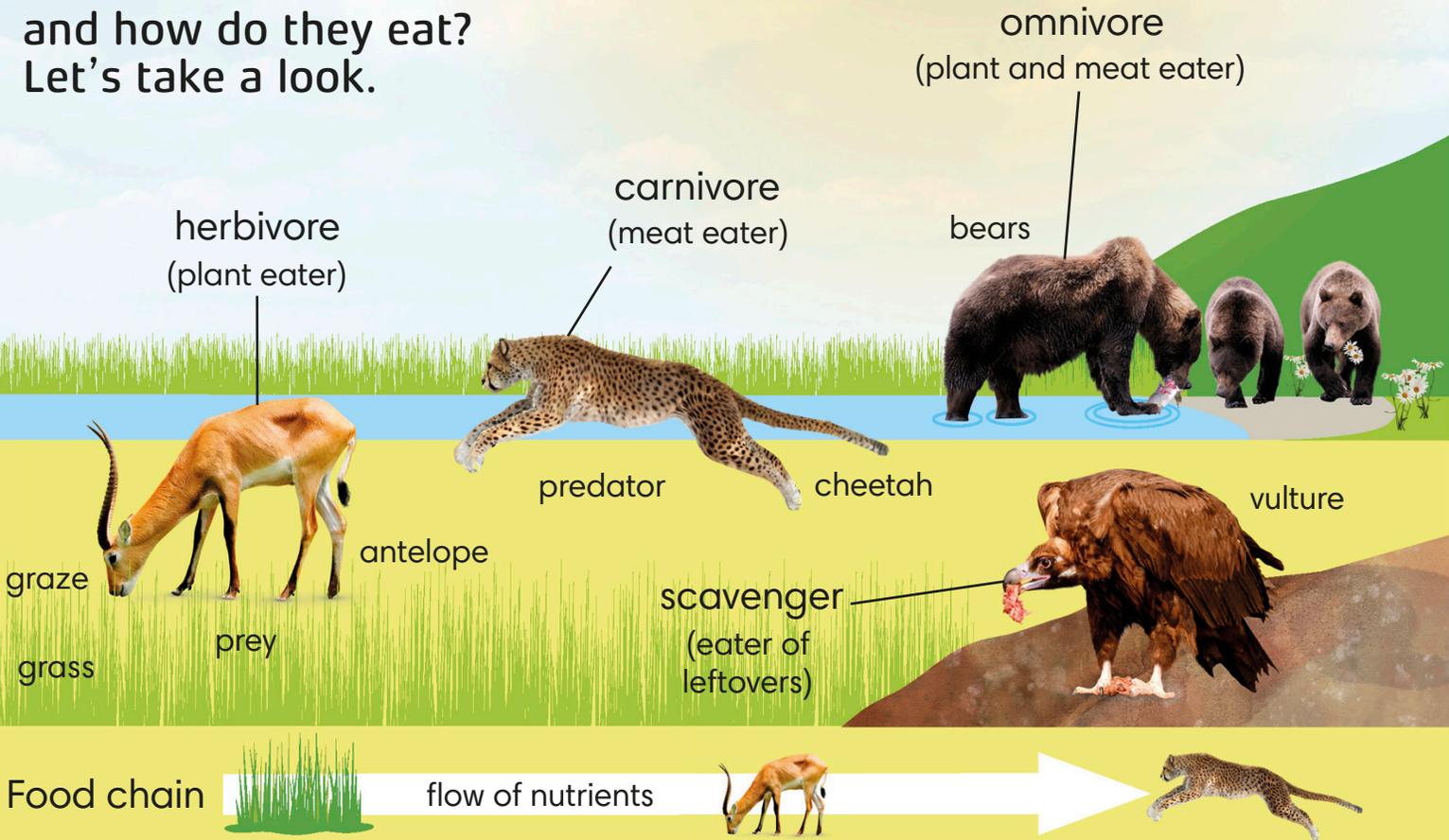


endoskeleton  
(inside skeleton)



# Feeding time

What do animals feed on and how do they eat? Let's take a look.



All about eating

mouth



bite and chew

Beavers eat leaves, twigs, and bark. They cut wood to make dams.



gnaw



proboscis (straw-like mouthpart)

nectar

suck



lap

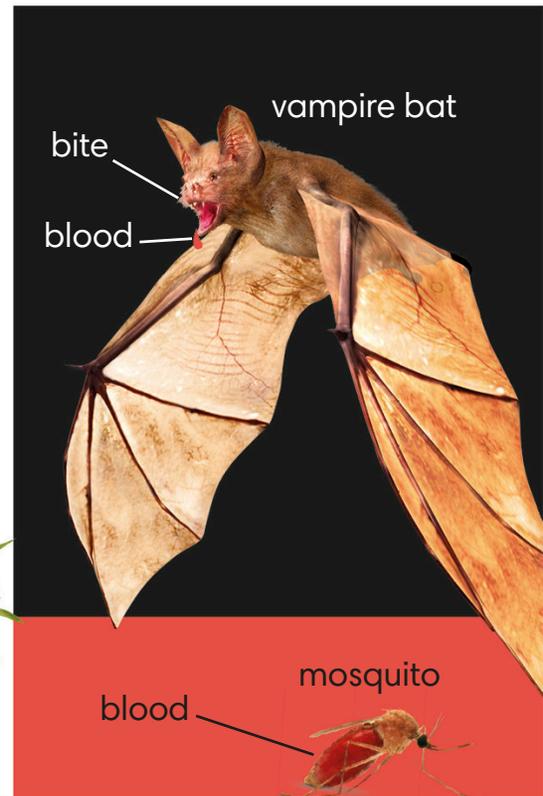
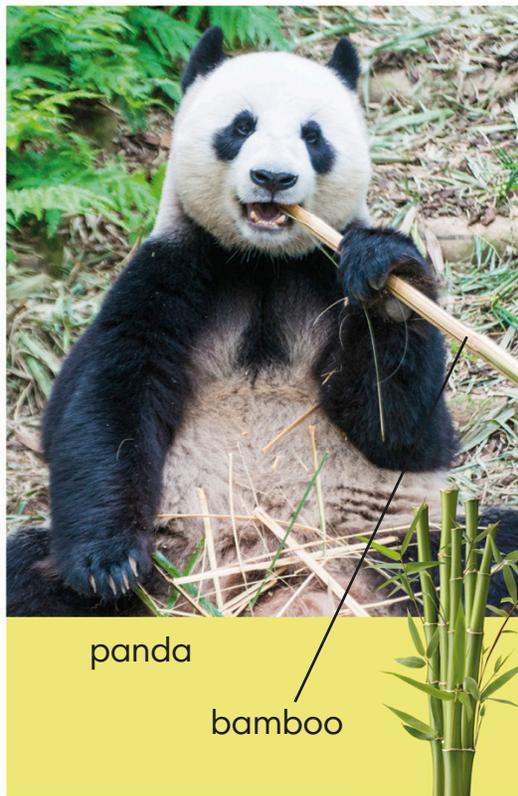
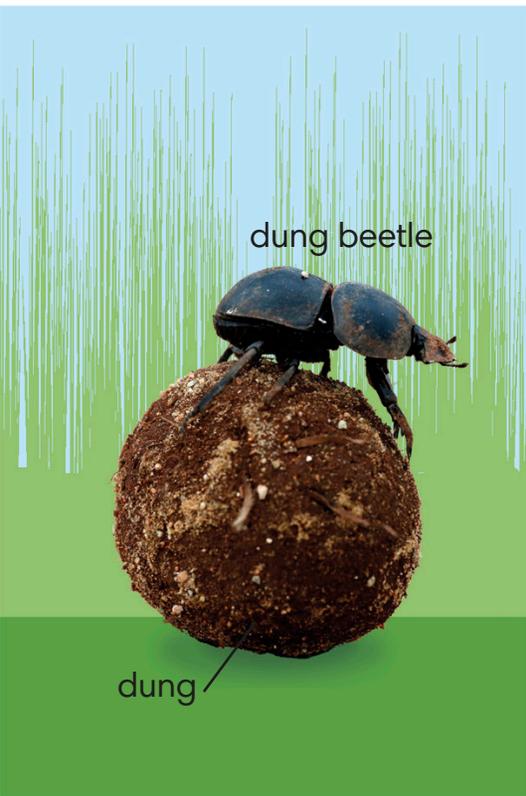
Trap-jaw ants eat other insects.



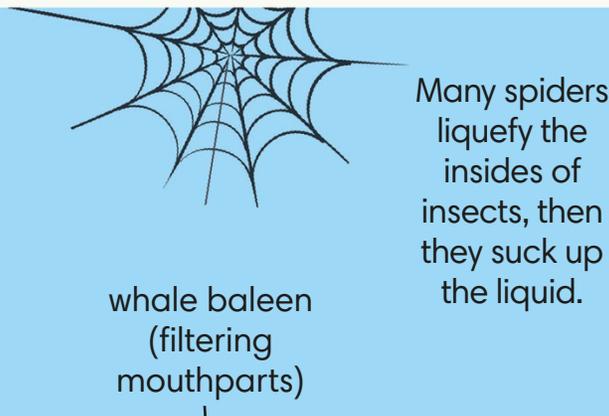
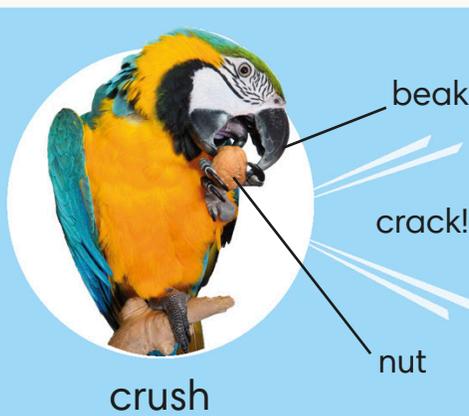
mandibles (mouthparts)

ready to snap

# Animals with specialised diets



Can you name another baby animal that feeds on its mother's milk?



# Communicating

Zoologists can't talk to animals, but they can understand some of their messages. Can you?

Communicating over long distances



low-pitched sound

Marking territory



birdsong



scent marking



alarm call

Communicating danger



hair on end

Showing fear or strength



posture

rearing up



thumping

growling

warning of attack



howling

Communicating "I'm here"



cheep cheep

call

Showing friendship



grooming

Ants leave a scent trail.

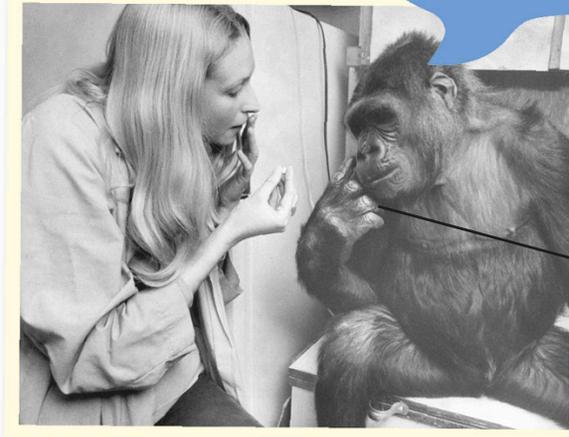
Showing where food is



Bees waggle dance (to tell other bees where there are flowers).



Communicating with humans



Koko the gorilla

sign language

Communicating "let's play!"



play bow

A male bird of paradise puts on a display.



A male cricket chirps.



Many male birds sing to impress a mate. Some female birds sing, too.



Attracting a mate

A male pufferfish creates a nest ready for a female's eggs.



