



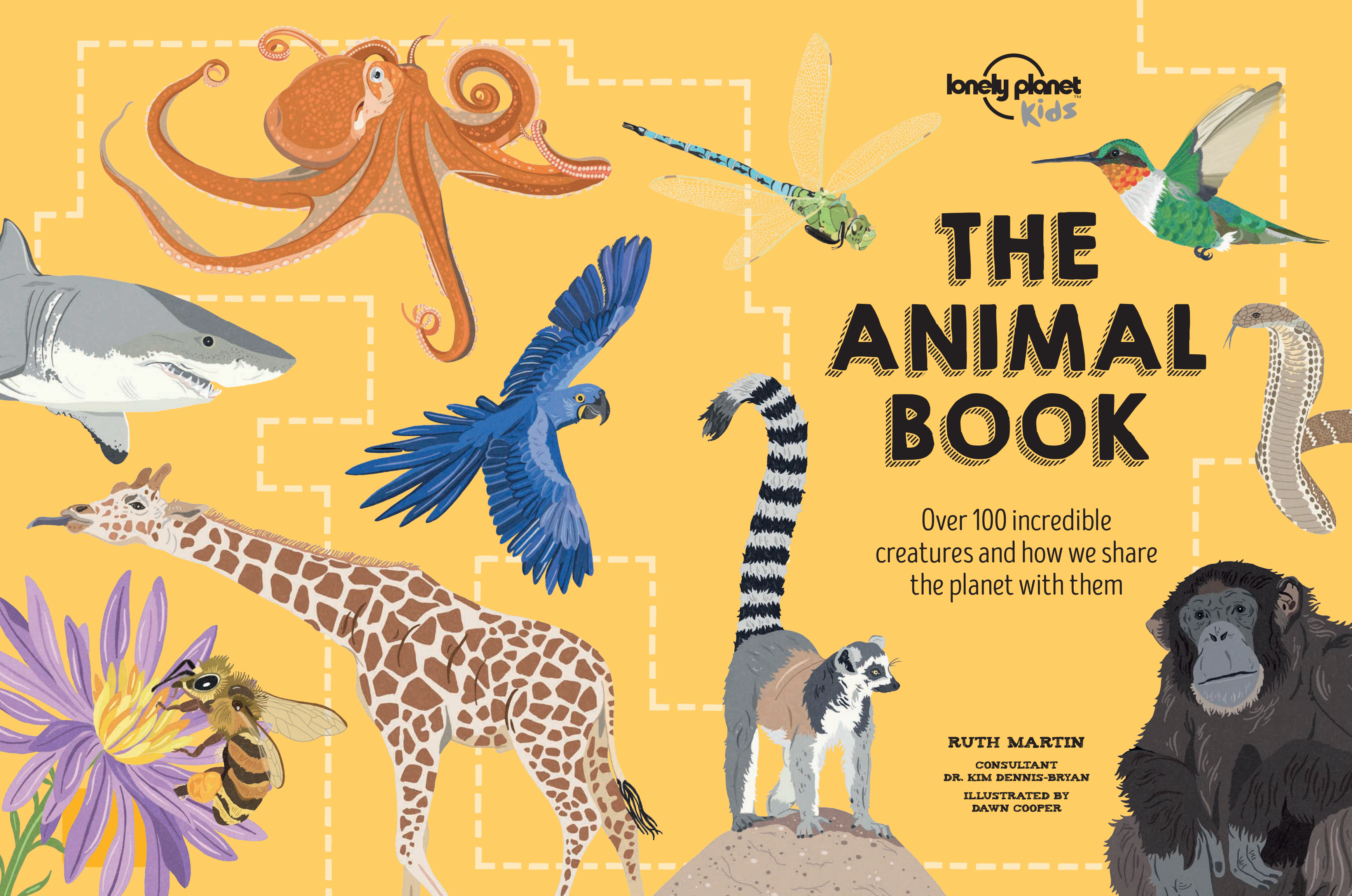
THE ANIMAL BOOK

Over 100 incredible
creatures and how we share
the planet with them

RUTH MARTIN

CONSULTANT
DR. KIM DENNIS-BRYAN

ILLUSTRATED BY
DAWN COOPER



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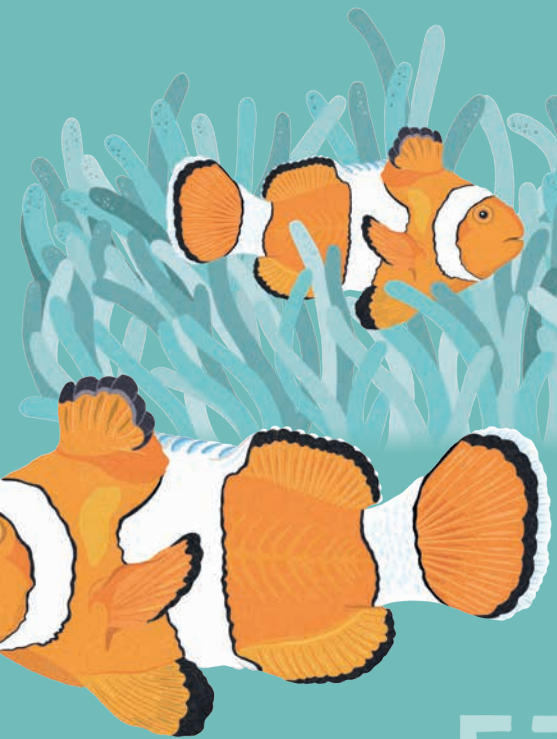
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THE KEY FACTS BOXES

Each animal in this book has a Key Facts box showing important details about the creature.

Scientific name:

Used by scientists, this is a unique name that gives the genus and species name of the creature. Where there is a third part to the name, it describes the subspecies.

Status:

This category is given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) based on how threatened or secure the animal is.

KEY FACTS

Scientific name: *Panthera tigris tigris*

Size: Head and body length: up to 9.5 ft. (2.9 m); tail length: up to 3.6 ft. (1.1 m)

Diet: Mostly deer and pigs; occasionally animals as large as a gaur (Indian bison)

Status: Endangered (population decreasing)

Amazing fact: There are now only around 2,300 Bengal tigers in Asia, living in small populations of less than 250 each.

STATUS

Extinct

Extinct in the wild

Critically endangered

Endangered

Vulnerable

Near threatened

Least concern

Data deficient

Not evaluated

MEANING

The animal is believed to have died out completely.

The animal is known to survive only in captivity or well outside its natural range.

The animal faces an **extremely high risk** of becoming extinct in the wild. This status is determined by particular factors, including drops in population or threats to natural habitat.

The animal faces a **very high risk** of extinction in the wild.

The animal faces a **high risk** of extinction in the wild.

The animal is close to facing the threat of extinction in the near future.

The animal is widespread or not currently at risk.

There is not enough information about the animal's risk of extinction.

