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

THE ANIMAL BOOK

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### Introduction

This page introduces various animals and their habitats, categorized by regions: Arctic, Europe, South America, Africa, Asia, Antarctica, and Oceans. Each region contains a list of animals, with species names and associated images for visual representation. The key facts boxes provide scientific names, diet, size, and conservation status for each animal, based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) categories.

#### Key Facts Boxes

Each animal in this book has a Key Facts box showing important details about the creature. The status categories used are:
- **Extinct**: The animal is believed to have died out completely.
- **Extinct in the wild**: The animal is known to survive only in captivity or well outside its natural range.
- **Critically endangered**: The animal is extremely close to extinction in the wild.
- **Endangered**: The animal is facing an extremely high risk of becoming extinct in the wild.
- **Vulnerable**: The animal faces a high risk of extinction in the wild.
- **Near threatened**: The animal is close to facing the threat of extinction in the near future.
- **Least concern**: The animal is widespread or not currently at risk.
- **Not evaluated**: There is not enough information about the animal's risk of extinction.
- **Data deficient**: There is not enough information about the animal's risk of extinction.

### Arctic

- Husky
- Reindeer
- Harp seal
- Narwhal
- Polar bear
- Arctic tern
- Polar cod
- Walrus

### Europe

- Tawny owl
- Pigeon
- Eurasian red squirrel
- House fly
- Golden eagle
- Wildcat
- Donkey
- Earthworm
- European badger
- Wild boar
- European rabbit
- European honey bee
- Emperor dragonfly
- Black rat
- Red fox
- Alpine chamois
- Cat flea

### South America

- Guianan red howler monkey
- Nine-banded armadillo
- Llama
- Green anole
- Gallah bird-eating spider
- Maned wolf
- Toco toucan
- Common vampire bat
- Jaguar
- Cattle
- Maned three-toed sloth
- Termite
- Galápagos tortoise
- Horse
- Hyacinth macaw

### Africa

- African savannah elephant
- White-backed vulture
- Common hippopotamus
- African lion
- Chimpanzee
- Cheetah
- Leopard
- Desert locust
- Nile crocodile
- White rhinoceros
- Plains zebra
- African dung beetle
- Mountain gorilla
- African malaria mosquito
- Ring-tailed lemur
- Plains zebra
- Wild boar
- Francois' bushbuck
- Marbled mongoose
- Cat
- Elephant
- Cheetah

### Asia

- Bornean orangutan
- Asian elephant
- Indian pangolin
- Komodo dragon
- Giant panda
- Indian peafowl
- Red junglefowl
- Wild Bactrian camel
- Snow leopard
- Wild yak
- Bengal tiger
- Malaysian forest scorpion
- King cobra

### Antarctica

- Orca
- Hourglass dolphin
- Black-browed albatross
- Emperor penguin
- Southern elephant seal
- Antarctic krill

### Oceans

- Long-snouted seahorse
- Great white shark
- Staghorn coral
- Common starfish
- Spiny whale
- Atlantic horsehoe crab
- Lion's mane jellyfish
- Textile cone
- Sea otter
- Clove anemonefish
- Red lionfish
- Leatherback turtle
- Long-spined porcupinefish
- Giant squid
- Silver-lipped pearl oyster
- Blue whale

### Status

- **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.

- **Diet**:
  - Mostly deer and pigs; occasionally animals

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

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

### Status

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### Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements and Picture credits are not visible in the image.
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

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.

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.

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, tigers, lions, and leopards 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 future exist for the next generations to enjoy.”

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.
**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, walruses, 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.

**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 sled dogs 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.

**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.

**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.**

**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.
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.

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 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!

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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

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.

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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.

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

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 put 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

Treachurous 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.

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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.
see also GREENHOUSE EFFECT). Generally due to the greenhouse effect temperature of Earth’s atmosphere, GLOBAL WARMING when every single member of a species 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).