Which animal wags its tail to show different emotions?

wild



wolves

# Animal comparisons

Big or small, wild or tame, venomous or harmless – just look at all these animal differences!

tame



cat

fastest on land



cheetah

two of the slowest

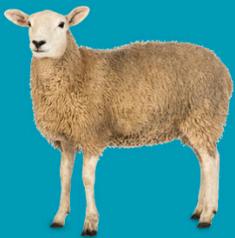


snail

sea anemone

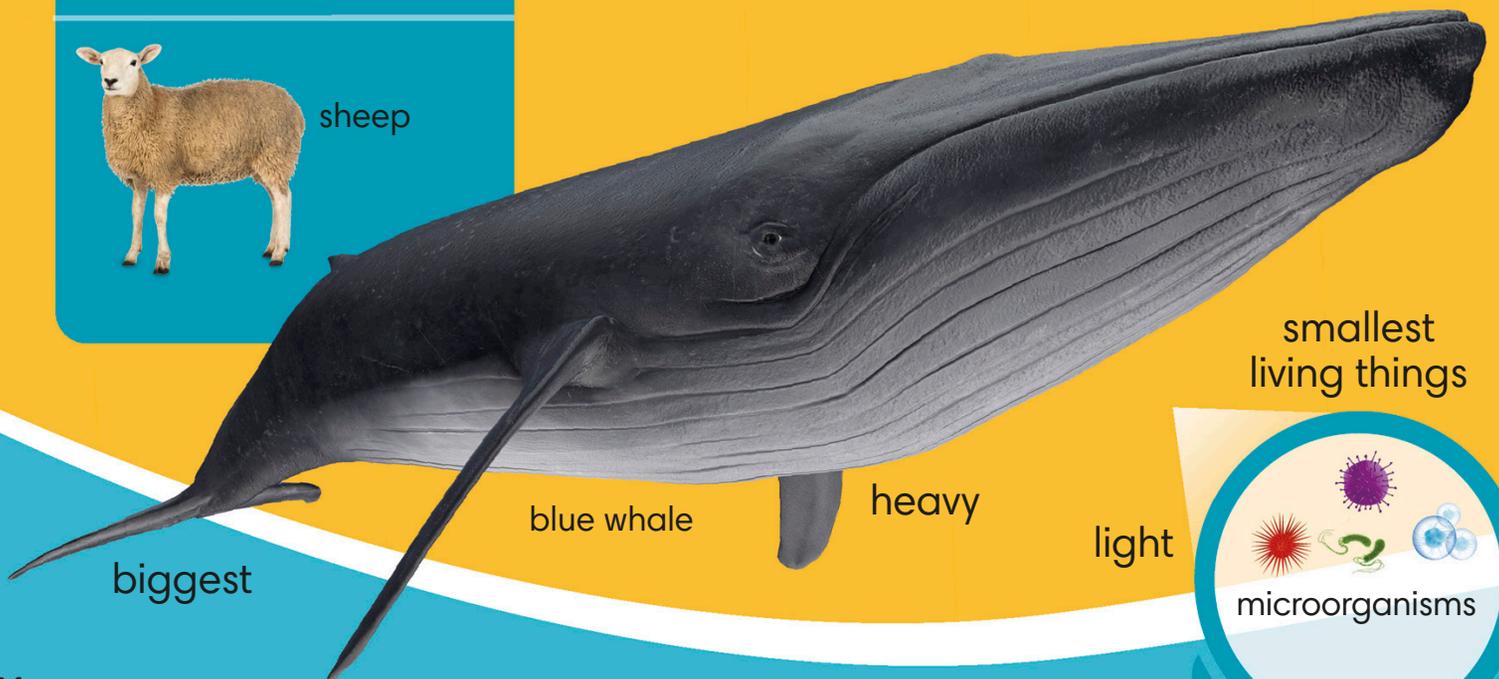


domesticated



sheep

What is the biggest animal that walks on land? (Clue: it has a long trunk.)



biggest

blue whale

heavy

light

smallest living things



microorganisms

solitary



snow leopard

social



dogs

diurnal  
(active in the daytime)



butterfly

venomous



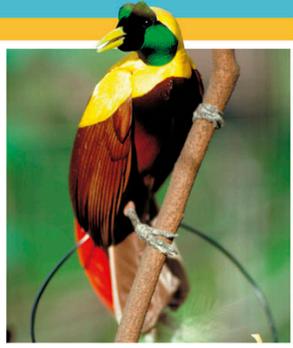
viper

harmless



slowworm

eye-catching



bird of paradise

camouflaged



octopus

nocturnal  
(active at night)



moth

tall

giraffe



short

mouse

plain



horse

patterned



zebra

tiger



carnivore



fox

omnivore



rabbit

herbivore

# Poo

Poo comes in many shapes and sizes!

Which animal has cube-shaped poo?

rabbit droppings



fox poo



bird dropping



lizard poo



wombat poo



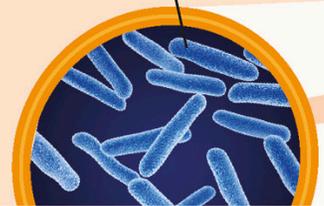
## Animal clues

Learn to recognise the poo of different animals. Look out for rotting plants, too – these are being eaten by animals and microbes. You might also find evidence of things that lived long ago.

### Rotting plants

What creatures are eating the log?

microbes



### More animal clues

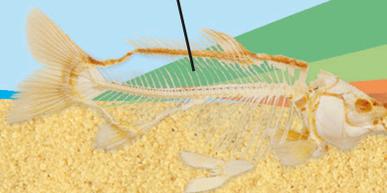
shark teeth



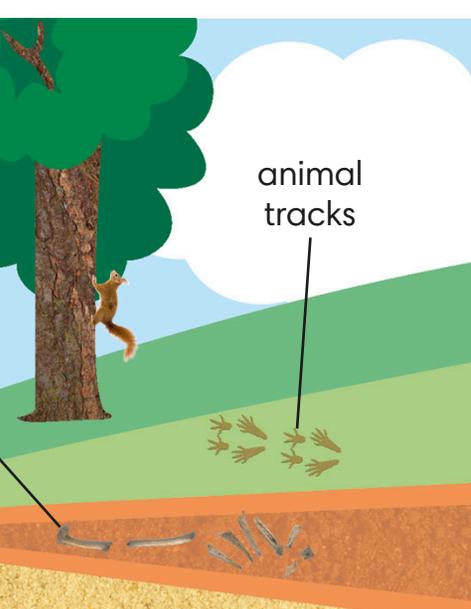
shells



skeleton



bones



animal tracks

owl pellet



otter spraint



bat guano



Seeds can be transported in animal poo.

wormcast



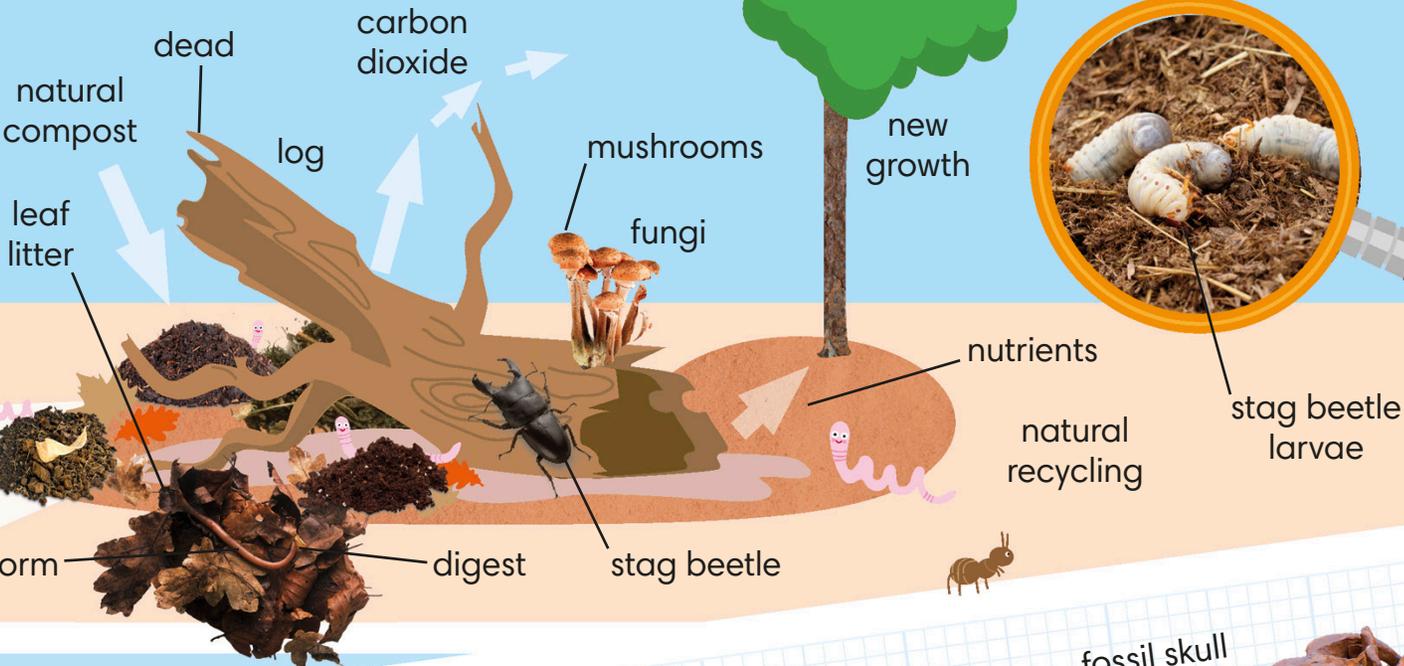
insect frass



bear scat



elephant dung



nuts buried by squirrels



### Clues from long ago



dinosaur footprint in fossil rock



ammonite (fossil mollusc)



fossil skull



amber (fossil tree resin)



coprolite (fossil poo)

# Gardens and parks

There are lots of wonderful things to see and do in a garden or park.



pond

frog

bushes

squirrel

bee

pollinator

apple blossom

bird feeder

water butt

shed

rake

spider

spider's web

flowerpots

hose

sparrow

watering can

All insects have six legs. Are woodlice crustaceans or insects?

bird table

grasshopper

ant

woodlouse



Park



lawnmower

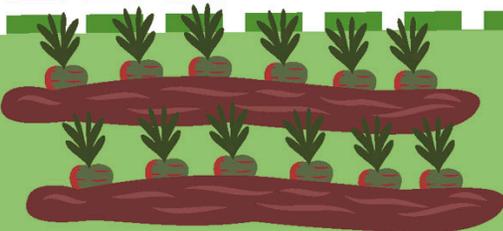
flowers



flowerbed

cherry tree

compost bin



vegetable patch



seeds



grass



gardening gloves



garden trowel



wheelbarrow



earthworm

soil



butterfly

pollinator



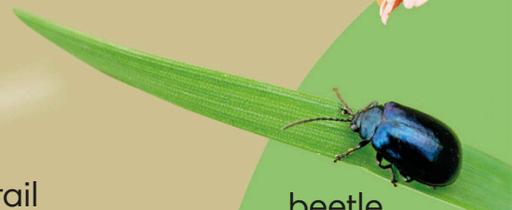
weeds

Garden



snail

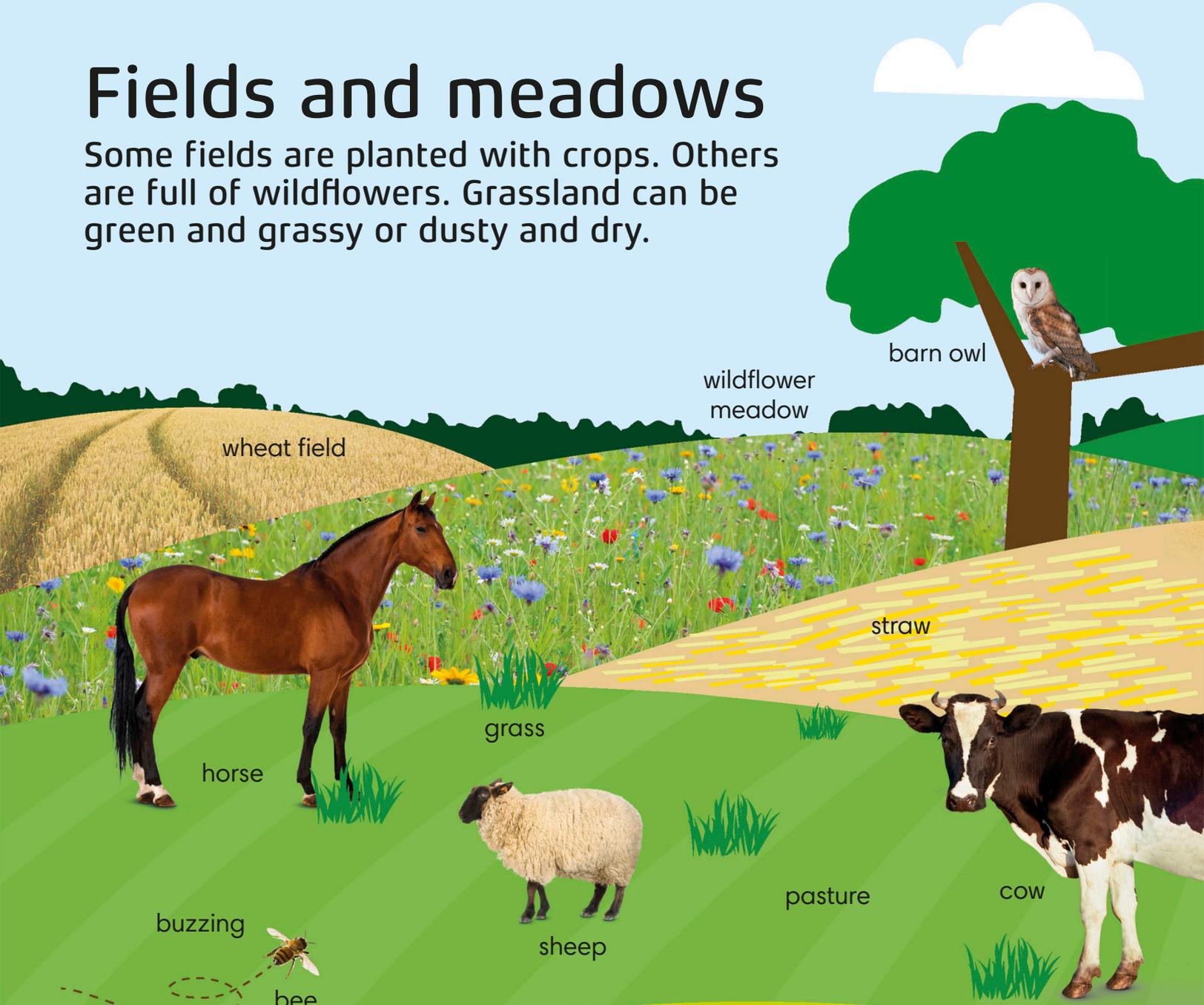
snail trail



beetle

# Fields and meadows

Some fields are planted with crops. Others are full of wildflowers. Grassland can be green and grassy or dusty and dry.