The animal has not yet been assessed.



EARTH: PLANET OF LIFE

Earth is around 4.5 billion years old, but modern humans have lived here for only about 200,000 years. The planet does not belong to us; we share it with many other forms of life. So far, we have identified about 1.2 million species, and scientists think there may be around 8.7 million in total, although estimates vary wildly.

Explore this book to meet some of the most fascinating creatures from around the globe and discover the amazing ways we interact with them.

Enjoy the journey!

RUTH MARTIN - AUTHOR



THE HUMAN FACTOR

There are now more than 7.5 billion people on Earth. We are very effective hunters, farmers, and travelers, making use of every part of the globe. As human settlements have spread across the planet, our activities have caused both good and bad effects on the life around us.

This book shows some of the good humans do, including:

- protecting and monitoring wildlife (conservation)
- learning about animals (research)
- sharing knowledge and teaching (education)

It also shows some of the harm humans cause, including:

- cutting down forests (deforestation)
- building on wild habitats (urbanization)
- adding harmful substances to the environment (pollution)

Humankind still has a lot to learn.

Reading this book may help you make a small difference in protecting animals and the environment, or it could be the start of a career in conservation, where you can help to save the world's wildlife.



ZOOLOGIST DR. KIM DENNIS-BRYAN

This book has been created with expert guidance from Kim Dennis-Bryan, Doctor of Zoology. Kim studied life sciences at university before obtaining her doctorate in zoology while researching at the Natural History Museum in London. She is a freelance writer and consultant, as well as an associate lecturer with the Open University. Kim has been a scientific fellow of the Zoological Society in London for many years and is a life member of the Rare Breeds Survival Trust.