wheat field

wildflower meadow

barn owl

straw

horse

grass

pasture

cow

buzzing

bee

sheep

## Some arable crops



oats



barley



millet



corn



wheat

hedgerow

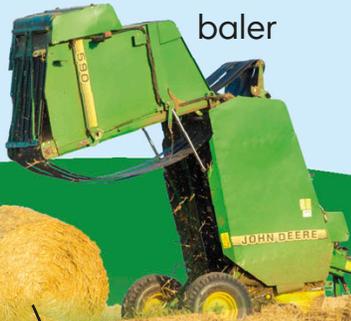
butterfly



Can you think of a food you like that contains an arable crop?



osprey



baler



tractor



combine harvester



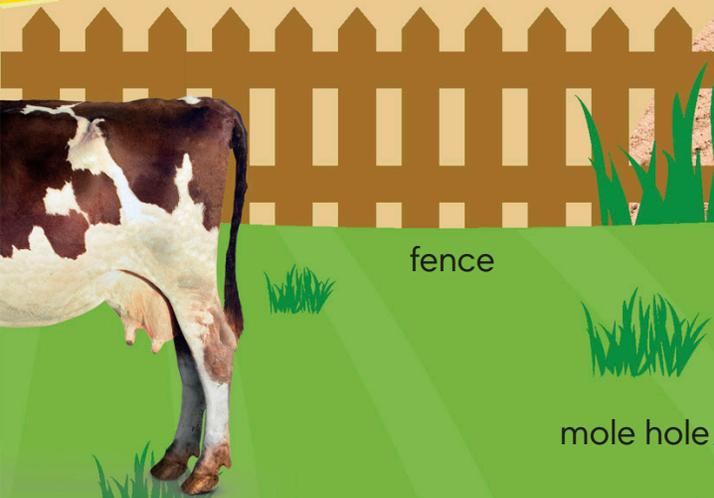
straw bale



lizard



plough



fence



grey partridge



field mouse

grasshopper



mole hole

mole



grass snake

clover



rabbit burrow

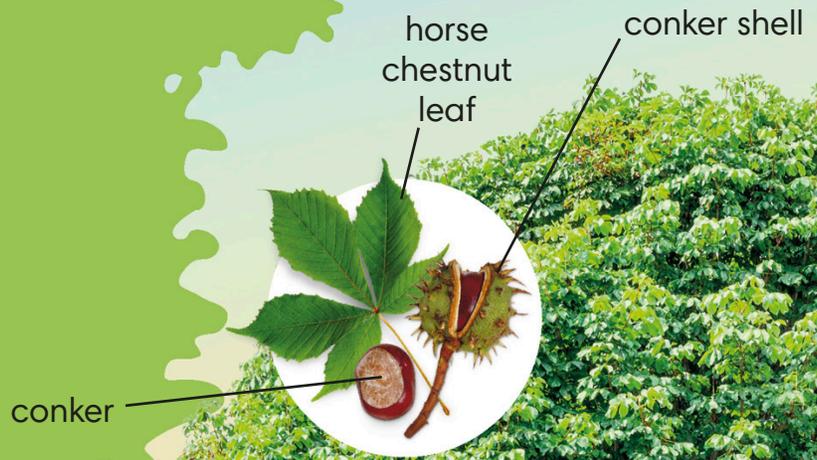
mole burrow



wild rabbit

# Woodlands

Animals find plenty to eat in woodlands, and protection from the worst of the weather.



European forest

Can you spot a baby deer?

# American redwood forest

giant redwood tree



lichen

giant redwood cone



giant redwood leaves

bobcat



knocking

woodpecker



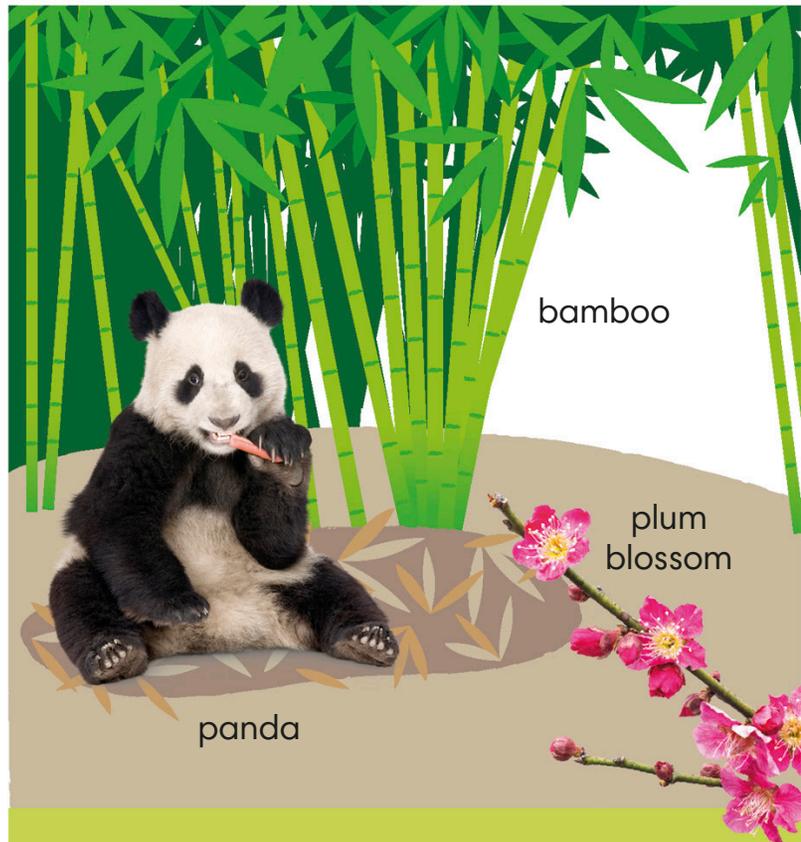
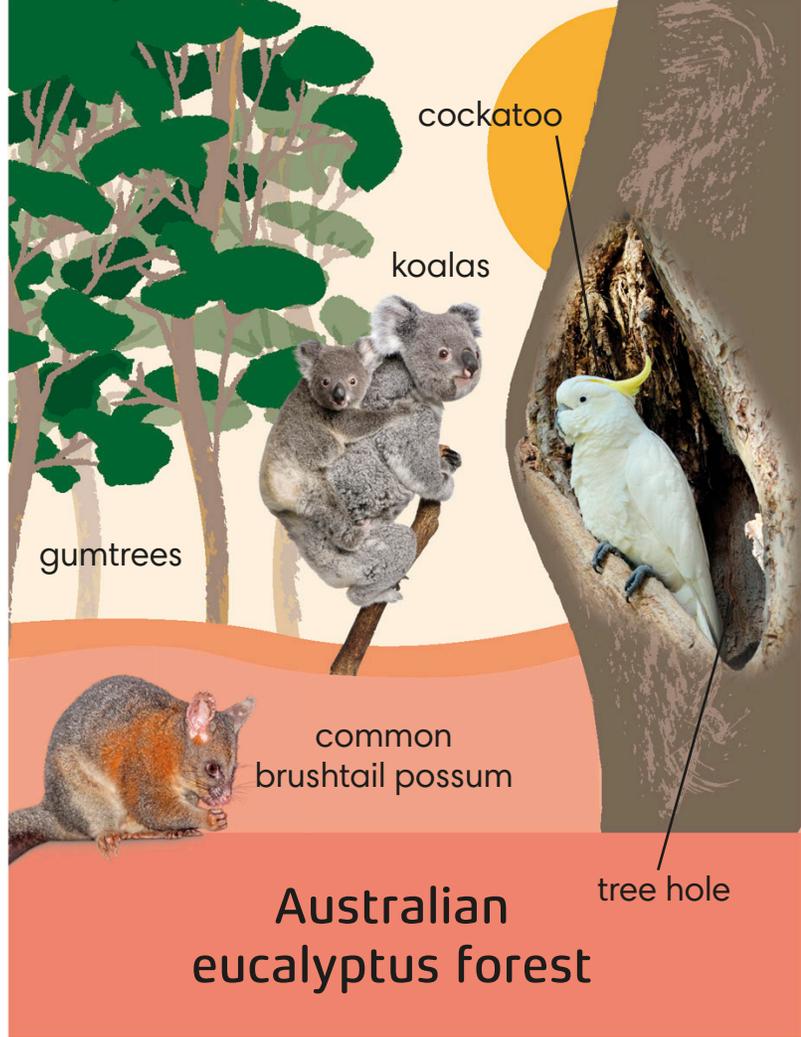
black bear



toadstool



chipmunk



# Rivers

Animals live in rivers, on riverbanks, and on the flat areas next to rivers, called floodplains.

weeping willow tree



burrow



riverbank



muskrat

fishing

water vole



osprey

Canada goose



fresh water



salmon



moorhen

carp



reeds



mayfly



pondweed

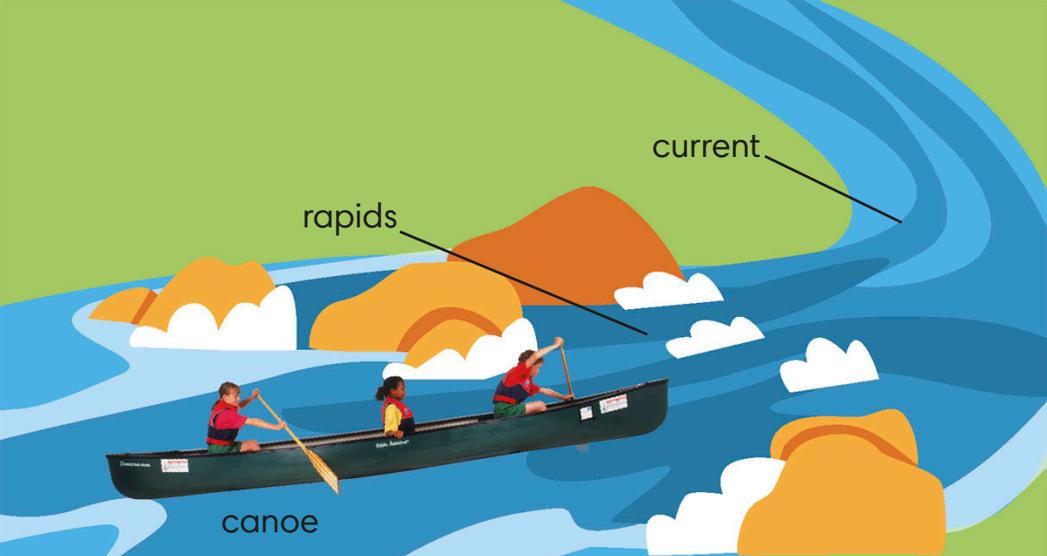


stickleback

crayfish



pike



Where does a river meet the sea?



sea estuary river

Spot the creature in the water that has an exoskeleton (a hard outer skeleton).



wild swimming



swan



duck



heron



dragonfly



otter



beaver



weir



floodplain



waterfall

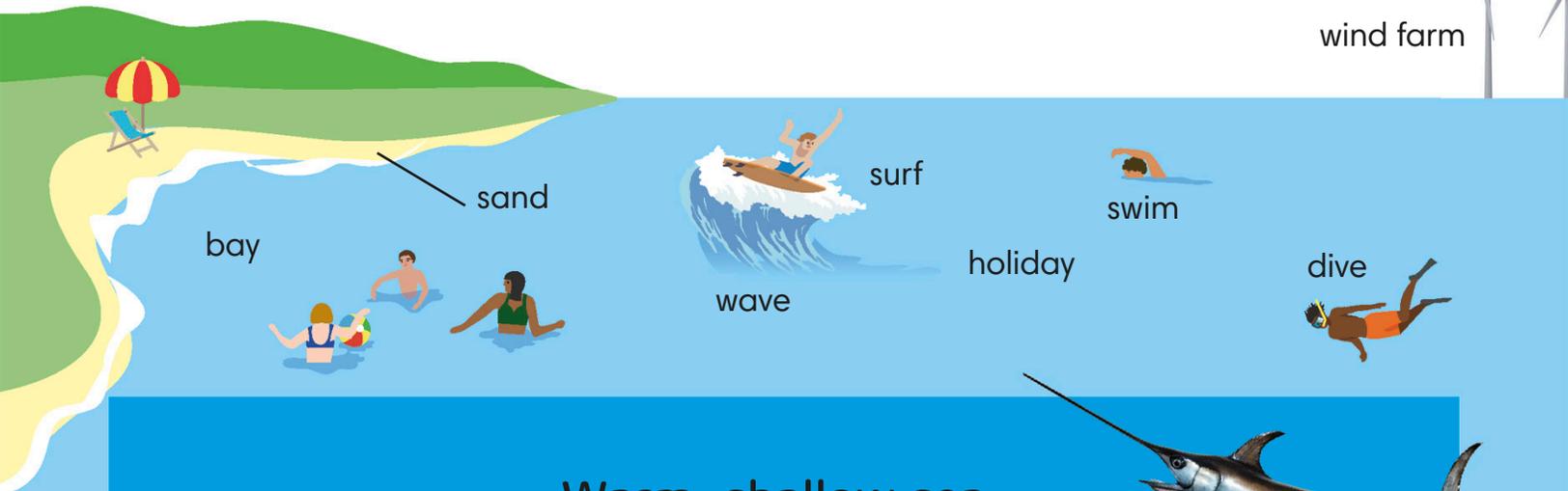


marsh

# Oceans and coasts

Most of Earth's surface is covered with water. That is why it looks blue from space.