Children visiting orphaned African elephants in Kenya

ORDERS AND BORDERS

To help us understand the physical world, we divide land into cities, countries, regions, and continents. This book is divided into chapters by continent or region. Some animals are found in several regions or worldwide, while others are limited to small areas, and the most endangered may have just one protected location as their home.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES

To help us understand the animal world, we combine similar animals in broader groups. Each kind of animal is part of a species, a genus, a family, an order, a class, a phylum, a kingdom, and a domain. As time passes, the world changes, and some animals, such as the dinosaurs, become extinct. Today, the main threat to animal survival is human activity. We also discover new creatures, adding to our knowledge of the animal kingdom. Currently, more than 10,000 new species are being discovered every year.



A WORD FROM KIM

"Earth is the only planet known to support life in huge numbers and in a multitude of forms, ranging from bacteria and plants to animals such as starfish, zebras, and ourselves. Animals are remarkable – we are still learning amazing things about them, but many are rapidly disappearing. Elephants, rhinos, lions, and tigers will be extinct in the wild before most readers of this book reach their mid-20s, unless attitudes change. Lesser-known animals such as corals and pangolins are also under threat. These creatures and their ecosystems are an essential part of our future. Only by conserving them will that future exist for the next generations to enjoy."



ARCTIC



The icy Arctic, at the very top of the world, plays a vital part in how the planet works. It lies between the northernmost point on Earth – the North Pole – and the Arctic Circle, an imaginary line that rings the top of the globe. The region is made up of the Arctic

Ocean and the land that surrounds it, including parts of Canada, the U.S., Greenland, Norway, Finland, Sweden, Iceland, and Russia. Home to a fascinating variety of wildlife and millions of people, too, the Arctic is a winter wonderland full of surprises.



A MELTING OCEAN

Temperatures in the Arctic can drop below -58°F (-50°C) in winter, with a much warmer average of 32°F (0°C) in summer. Part of the Arctic Ocean is covered in a layer of sea ice, stretching for millions of square miles. This giant white ice sheet reflects sunlight back into space, helping to keep the world cool. But our climate is warming, and the ice is melting. Forecasts show that by 2100, the Arctic may have no sea ice at all in summer.



LIFE IN THE ARCTIC

The snowy conditions of the Arctic are just right for many well-adapted animals, including polar bears, walrus, seals, and many others. As well as the wildlife, around 4 million people live in the Arctic. There are several groups of native inhabitants, such as the Inuit and Yupik people, who have built a rich culture in this challenging but beautiful place.

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A WARMING WORLD
Our Earth is warming at an alarming rate. Each year, the sea ice around the North Pole is shrinking. Waste gases from human activity such as from vehicles, factories, and power plants trap the Sun's heat in our atmosphere, causing the world to warm up like a greenhouse.

HUSKY

These intelligent dogs are known for their strength and speed in pulling sleds across the snow. Arctic communities, including the Inuit and the Yupik, have relied on dogsleds for their livelihoods. Today, there are separate breeds of sled dog, including the Siberian husky, the Eskimo dog, and the Alaskan Malamute.



MUSHING

Dog racing, or "mushing," is the state sport of Alaska, where huskies can reach speeds of around 19 miles (31 km) per hour. They have the strength and stamina to race for three days over freezing ground, with a driver, or "musher," steering the pack.



Balto, a Siberian husky, led his team on two stretches of the journey without a break. He is honored as a national hero with his own statue in New York City's Central Park.

HERO HUSKIES

Huskies have helped on important tasks ranging from Antarctic expeditions in the 1800s to U.S. Army missions during World War II. They proved their hardy reputation in the Great Race of Mercy in 1925. During an outbreak of diphtheria, teams of huskies delivered a life-saving serum to the remote town of Nome. In a relay journey of nearly 700 miles (1,127 km), 20 mushers delivered the cure in 6 days.

KEY FACTS

Scientific name: *Canis familiaris*

Height: Up to 2 ft. (60 cm) at shoulder

Diet: Meat – working huskies often eat seal meat, while pets eat canned or dried food

Status: Domestic animal, not evaluated

Amazing fact: Huskies don't bark very much, but they will often howl like wolves.



Huskies were originally bred to be working sled dogs, so as pets they need lots of exercise.

DOUBLE THE FUR

Resembling wolves, huskies have two layers of dense fur to keep them warm. The coarse outer coat keeps them dry, and the thick woolly undercoat keeps them warm.



REINDEER

Famous for pulling Santa's sleigh every Christmas, these strong creatures are also very important to other Arctic dwellers. There are many different names for reindeer in different cultures. In North America, they are generally known as caribou, while the Inuit people call them *tuku*.

While they grow, reindeer antlers have a velvety covering. When the antlers are fully grown, the "velvet" is shed and rubs away.

SÁMI REINDEER HERDERS

Reindeer herding is a very important part of the livelihood of the native Sámi people of Scandinavia. To protect their culture, laws now exist to ensure that only people from Sámi families can keep reindeer in some areas.



REINDEER RIDES

Reindeer are hardworking creatures, strong enough to pull sleds filled with goods or supplies. Some Siberian reindeer owners ride them, while others farm thousands of them for meat and fur.

REINDEER ON THE MENU

In the region of northern Europe known as Lapland, reindeer meat is a popular dish, either fresh or cured, often served as meatballs or sausages. There are also a few remaining nomadic communities, such as the Dukha people of Mongolia, who herd reindeer for milk, cheese, and yogurt.

In the wild, some reindeer make long migrations, with thousands of animals moving vast distances as the seasons change.

KEY FACTS

Scientific name: *Rangifer tarandus*

Size: Height at shoulder: up to 4.6 ft. (1.4 m); head and body length: up to 6.9 ft. (2.1 m)

Diet: Lichens, mosses, ferns, grasses, and the leaves and shoots of trees and shrubs

Status: Least concern (population stable)

Amazing fact: In most species of deer, only the male grows antlers, but in reindeer, many females do, too. The females' antlers are smaller than the males', and they shed them at different times of year.



SANTA'S ON HIS WAY!

Can you name Santa's eight reindeer? The poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," by Clement Clarke Moore (1823), names them Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Dunder, and Blixem (often called Donner and Blitzen). Did you say Rudolph? The famous "Red-Nosed Reindeer" appeared later, in 1939, in a poem by Robert L. May.



HERALDIC BEASTS

Reindeer are popular symbols in coats of arms, with many Nordic countries choosing to use them in heraldry to symbolize inner strength and the ability to survive in harsh environments.

AFRICA



Stretching to the north and south of the equator, Africa is the second-largest continent. With hot deserts, savannah plains, and tropical rainforests, Africa's habitats suit a rich variety of wildlife, as well

as over a billion people. Off the southeast coast lies Africa's largest island, Madagascar – home to hundreds of fascinating species, many found nowhere else on Earth.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Africa is home to many ethnic groups, each with their own traditions, cultures, and languages. In the past, most people lived in small rural communities. Now, many live in cities of more than 20 million, such as Cairo and Lagos.



Mother and child of the Maasai people of East Africa



Egypt's Great Pyramid of Giza is the only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World still standing today.

WONDER OF THE WILDERNESS

Africa's natural beauty attracts millions of people each year. The Nile in northeastern Africa is the longest river in the world, and the continent also features the Atlas Mountains, the Great Rift Valley, and the Sahara Desert. To the east lie some of the world's most impressive wildlife reserves, including the vast Serengeti, meaning "endless plain."



AFRICAN SAVANNAH ELEPHANT

Bigger than their Asian relatives, African elephants are the largest land mammals in the world today. Elephants clear paths through dry woodland and scrub, dig waterholes in dry rivers, and spread seeds in their dung. This useful behavior creates the perfect environment for many other creatures, making the elephant a keystone species for the continent.



FINDING THE FOREST ELEPHANT

There are two species of African elephant: the savannah elephant (shown below) and the forest elephant (shown left), which is smaller with straight tusks and a preference for the shelter of the forest. The two different species need separate conservation plans.

The large ears of the African savannah elephant resemble the shape of the continent.

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

African savannah elephants use their ivory tusks for many things, including digging for food, water, and salt and for self-defense. The beauty and value of their tusks puts elephants at great risk from hunters. Ivory has been used for jewelry, decorative items, piano keys, and billiard balls. International trade in ivory was banned in 1989, but poachers still hunt elephants.



BIG ATTRACTION

People travel from all over the world to Africa to see the landscape and wildlife. This brings money and opportunities to the local people.

Found south of the Sahara Desert, the elephant is known as one of the "big five" of animal tourism, along with the lion, rhinoceros, leopard, and buffalo.