wind farm



bay

sand

surf

swim

holiday

dive

wave

## Warm, shallow sea

octopus



Which sea animal has five long arms?

swordfish



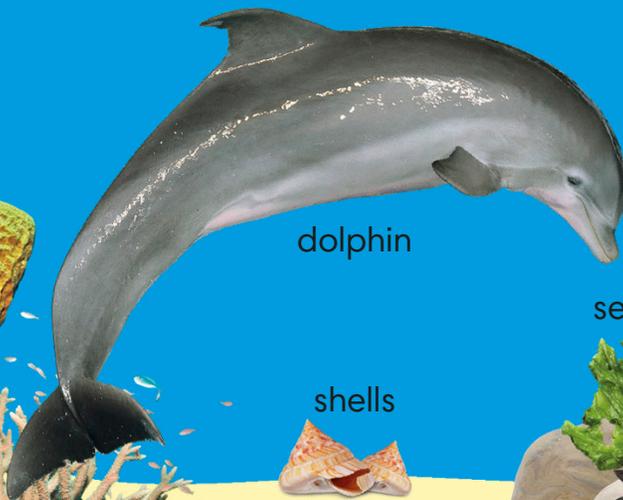
sea sponge



seahorse



dolphin



clownfish



seaweed



blue crab

shells



mussel



pebbles

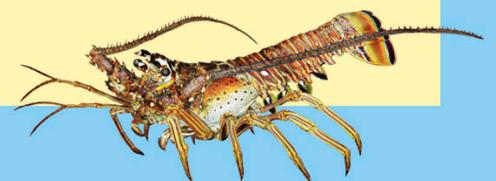
coral

sea anemone

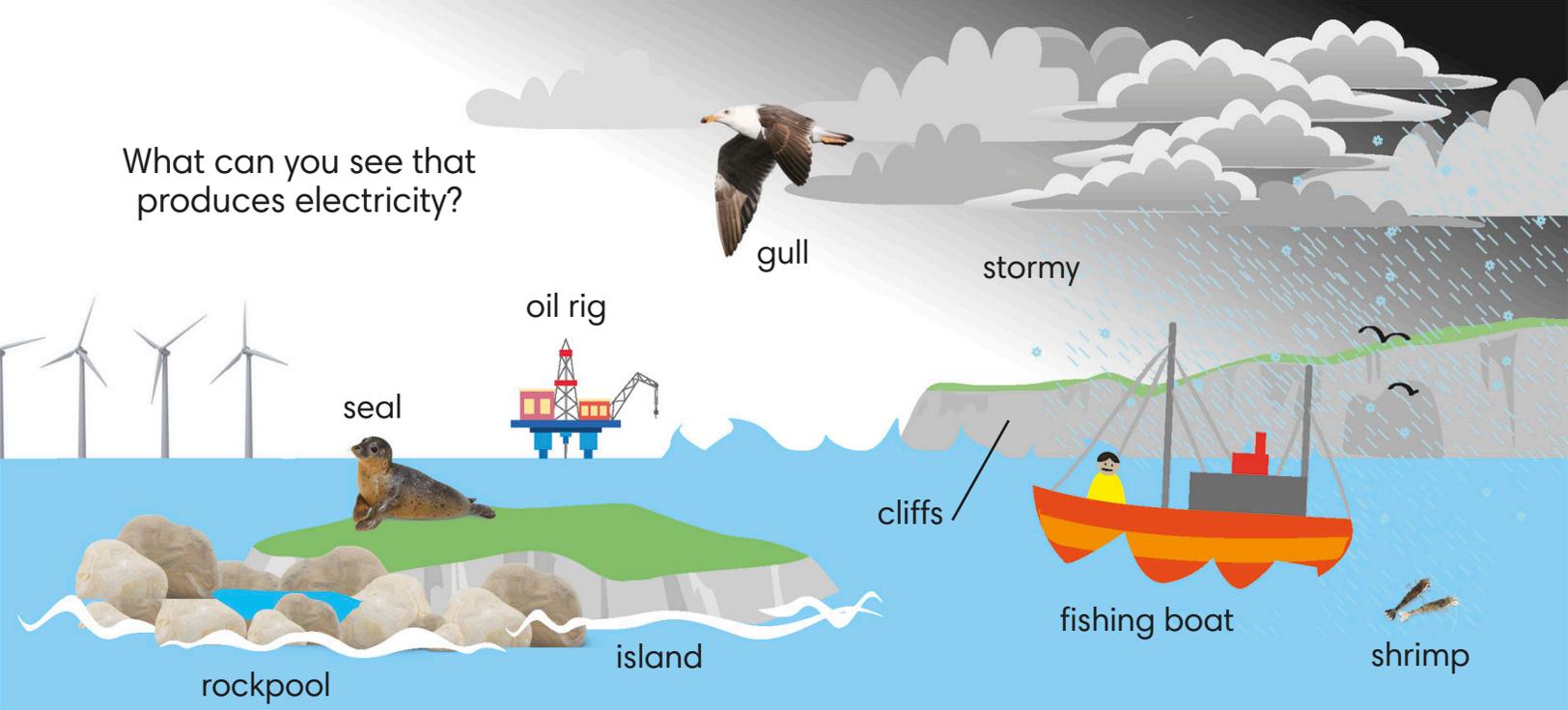


brittle star

spiny lobster



What can you see that produces electricity?



gull

stormy

oil rig

seal

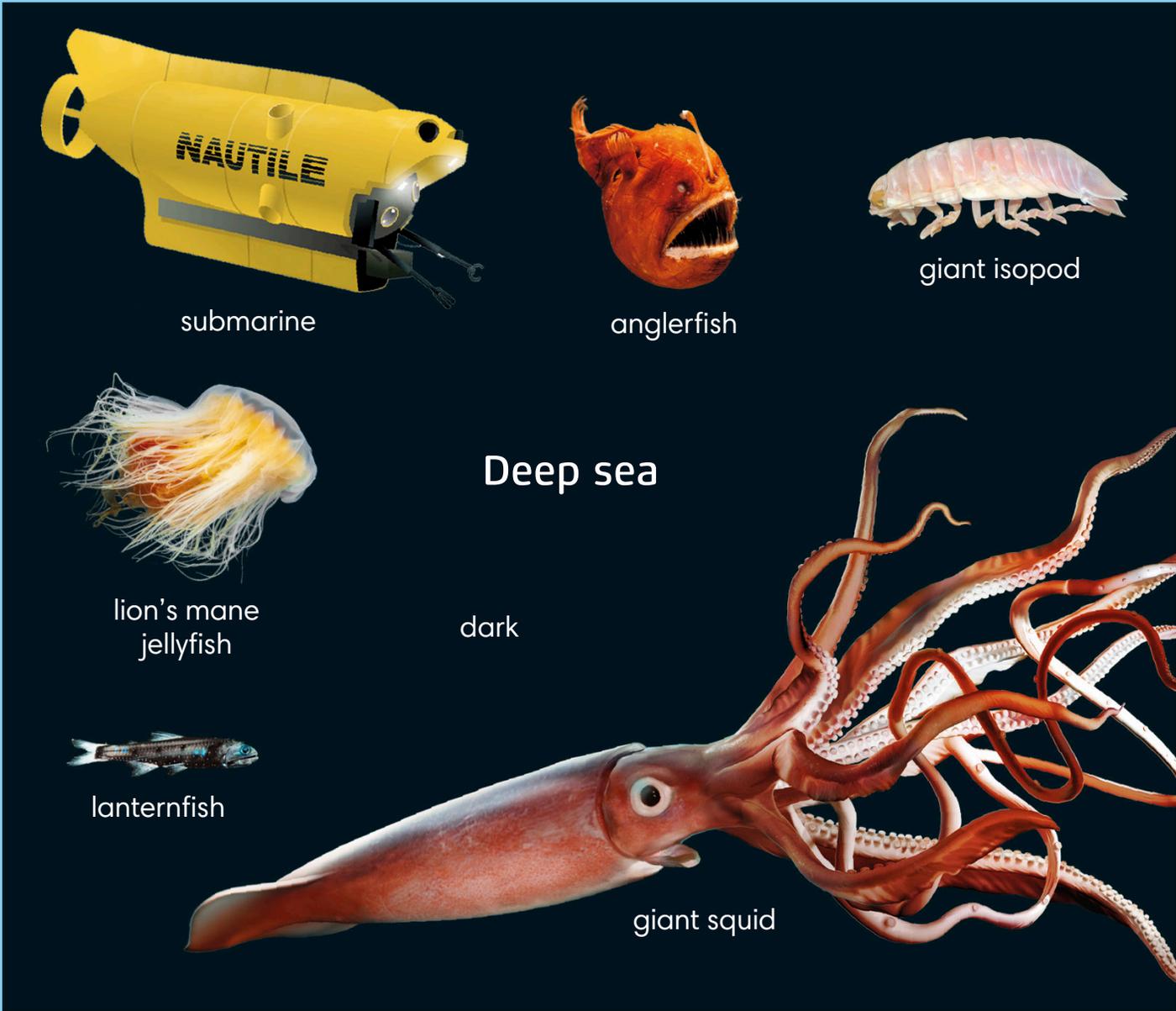
cliffs

fishing boat

shrimp

rockpool

island



submarine

anglerfish

giant isopod

Deep sea

lion's mane jellyfish

dark

lanternfish

giant squid

# Rainforests

Many animal species live in rainforests, and there are lots of new species still to be discovered. Let's look at what lives in the Amazon rainforest of South America.



sunny

high



kapok tree



harpy eagle

glide

blue morpho butterfly



## Emergent layer



toucan

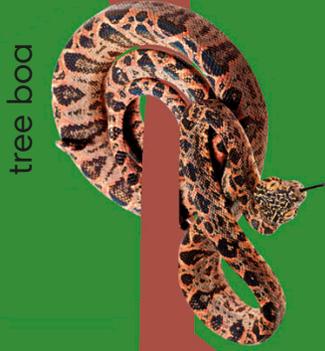


fly

macaw



vampire bat



tree boa



sloth

climb

capuchin monkey



howler monkey

hang



green iguana

What sounds might you hear in a rainforest?



jewel beetle



orchid bee

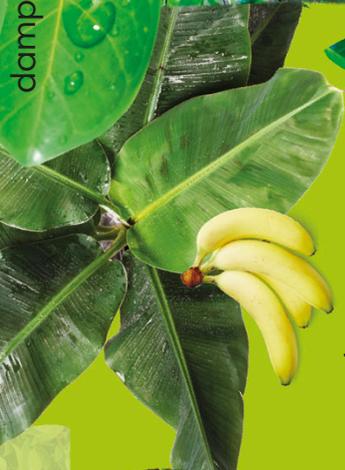
## Canopy



cocoa pod



jaguar



bananas

red-eyed tree frog



cocoa tree

## Understorey



harlequin beetle



armadillo



giant centipede



scorpion



giant anteater



churo snail



leaf cutter ant



decay

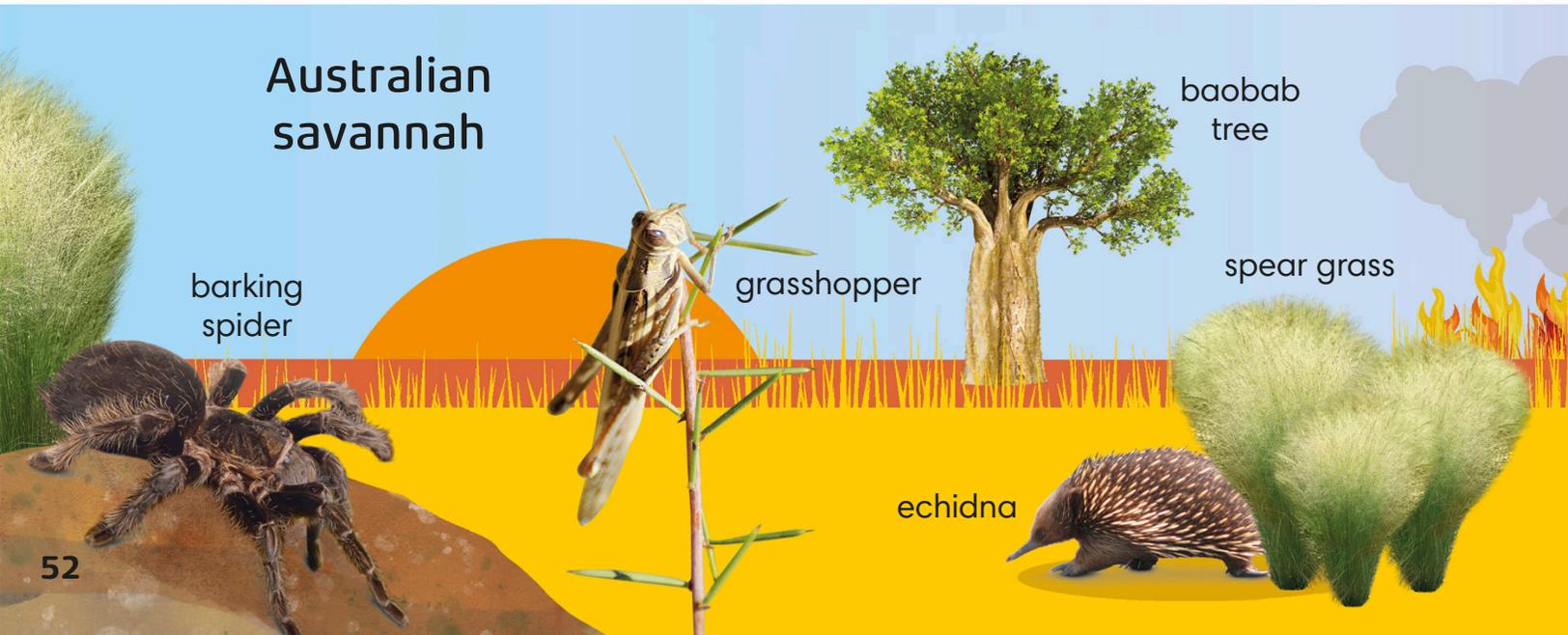
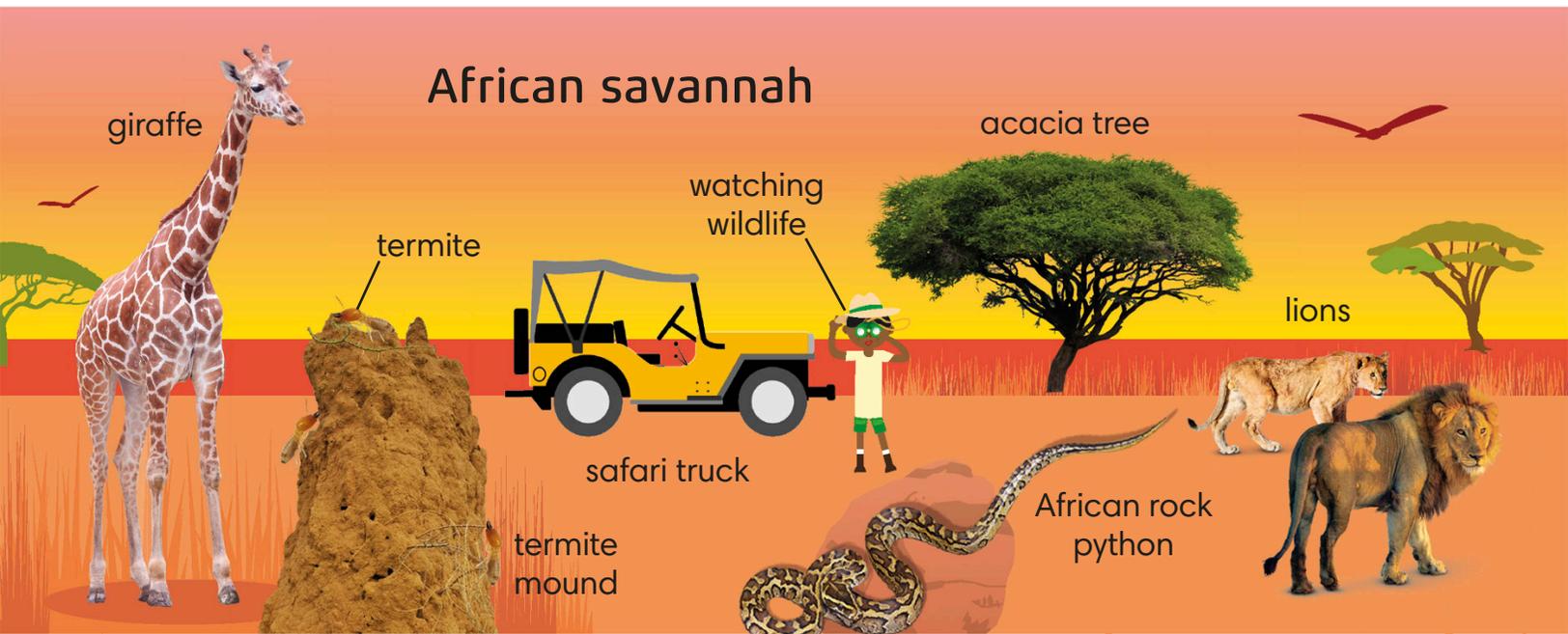
fungi

buttress roots

nutrient rich

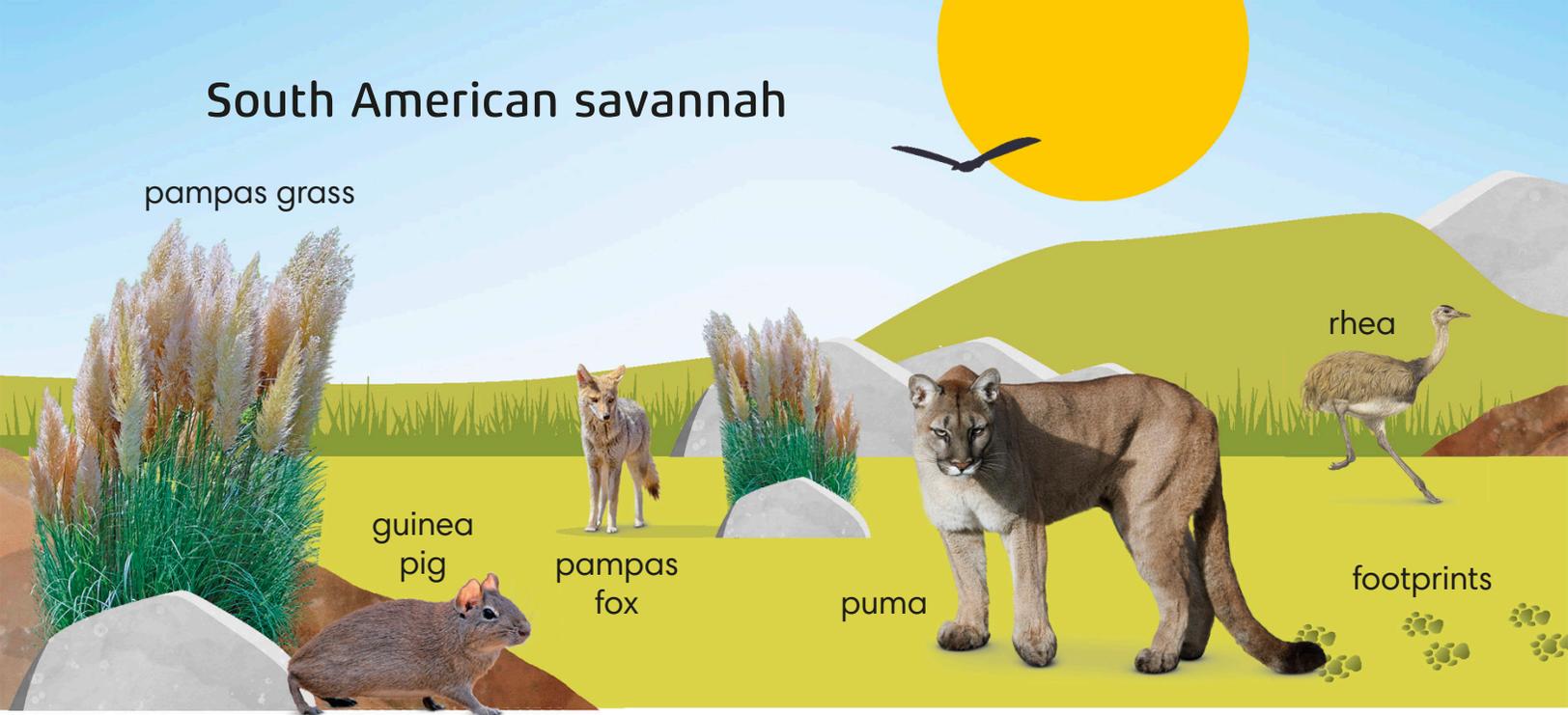
# Savannahs

Savannahs are flat grasslands with few trees. There are often wildfires, but plants regrow. Some of the biggest savannahs are in Africa, South America, and Australia.



# South American savannah

pampas grass



guinea pig

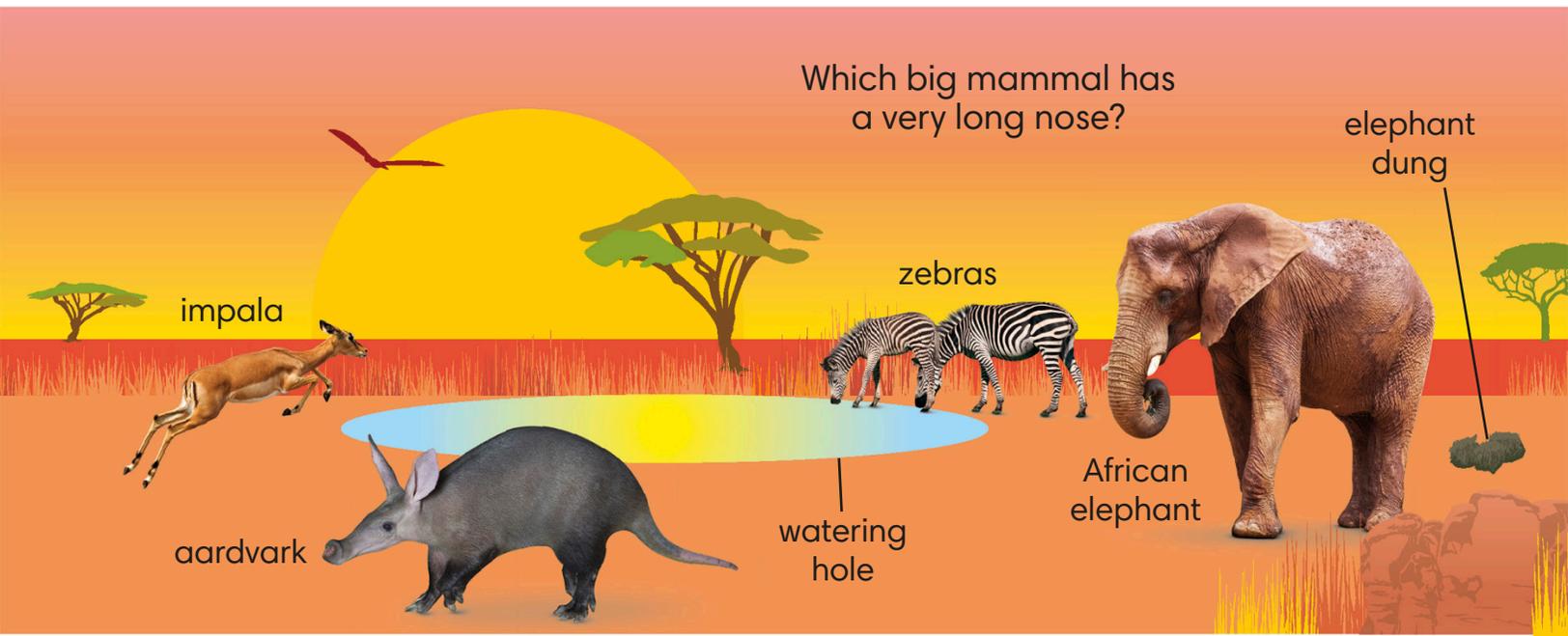
pampas fox

puma

rhea

footprints

Which big mammal has a very long nose?



impala

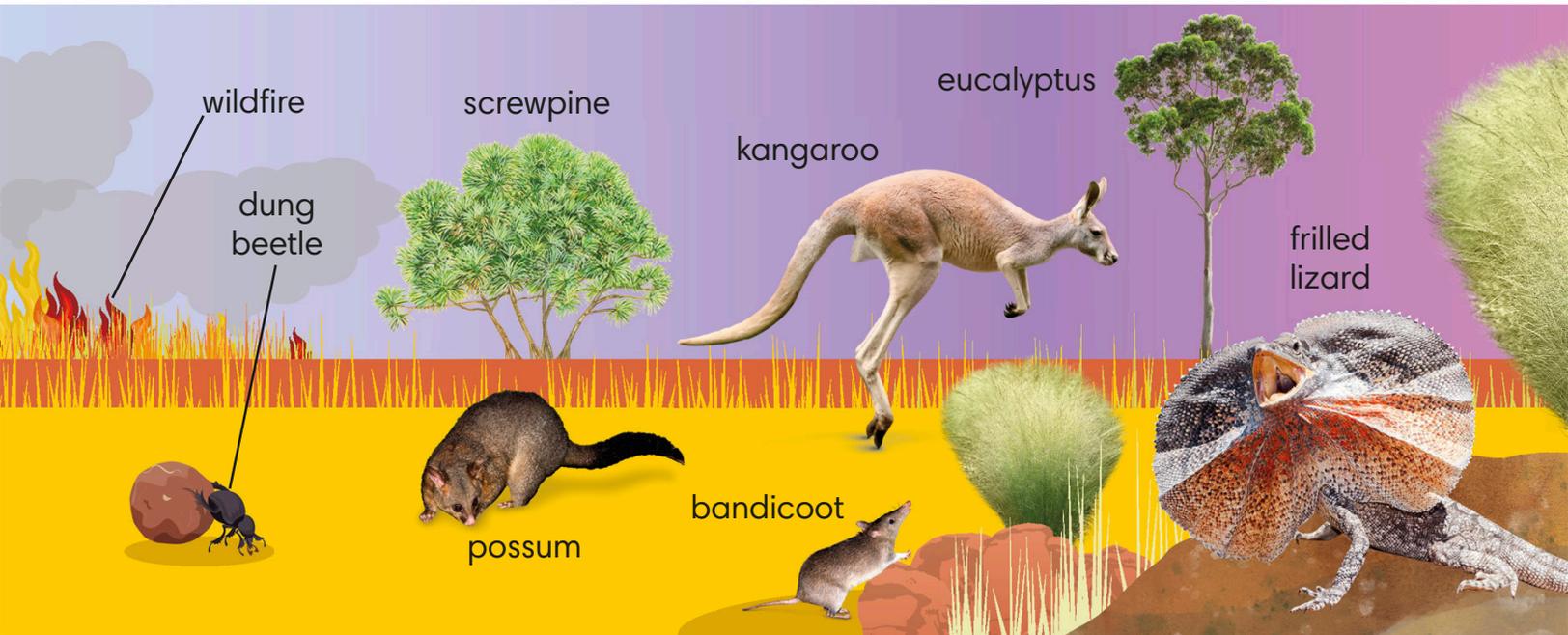
zebras

elephant dung

African elephant

watering hole

aardvark



wildfire

screw pine

eucalyptus

kangaroo

frilled lizard

dung beetle

possum

bandicoot

# Deserts

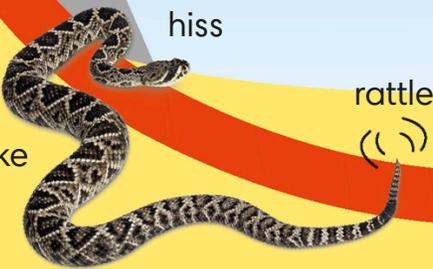
Deserts can be hot or cold, but they all get very little rain. Let's look around the Chihuahuan Desert in Mexico.