KEY FACTS

Scientific name: *Loxodonta africana*

Size: Head and body length including trunk: up to 24.6 ft. (7.5 m); shoulder height: up to 10.8 ft. (3.3 m); tail length: 3.3–4.9 ft. (1–1.5 m)

Diet: Grasses, vegetation, fruit, and seeds

Status: Vulnerable (population decreasing)

Amazing fact: Elephants make a range of noises, including very low "infrasonic" sounds. These are too low for humans to hear, but they allow elephants to communicate over very long distances.

AFRICAN LION

The mighty lion is known by many different cultures as the king of beasts. It has become a symbol of nature – wild and powerful – appearing in ancient art, classic literature, and even modern branding. Sadly, despite our love of lions, people are still the species' greatest threat.



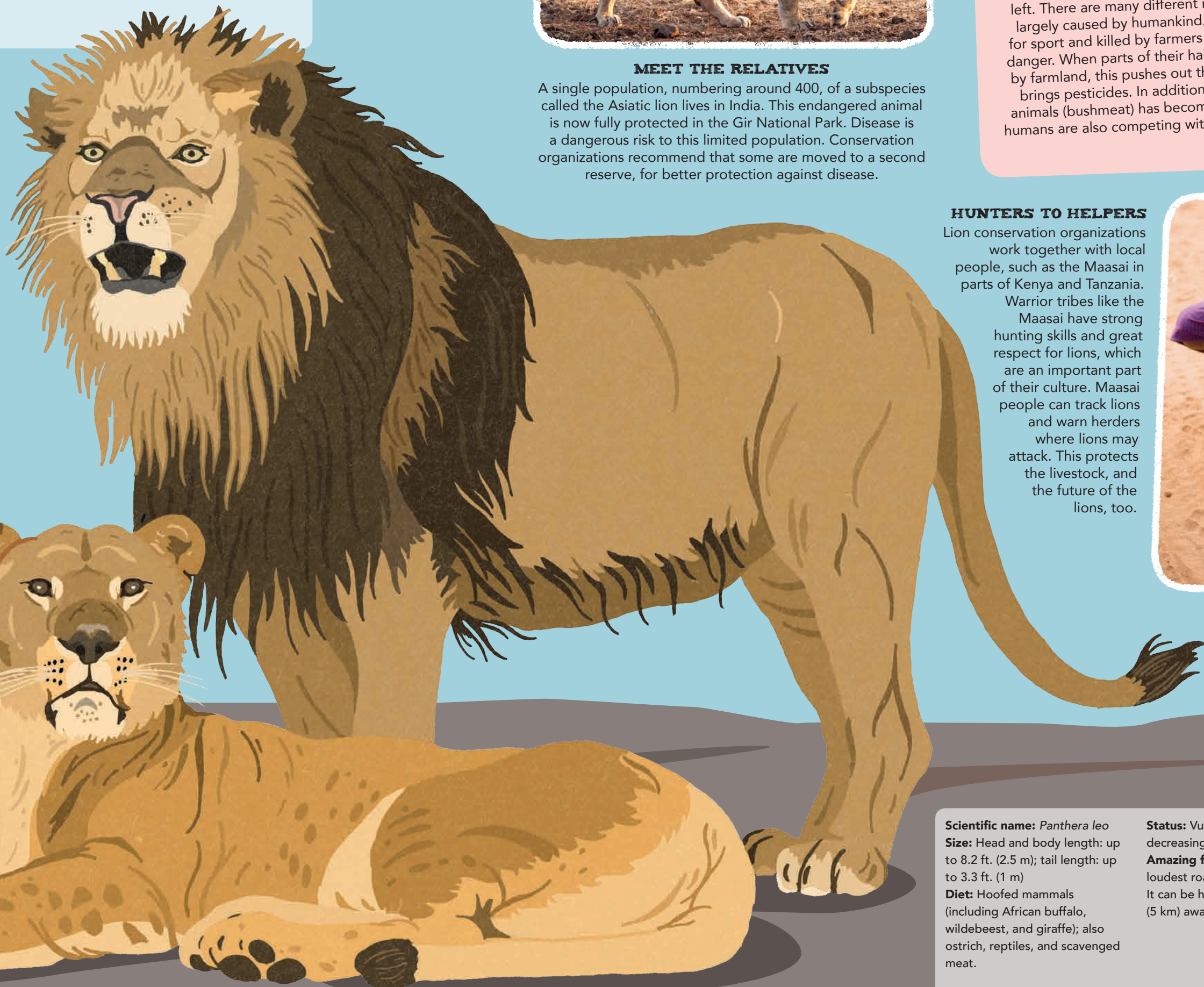
MANE EVENT

Everybody recognizes the lion, so it is one of the most popular animals to visit, either in its natural environment or in captivity. It is one of the “big five” of wildlife tourism, bringing much-needed money to Africa’s national parks and local

people. As apex predators, at the top of the food chain, lions help to control the numbers of zebra, wildebeest, and buffalo, keeping the balance of the savannah ecosystem.

INSPIRING ART

Lions appear in carvings, paintings, and sculptures in cultures from the ancient to the modern. One of the oldest sculptures in the world, the Great Sphinx of Giza in Egypt, has a human head and the body of a lion. Lions also appear as literary characters, including the Cowardly Lion in *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and Aslan in *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.



Asiatic lion

MEET THE RELATIVES

A single population, numbering around 400, of a subspecies called the Asiatic lion lives in India. This endangered animal is now fully protected in the Gir National Park. Disease is a dangerous risk to this limited population. Conservation organizations recommend that some are moved to a second reserve, for better protection against disease.

TREACHEROUS TIMES

The lion population in Africa has suffered a shocking drop over the last 21 years. Lion numbers have almost halved, and there are now fewer than 20,000 left. There are many different reasons for this, all largely caused by humankind. Lions are hunted for sport and killed by farmers who see them as a danger. When parts of their habitat are taken over by farmland, this pushes out the normal prey and brings pesticides. In addition, the meat of wild animals (bushmeat) has become more popular, so humans are also competing with lions for their prey.

HUNTERS TO HELPERS

Lion conservation organizations work together with local people, such as the Maasai in parts of Kenya and Tanzania. Warrior tribes like the Maasai have strong hunting skills and great respect for lions, which are an important part of their culture. Maasai people can track lions and warn herders where lions may attack. This protects the livestock, and the future of the lions, too.



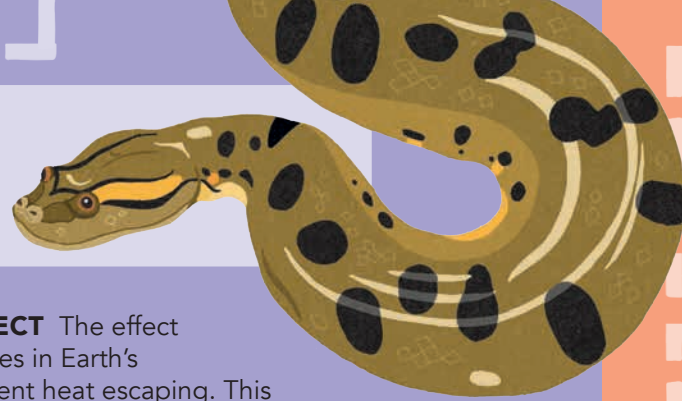
A Maasai man photographing lion tracks

KEY FACTS

Scientific name: *Panthera leo*
Size: Head and body length: up to 8.2 ft. (2.5 m); tail length: up to 3.3 ft. (1 m)
Diet: Hoofed mammals (including African buffalo, wildebeest, and giraffe); also ostrich, reptiles, and scavenged meat.

Status: Vulnerable (population decreasing)
Amazing fact: The lion has the loudest roar of all the big cats. It can be heard as far as 3 miles (5 km) away.

GLOSSARY



CARNIVORE An animal that eats meat.

CLIMATE CHANGE A long-term change in the planet's overall temperature, weather patterns, or typical conditions.

CONSERVATION Protecting ecosystems and the animals and plants that live in them through organized actions.

CONSERVATIONIST A person who works to protect wildlife and the natural environment.

DEFORESTATION The large-scale removal of trees from forests or woodlands, often caused by human activity such as logging or burning.

DOMESTIC ANIMALS Creatures that live with people and are bred for companionship as pets, or for food, or as working animals.

ECOLOGICALLY EXTINCT When a species is reduced to such low numbers that it no longer has an effect on other species or its environment.

ECOSYSTEM The plants, animals, and other organisms that live in a particular environment. An ecosystem also includes nonliving things, such as rocks, soil, and water.