red-tailed hawk

hunt

Food chain



hiss

rattlesnake

rattle

flow of nutrients



jackrabbit



prickly pear cactus

What eats what in the food chain?



lizard



coyote



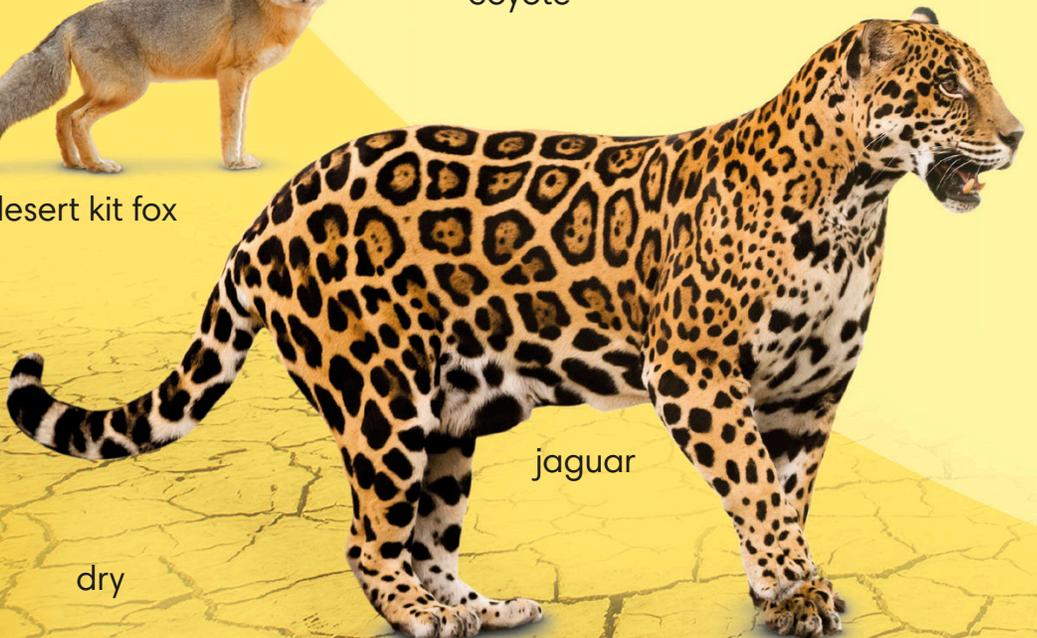
tumbleweed



desert kit fox



barrel cactus



jaguar

dry

sand dune

hot

sun

arid



golden eagle



grasshopper



dust storm

scorpion



bighorn sheep

sand



saguaro cactus

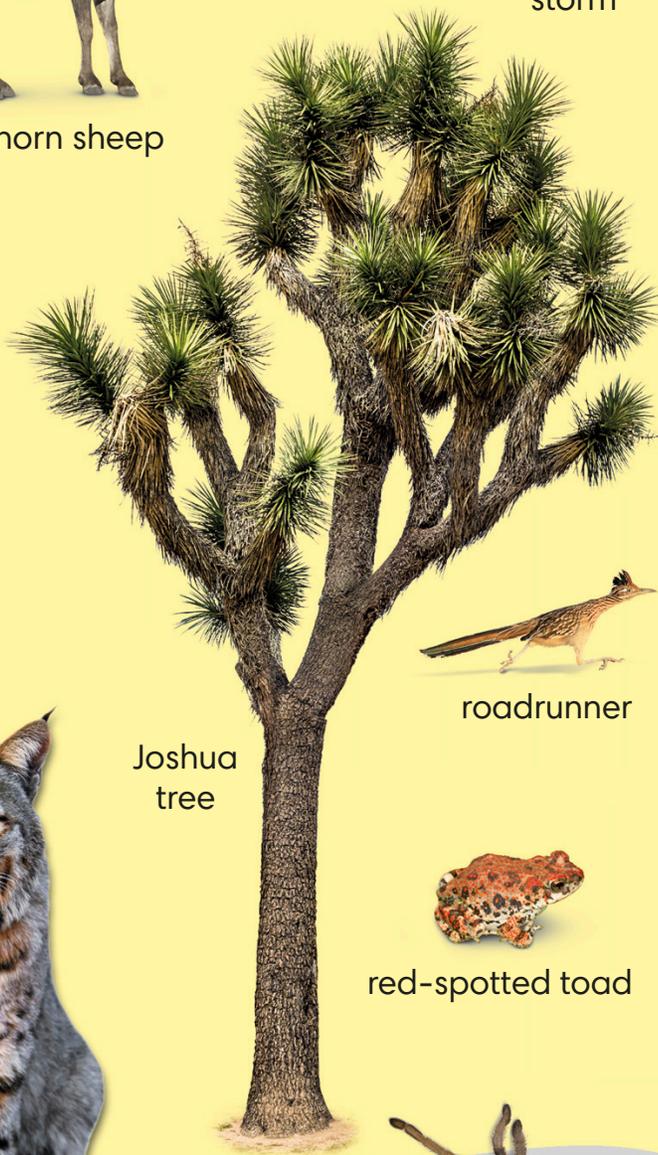
Find three birds and two reptiles.



yucca



aloe



Joshua tree



roadrunner

bobcat



red-spotted toad



desert ants

shade



tarantula

# Mountains

Mountains are towering lands of earth and stone. It gets colder as you go higher, so mountains are often snowy at the top.



golden eagle

snow

cold

sky

pine marten

stone

mountain goat

hiking

lynx

foothill

hiking boots

wolf

reindeer

red squirrel

cave

bear cub

Where could the mother bear make her den?

brown bear



cloud

summit

snowflakes

peregrine falcon

ski poles

ski

skier

frozen

mountain climber

mountain

rope

tent

camping

cyclists

bicycle

path

monarch butterflies

marmot

fish

waterfall

plunge pool

rocks

# Arctic and Antarctic

Some amazing animals and plants have adapted to survive in the freezing polar habitats of the Arctic and the Antarctic.

The wildlife is different in each place. Do penguins live in the Arctic or the Antarctic?

## Arctic



Arctic cottongrass



bog bilberry



grayleaf willow



reindeer lichen



snowy owl



walrus



Arctic tern



lemming



reindeer



Arctic hare



Arctic fox



polar bear



beluga whale

harp seal



ice

frozen



narwhal

# Antarctic

polar lights



Antarctic hair grass



Antarctic pearlwort

peak

mountain

snow

valley

wandering albatross



snow petrel



iceberg



krill

polar desert

orca



adelie penguin



leopard seal



Weddell seal



Spot three Antarctic mammals.

emperor penguin



starfish



gentoo penguin



# Protecting nature

We should take care of our world. The choices we make can harm or protect nature.

Which of the things on these pages help to protect nature?

## Our animals



conservation



protected wildlife reserve



anti-poaching unit



endangered



extinct

western black rhinoceros

reintroduction



kites

caring

seagull



zoo breeding programme

## Our farming



intensive farming

battery cage



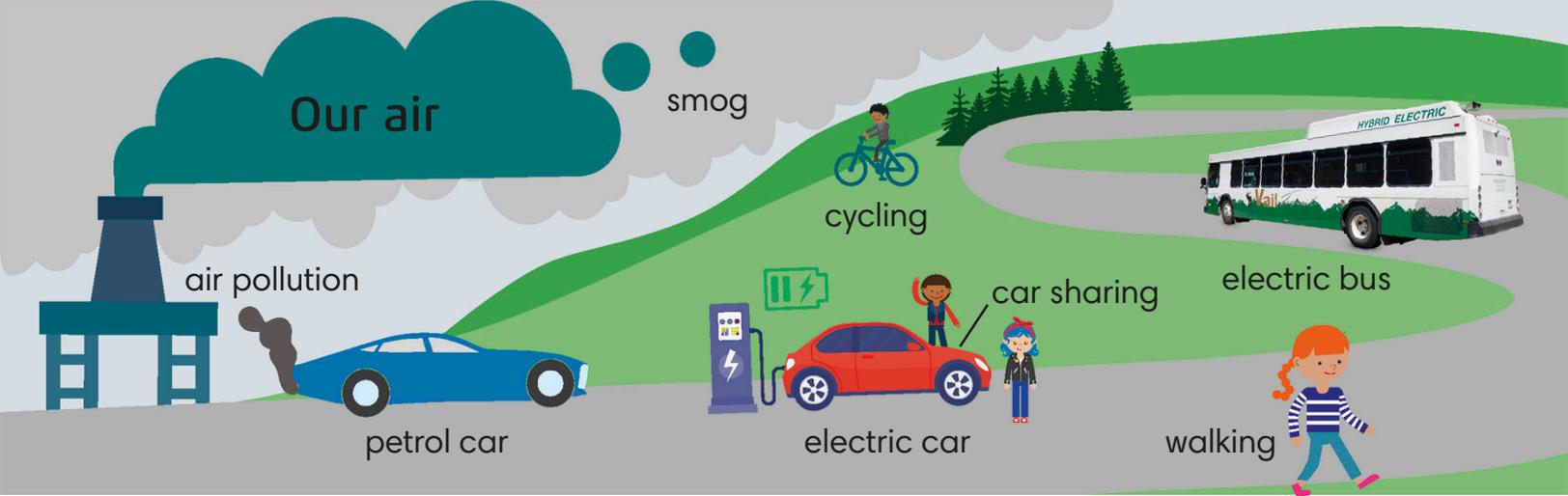
pesticide

crop spraying



Organic Farm

No Artificial Chemicals



## Our trees

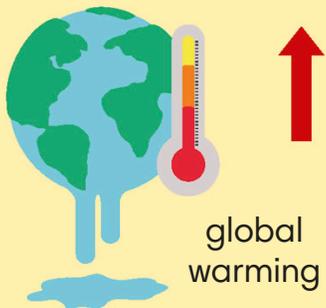


deforestation



reforestation

## Our climate



global warming



wildfires



floods



polar ice caps melting

Can we do something to help nature today?



## Our oceans



ocean litter



cleaning up

# Working with nature

There are many ways to work with nature, including jobs in which you can help to protect our planet and the species that live on it.



air quality scientist:  
checks air pollution



farmer



geologist: studies  
Earth's rocks



forester: looks  
after forests



zoologist:  
studies animals



entomologist:  
studies insects



environmental  
scientist: studies  
the environment



botanist:  
studies plants



gardener



tree surgeon



zookeeper



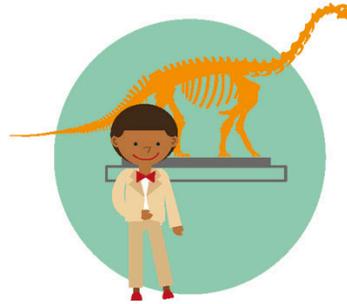
marine biologist:  
studies ocean life



vet



environmental activist:  
supports protecting  
the environment



natural history  
museum event  
manager



ecologist: studies  
living things and  
their environment



street cleaner



wildlife author



wildlife photographer



aquarist: manages  
an aquarium



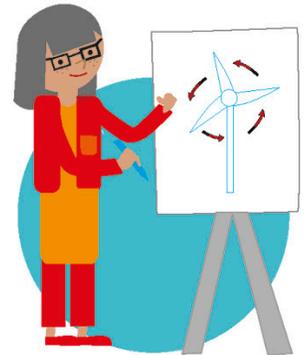
countryside ranger:  
looks after the  
countryside



safari guide



wildlife presenter



environmental engineer:  
designs things for  
the environment



animal rescue worker



seismologist:  
studies earthquakes

Which of these jobs  
would you like to do?

# Acknowledgements



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(Key: a=above; b=below/bottom; c=centre; f=far; l=left; r=right; t=top)

**1 123RF.com:** Liubov Shirokova (clb). **Dreamstime.com:** Marc Bruxelle (cra); Isselee (tc); Voevale (tl); Yanan Zhang (cl); Svetlana Larina / Blair\_witch (fclb); Nejrion (cb); Sabelskaya (br). **2 Dorling Kindersley:** Tom Grey (cla); Natural History Museum, London (tr). **Getty Images / iStock:** photo5963 (clb). **3 123RF.com:** isselee / Eric Isselee (clb); Prapan Ngawkeaw (cb/road); jackf / Iakov Filimonov (bl/wolf). **Dreamstime.com:** Iakov Filimonov (clb/goat); Phartisan (rock x3); Jpsdk / Jens Stolt (butterflies x3); Yotrak (cb/tent); Jackf / Iakov Filimonov (bc/reindeer); Nelizk (bc/squirrel). **Shutterstock.com:** Aleksandr Pobedimskiy (clb/sandstone). **6-7 Dreamstime.com:** Gritsalak Karalak (c). **6 Dreamstime.com:** Astrofireball (c). **7 Dorling Kindersley:** Dan Crisp (ca); Natural History Museum, London (cra); James Kueher (cb); Jon Hughes (bc). **Dreamstime.com:** Nicolas Fernandez (c); Markus Gann / Magann (tr). **8 123RF.com:** algre (cra). **Dreamstime.com:** Costasz (bc); Tomasz Śmigła (bc/cups); Vchalu (br); Rui Matos / Romat (cra); Robert Wilson / Robwilson39 (cr). **9 123RF.com:** julynx (tl); Martin Spurry (cla); Natthawut Panayosang / oopsan (ca). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Mouse in the House (bl). **Dreamstime.com:** Sergey Dzyuba (cr); Elena Kazanskaya (cla/bin); Tele52 (cra); Radha Karuppannan / Radhuvkeni (clb/x2); Stockphototrends (bc). **Getty Images / iStock:** Digital Vision Vectors / bubbleone (cl); photo5963 (c); youngD (ftl); pterwort (br). **10 123RF.com:** Inna Astakhova (cr); tempusfugit (bc); nerthuz (cb). **Dorling Kindersley:** Tracy Morgan (cb/dog). **Dreamstime.com:** Melanie Hobson (ca/landscape); Nexus7 (t); Isselee (cl); Theo Malings (clb); Eric Isselee (cr). **11 123RF.com:** Aaron Amat (clb/x3); Dmitry Rukhlenko / dimol (fca). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Justin Kase z 12s (bl). **Dreamstime.com:** Billy Ber (tr); Narathip Ruksa / Narathip12 (fr); Cammeraydave (cb); Cynoclub (bc); Jeroen Van Den Broek / Vandenbroek29 (bc/GuideDog); PhotoChur (br); Zbynek Burival / Merial (flr). **Fotolia:** Eric Isselee (bl); Norman Pogson (ca). **Getty Images / iStock:** Mac99 (cra); pifate (cra). **12 123RF.com:** fireflamenco (x3). **Dreamstime.com:** Catalin205 (clb, crb); Vectorikart (cra); Stockoxinxi (ca); Thomas Holt (cl); Macrovector (clb/net); Potka (br). **13 Dreamstime.com:** Akishin (tr); Vectorikart (cla); Andreanita (tr/bear); Miramiska (cra); Pavel Rodimov (c/stargazing); Kotenko (c); Gerald Zaffuts (c/storytelling); Christinola (cr); Sabelskaya (clb); Kellyrichardsonfl (bl); Pavel Naumov (cb/x4); Sergiy Bykhunenko (br); Macrovector (cl). **14 Dreamstime.com:** Andreiuc88 (cb); Antares614 (c); Nehru (br). **15 123RF.com:** Rune Kristoffersen (cla). **Dreamstime.com:** Mihai Andritoiu (cb); Mishoo (tl); Artisticco Llc (tr). **16 123RF.com:** justoomm (bc); Kitsadakraon Pongha (cra); nasaimages (c/cyclone). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Mike Hill (cl). **Dreamstime.com:** Arevhamb (bl); Andrey Armaygov (cla); Hul850627 (cl); Justin Hobson (cr); Trekanshoot (clb); Tesvc (cb); Elantsev (cra); Ruthchoi (br). **17 123RF.com:** alicenerr (c). **Alamy Stock Photo:** SPUNIK (tr). **Dreamstime.com:** Giuseppe Di Paolo (ca); Siemprender22 (cla); Dmitry Pichugin / Dmityr (ca/Everest); Valore (cl); Unissunil (c/Mawsynram); Jon Chica Parada (cr). **Getty Images:** Daniel Osterkamp (bc). **Getty Images / iStock:** Jorge Villalba (bl). **18 123RF.com:** Ruth Jenkinson / stevanzz (bl); Andrzej Tokarski / ojt (tc); Przemyslaw Koch (fclb). **Dorling Kindersley:** Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre, Hampshire, UK (cra); Thomas Palmer (cb). **Dreamstime.com:** Digitalimagined (clb/liverwort); Anna Sedneva / Sedneva (clb/grass); Vitalssss (c); Sarah2 (cra/tick); Ildar Galeev (cb). **Fotolia:** Karl Bolt (fca). **Getty Images:** iStock: Antogian (clb). **19 123RF.com:** smileus (tc); Pavlo Vakhrushev / vapi (cla); Ten Theeralertham / rawangatk (cl); Thawat Tanhai (bl). **Dreamstime.com:** Conchasdiver (clb); Lgor Dolgov / Id1974 (tr); Ronnichuach (cb); Kotomiti\_okuma (cb); Kazoka (cr). **20 Dreamstime.com:** Cherdachi Chaimval (cb/bud); Vaclav Valrab (cla); Kaiwut Niponkaew (ca); Tamboy2290 (cra/Basil); Natali572 (cra); Ppy2010ha (clb); Dewins (bc); Lepas (bl); Oleg Dudko (fclb); Bogdan Lazar (cb); Songyuth Unkong (cra); Mikhail Dudarev (br). **21 123RF.com:** Anna Liebedieva / utima (cl); oledgudko (c/Kiwi). **Dorling Kindersley:** Neil Fletcher (cra). **Dreamstime.com:** Anton Ignatenko (c); Zerbor (cl); David Ridley (ftl); Paul Rookes (tl); Zerbor (fca); Natika (clb); Elena Schweizer / Egal (cb); Roman Ivaschenko (bl); Roman Ivaschenko (bl/seaweed); Vetre Antanovicute-meskauskiene (bc). **Getty Images / iStock:** DNY59 (fca). **Shutterstock.com:** Daydream Digital Studio (tr). **22 Dorling Kindersley:** Centre for Wildlife Gardening / London Wildlife Trust (ca). **Dreamstime.com:** Marc Bruxelle (cl); Voevale (cl); Pipa100 (clb); Dreamstock (cb); Filmfoto (bl); Anatoliy Mandrichenko (bc). **22-23 Dreamstime.com:** Andreykuzmin (bl); Zerbor (c). **23 Dreamstime.com:** Deniria777 (cra); Anton Ignatenko (tl); Ievgenii Tryfonov (bc); Setory (br); Majormetts (cra); Zorica Vitonovic (ca). **24 Dreamstime.com:** Domnitsky (ca); Md. Rakibul Hassan (sunflower life cycle); llnal (tr). **25 Dreamstime.com:** Elena Elisseeva (cr); Nadiia Havryliuk Kharzhevska (bl/mushroom cycle); Luayana (bl/apple tree life cycle); Angelo Gilardelli (tr); Lenazajchikova (cra); Pavel Rodimov (br); Wirestock (clb); Thawats (cla). **26 123RF.com:** Aleksandr Ermolaev (tr). **Dreamstime.com:** Anankml (bc); Photodeti (ca); Wirestock (br). **Fotolia:** Mark Higgins (fbr). **Getty Images / iStock:** LUNAMARINA (bl). **27 Alamy Stock Photo:** SConcepts (bl). **Dreamstime.com:** Jason W. Baker (tl); Isselee (cra); Svetlana Larina / Blair\_witch (ftl); Pimmimemom (tc); Stevenrussellsmithphotos (ca, fca); Vasily Vishnevskiy (cl); Isselee (cr); Cinnamongirl (cra). **Science Photo Library:** Claude Nuridsany & Marie Perennou (tr). **Shutterstock.com:** Lamni Manas (cb). **28 123RF.com:** Anna Utekhina (bc). **Dreamstime.com:** Accept001 (c); Isselee (bc/dalmation); Judith Dzierzawa (br); Alexander Potapov (clb); Isselee (clb/sheep); Alexander Potapov (cra); Isselee (cra/cow); Tristana / Kseniya Abramova (ca); Isselee (cl). **Fotolia:** Anatolii (cb); Olena Pantükh (cra). **Getty Images:** mikromanó (bl). **29 123RF.com:** Cathy Keifer (tc); smileus (tr). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Lee Dalton (cl). **Dorling Kindersley:** British Wildlife Centre, Surrey, UK (cl). **Dreamstime.com:** Linda Caldwell (bl); Toby Gibson (bc); Dizzizzmee (ca); Paul Farnfield (fca); Steve Oehlenschlaeger (tl); Brett Handow (tc/wolf spider). **Fotolia:** Eric Isselee (c). **Getty Images:** Photodisc / Don Farrall (tl). **30 123RF.com:** Visarute Angkatavanich (br). **Dreamstime.com:** Adogilifephoto (cla); Suisa Kangyansap (bc); Prin Pattawaro (bl); Graeme Snow (cra); Billybruce2000 (cb); Marcin Wojciechowski (cr); Joanna Zapoth Lipiejko (c); Sonsedskaya (cl); Isselee (cra); Gianluca Piccin (ca). **Getty Images / iStock:** RAUSINPHOTO (clb). **31 Dreamstime.com:** Mira Agron (fca); Sebastian Kaulitzki (br); Pavel Trankov (cb); Steve Allen (bl); Isselee (cra); Isselee (cb); Isselee (cl); Gualberto Becerra (cr); Marco Tomasini (cl); Duncan Noakes (fca); Wrangle (cra); Melinda Fawer (ca); Svetlana Foote (cl); Dirk Ercken (fca); Jacoba Susanna Maria Swanepoel (ftr); Wildlife World (tr); Jagodka (tc); Alexandercreator (tl); Reimarg (ftr). **32 123RF.com:** ksen32 / Oksana Tkachuk (cra/charomelie). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Jason Bazzano (br); mauritius images GmbH / Kurt Madersbacher (cra). **Dreamstime.com:** Andreanita (ca); Jose Manuel Gelpi Diaz (cra/vulture); Valentyna Chukhlyebova (ca, cr); Hwongcc (cla, c); Golfx (cb); Marazem (bc); Dmitry Potashkin (bl); Pop Nukoonrat (sky). **33 Dreamstime.com:** Kharis Agustiar (cr); Jocrebbin (bc); Zedrecations / SACHITH (webs x2); Geerati (cra); Duncan Noakes (cla). **Getty Images:** The Image Bank / Joe McDonald (bl). **Getty Images / iStock:** Parrotstarr (clb); superjoseph (cl); pixhook (ca/bamboo). **34 123RF.com:** Isselee Eric Philippe (c). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Arterra Picture Library / Clement Philippe (br). **Dreamstime.com:** Callipso88 (cr); Vasyi Helevachuk (clb); Dizm (cb); Isselee (cra); Wildlife World (ca); Corey A Ford (cla). **Getty Images:** Photodisc / Don Farrall (cl). **Shutterstock.com:** A.Mac.Photo (cl). **35 123RF.com:** John McAllister (cl); utima (ca). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Bill Coster (c); Polly (br); Les Gibbon (bl). **Dreamstime.com:** Angel Luis Simon Martin (cra); Sergeyoch (clb). **Getty Images:** Hearst Newspapers / San Francisco Chronicle (cra). **Getty Images:** iStock: LuckyTD (cl). **36 123RF.com:** swavo (br); Andrzej Tokarski / ojt (c). **Dorling Kindersley:** Natural History Museum, London (cr). **Dreamstime.com:** Isselee (cl); Alexander Konoplyov (br/bacteria); Stu Porter (cra); Mrphotography (tl). **Getty Images / iStock:** bbvren (bl). **37 123RF.com:** Eric Isselee (cr). Ardea / r / Science Source / Tom McHugh (cl). **Dorling Kindersley:** Natural History Museum, London (c); Jerry Young (bl); Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Kent, UK (tl). **Dreamstime.com:** Isselee (clb); Jblackstock / Justin Black (cb); Yves Sauter (c/cloctopus). **38 123RF.com:** Eric Isselee (cra). **Dreamstime.com:** Nchuprin / Andrey Sukhachev (cra/bacteria); Angeliqwe Nijssen (bl); Thatsaphon Saengnarongrat (tr). **38-39 Dreamstime.com:** Andreykuzmin (soil); Smishko (sand texture). **39 123RF.com:** Sayompi Chamranik (bc/footprints). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Rosanne Tackabery (br). **Dorling Kindersley:** Dreamstime.com: Andreykuzmin (b); Djarrn (br/graph); Kosmos11 (tl); Сергей Кучульгний (bl); Тамара Куликова (cb); Hommalia (tc); Dave Nelson (ca); Thanthip Homsansri (cla); Lcrrms7 (cl); Typsiod (clb). **Shutterstock.com:** Mikko (cl). **40 123RF.com:** alekss / Alexandr Pakhnyushchy (bl); Anatolii Tsekhmister (cra). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Don Despain (clb). **Dorling Kindersley:** Dreamstime.com: Chernetskaya (fca); Uros Petrovic (br); Pzaxe (bc); Loren File (cra); vonne Wierink (fcrb/pots); Jgade (cla). **Shutterstock.com:** Artiste2d3d (fca). **41 Dreamstime.com:** Nikolay Antonov (clb/worm); Kristof Lauwers (br); Pimmimemom (cra); Aleksandr Volkov (clb); Fibiojects (cb); Luceluceluce (clb/soil); Atlasoforeception (cra/gloves); Boulanger Sandrine (cr); Budit Mirnamrang (cla); Sergiy1975 (cla/lawn mower). **42-43 Dreamstime.com:** Miriam Doerr (flower x3); Eugenesergeev (grass); Miriam Doerr (wild flowers x3); Supertrouper (c). **42 123RF.com:** peterwaters (clb/bee). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Life on white (cla/horse). **Dorling Kindersley:** Mark Hamblin (cra). **Dreamstime.com:** Amniflorac (ca); Tazzyphoto (ca); Brett Critchley (clb); Isselee (c); Dzmityr Shpak (fcrb); Inna Kyselova (cra); Nipaporn Panacharoen (cb/barley); Thawats (bc). **Shutterstock.com:** Volosina (clb). **43 Alamy Stock Photo:** Islandstock (cla). **Dorling Kindersley:** Iwan Leenders (cb/snake). **Dreamstime.com:** Tony Bosse (tr); Mickem (bc); Thora (cb); Chuyu (clb); Sandra Standbridge (cl); Isselee (c); Romica (cra); Palians (cra/harvester); Mariya Kondratyeva (cra/land). **44 123RF.com:** Eric Isselee (c). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Imagebroker / Arco / J. Fieber (bl). **Dorling Kindersley:** Roger Tidman (cl). **Dreamstime.com:** ActiveLines; Macrovector (clb); Isselee (cra); Stephanie Frey (cr); Zerbor (tr); Atman (cl); Mille19 (clb/wl). **Getty Images / iStock:** MarkMirror (cb). **45 123RF.com:** Eric Isselee (cra/kool). **Dreamstime.com:** Karen Black (cra); Alexander Potapov (bc); Susan Sheldon (bl); Geoffrey Kuchera (bl/bear); Donyanedomam (clb); Lunamarina (clb); David Steele (ca). **Getty Images / iStock:** GlobalP (cb). **Shutterstock.com:** aphotostory (cra). **46-47 Dreamstime.com:** David Watson (bc). **Shutterstock.com:** xpixel (cane x5). **46 123RF.com:** Stanko Mravljak (cra/mayfly). **Dorling Kindersley:** Dreamstime.com: G3miller / Gordon Miller (cr); Zerbor (tr); Eduard Kyslynskiy (ca); Dennis Jacobsen (c); Kevin Wells (cb); Photohreak (cra); Roman Ivaschenko (bl). **Shutterstock.com:** Igor Podgorny (cla). **47 123RF.com:** Stefan Holm (clb/dragonfly); NewAge (cl). **Dorling Kindersley:** Roger Tidman (cl). **Dreamstime.com:** Natalya Aksenova (ca); Sovat004 (br); Ilyas Kalimullin (cra); Kobchaima (cra); Wirestock (tr); Jnhuz (clb); Zeytun Images (cb). **48-49 Getty Images / iStock:** photo5963 (bl). **48 Alamy Stock Photo:** Doug Perrine (cr); SBS Electric Images (cb); Carsten Reisinger (cra); WaterFrame\_dpr (clb). **Dorling Kindersley:** Natural History Museum, London (bl); Linda Pitkin (cl). **Dreamstime.com:** Kevin Panizza (fclb); Pipa100 (cb/lettuce); Harvey Stowe (cra). **Fotolia:** uwimages (cra/anemonefish). **49 123RF.com:** feathercollector (cra). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Minden Pictures / Norbert Wu (cl). **Dorling Kindersley:** Tom Grey (tc). **Dreamstime.com:** Robertasalle (clb). **naturepl.com:** Solvin Zankl (clb/lanternfish). **50-51 Dreamstime.com:** Surachet Khamsuk. **50 123RF.com:** Hal Brindley (tr); Hal Brindley (fca). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Ivan Kuzmin (tr); Nature Picture Library / MYN / Andrew Snyder (cra); Nature Picture Library / Nick Garbutt (cb/eagle). **Dreamstime.com:** Carlossphotos (cb); Nejrion (cb); Chansom Pantip (ftr); Arindam Ghosh (cra). **naturepl.com:** Luiz Claudio Marigo (cla). **51 123RF.com:** anankml / Anan Kaewkhammul (cb/jaguar); Ajay Bhaskar (r). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Zizza Gordon Insect collection (bl). **Dreamstime.com:** Beautifullblossom (tr); Ryszard Laskowski (bc); Gan Chaonon (br); Whiskybottle (bc/orchid); Isselee (cr); Olga Soe (red flowers x3); Theanaturgyv1 (clb); Morley Read (cra/scorpion); Vlad Ivtanov (c); Superok (cla); Douglas Delgado (cra); Ekeys (tl); Waropht Wapakphet (tl/leaves). **naturepl.com:** Gabriel Rojo (cra). **52 123RF.com:** woldemar (bc/baobab). **Dreamstime.com:** Bennymarty (cra); Yanan Zhang (cl); Snehitdesign (c); Alexander Shalamov (cr); Kewuwu (c/tree); Fritz Hiersche (bc); Svetlana485 (br); Alexandr Yutchenko (tc). **naturepl.com:** Piotr Naskrecki (clb/ant 1, clb/ant 2, clb/ant 3). **53 Alamy Stock Photo:** Ken Griffiths (br). **Dorling Kindersley:** Blackpool Zoo (clb); Wildlife Heritage Foundation, Kent, UK (cra). **Dreamstime.com:** Anektho (tr); Lev Kopotov (cra); Pokes / Jan Pokorna (cb); Birdlegat17 (bc); Izanbar (bc/possum); Godruma (bl); Johan63 / Johannes Gerhardus Swanepoel (cl); Luca Santilli (c); Vicsapawalker (cla); Luciano Queiroz (ca); Rafael Cerqueira (clb/guinea pig). **54 123RF.com:** coekelma / Andrey Armaygov (b); Anan Kaewkhammul / anankml (br). **Alamy Stock Photo:** George Brice (bl); Robert Shantz (cb); Mike Lane (cra). **Dorling Kindersley:** Andy and Gill Swash (cr). **Dreamstime.com:** Steve Byland (tl); Derrick Neill (clb); Eutoch (fca); Isselee (cl). **55 123RF.com:** alhovik (fca); Natalie Ruffing (cr); sladerer / Scott Laderer (ca); Ufuk Zivana (ca/cactus). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Arterra Picture Library / Clement Philippe (bc); Nature Picture Library / John Abbott (bl); Rick & Nora Bowers (cra). **Dreamstime.com:** Dikar (clb); Frank Fichtmueller (fcrb); Skyetphoto (cra); Domnitsky (c); Withgod / Alexander Podshivalov (tl); Vally (cla). **56-56 Dreamstime.com:** Phartisan (rock x4). **56-57 Shutterstock.com:** Aleksandr Pobedimskiy (br/sandstone x2). **56 123RF.com:** jackf / Iakov Filimonov (cb). **Alamy Stock Photo:** Niebrugge Images (br); Paulette Sinclair (cb/boar); Ronald S Phillips (bc). **Dreamstime.com:** Jim Cumming (cra); Jackf / Iakov Filimonov (cra); Iakov Filimonov (ca); Nelizk (clb). **57 123RF.com:** isselee / Eric Isselee (clb); Prapan Ngawkeaw (cl). **Dreamstime.com:** Jpsdk / Jens Stolt (butterflies x3); Yotrak (cla). **Shutterstock.com:** Yes058 Montree Nanta (br/granite). **58 Alamy Stock Photo:** All Canada Photos / Wayne Lynch (fclb); Dembinsky Photo Associates / Alamy / Dominique Paul (cb); Bob Gibbons (cra); Realimage (cla). **Dorling Kindersley:** Jerry Young (br). **Dreamstime.com:** Devan Crosby (bl); Planetfelicity (br); Luna Vandoorne Vallejo (bc); Grafner (br); Outdoorsman (fcrb); Uhg1234 (clb/reindeer); Zanskar / Vladimir Melnik (cla/walrus); Luis Leamus (cr); I'mar idyattullin (fca); Troyka (ca). **Getty Images / iStock:** Karyn Schiller (clb); Vana. **59 Alamy Stock Photo:** era-images / Colin Harris (tr); Minden Pictures / Norbert Wu (bc). **Dreamstime.com:** Agami Photo Agency (cla); Photographerlondon (br); Sharon Jones (cra); Vika Ivanets (cb); Freezingpictures / Jan Martin Will (cr); Slowmotongli (c); Staphy (ca); Biletskiy (tl); Viktoria Ivanets (tc). **Getty Images:** Digital Vision / David Tipling (bl). **60 Alamy Stock Photo:** Roger Hutchings (cra); WhiskeyWolf (cl); Aray and Steve Tonon (c). **Dreamstime.com:** Adogilifephoto (cb); Chuchart Duangdang (br); Biletskiy (b); Comzeal (cl); Hel080808 (cr); Nilanjani Bhattacharya (cla/tiger); Maxif (cra/ant poaching unit); Sanant Thaneerat (cla). **61 Dreamstime.com:** Steve Allen (bc); Skylightpictures (cb); Andrey Koturanov (cb/Waterflood); David Pereira Villagra (br); Romolo Tavani (cr); Win Nondakowit (bl); Gpgroup (clb); Sjors737 (cra); Piotr Wawrzyński (cla); Noamfein (tr). **64 Dreamstime.com:** Marc Bruxelle (tr/Maple); Voevale (tr); Nadiia Havryliuk Kharzhevska (cra); Zerbor (tr/maple tree)