ECOTOURISM Traveling to a place to see the natural environment and wildlife in a way that benefits the local community and does not cause damage.

ECTOPARASITE An organism that lives on the outside of another organism, called its host.

ENVIRONMENT The natural surroundings of an animal, plant, or other organism, including everything that affects it. The word can be used to describe a tiny area or the whole Earth.

EQUATOR The imaginary line halfway between the North Pole and the South Pole that divides the Earth into two halves called the Northern Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.

EXTINCTION When every single member of a species of animal or plant has died out and no longer exists on Earth.

GLOBAL WARMING A gradual increase in the temperature of Earth's atmosphere, generally due to the greenhouse effect (see also GREENHOUSE EFFECT).

GREENHOUSE EFFECT The effect caused by certain gases in Earth's atmosphere that prevent heat escaping. This trapped heat warms Earth's surface. Some human activities, such as burning coal, oil, and gas, add to the gases in the atmosphere and increase the greenhouse effect.

HABITAT An area with particular physical and biological features where a plant or animal lives. Examples of habitats include deserts, woodland, and forests.

HERBIVORE An animal that eats plants.

ILLEGAL TRADE Buying or selling items against the law, such as protected wildlife or their products.

MIGRATION The movement of an organism from one place to another, usually for food, safety, or to breed. The journey may be made many times or just once.

ORGANISM An individual living thing. Organisms include plants, animals, bacteria, and fungi.

PARASITE An organism that lives on another organism, called its host. The parasite benefits from this, but the host is harmed and may eventually die.

PESTICIDE Chemicals used to kill pests, including weeds, fungi, and some insects.

PLANKTON Plankton is a collective word for many small and microscopic organisms that drift freely in marine environments. Plankton forms a vital part of the marine food chain.

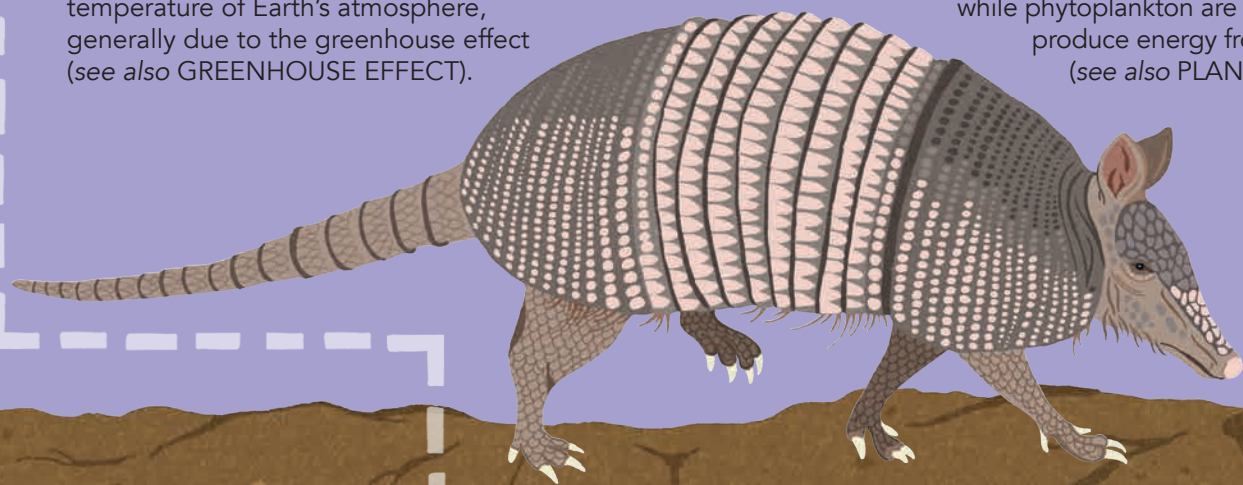
POACHING Illegal hunting, killing, or capturing of wildlife.

POLLUTION When the environment is damaged or dirtied by harmful substances such as chemicals and waste, nearly always because of humans. There are three main forms of pollution: air, water, and land.

RECYCLING A process that makes used items into new materials and objects.

SMUGGLING Moving goods secretly between countries against the law.

ZOOPLANKTON Zooplankton are animal plankton, while phytoplankton are plankton that can produce energy from sunlight (see also PLANKTON).



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