**Cover images:** Front and Back: **Dreamstime.com:** Irinar; **Front:** 123RF.com: Aaron Amat (bc / Ostrich), jackf / Iakov Filimonov (cl, madlen (sprout), Liubov Shirokova (Flower), Andrzej Tokarski / ojt (br), Anatolii Tsekhmister (squirrel); **Dorling Kindersley:** Blackpool Zoo (clb); Centre for Wildlife Gardening / London Wildlife Trust (Hollyleaf), Mark Hamblin (cl), Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre, Hampshire, UK (tarantula), Natural History Museum, London (butterfly), Jerry Young (Bumblebee); **Dreamstime.com:** Atman (leaf), Marc Bruxelle (MapleLeaf), Carlossphotos (Butterflyx2), Deniria777 cr, Lgor Dolgov / Id1974 cra, Dreamstock (fir), Dvrca cr / weevil), Iakov Filimonov (cla / goat), Angelo Gilardelli (br, Godruma ca / (beetle), Vasyi Helevachuk (robin), Eric Isselee (Silkworm), Isselee (Deer), Jblackstock / Justin Black tr, Jgade (frog), Johan63 / Johannes Gerhardus Swanepoel (impala), Svetlana Larina / Blair\_witch (clb, Nejrion (parrot), Matee Nuserm fcrb, Pokes / Jan Pokorna (clb / Kangaroo), Stu Porter (Cheetah), Alexander Potapov (agarc), Stevenrussellsmithphotos (bc / Butterfly), Ievgenii Tryfonov (cl / trunk), Vasily Vishnevskiy (cb / Rock), Voevale (brown leaf); **Dreamstime.com:** Fuse (cb / Jaguar); **Getty Images / iStock:** GlobalP tl, igorkov (eagle); **Back:** 123RF.com: madlen (sprout), Liubov Shirokova (Flower), **Dreamstime.com:** Anankml / Anan Kaewkhammul (cra); **Dorling Kindersley:** Jerry Young (stickleback fish), Centre for Wildlife Gardening / London Wildlife Trust (Hollyleaf), Iwan Leenders tl, Liberty's Owl, Raptor and Reptile Centre, Hampshire, UK (tarantula), Natural History Museum, London (butterfly), Jerry Young (Bumblebee); **Dreamstime.com:** Atman (leaf), Marc Bruxelle (MapleLeaf), Dreamstock (fir), Dvrca (weevil), Freezingpictures / Jan Martin Will (penguin), Vasyi Helevachuk (robin), Eric Isselee (Silkworm), Isselee (Deer), Jgade (frog), Johan63 / Johannes Gerhardus Swanepoel (impala), Svetlana Larina / Blair\_witch ca, Luis Leamus cr, Nejrion (parrot), Uros Petrovic crb, Stu Porter (Cheetah), Ievgenii Tryfonov (trunk), Vasily Vishnevskiy (Rock), Voevale (brown leaf), Zerbor bc; **Getty Images / iStock:** GlobalP (panda), igorkov (eagle); **Spine:** **Dreamstime.com:** Macrovector (snail), Alexander Potapov (agarc)

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