



lonely planet  
kids



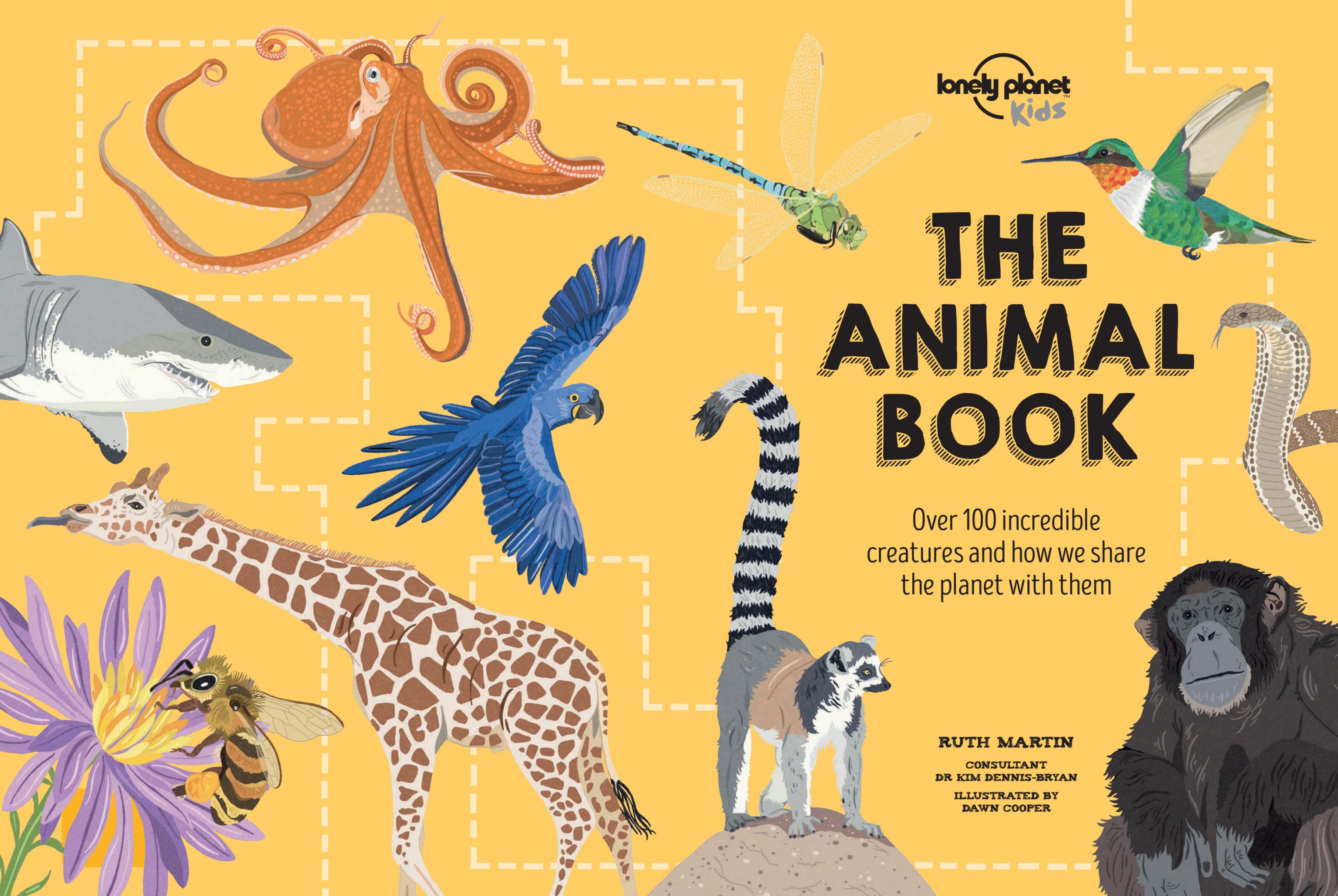
# THE ANIMAL BOOK

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

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ILLUSTRATED BY  
DAWN COOPER



# CONTENTS

6 Introduction

## ARCTIC

- 9 Husky
- 10 Reindeer
- 12 Harp seal
- 13 Narwhal
- 14 Polar bear
- 16 Arctic tern
- 17 Polar cod
- 18 Walrus

## NORTH & CENTRAL AMERICA

- 21 American beaver
- 22 Grey wolf
- 24 Bald eagle
- 25 Puma
- 26 Luna moth
- 27 Coyote
- 28 American bison
- 30 Sockeye salmon
- 31 Brown bear
- 32 Ruby-throated hummingbird
- 33 Western black widow spider
- 34 Monarch butterfly
- 36 Red-eyed tree frog
- 37 Western diamond-backed rattlesnake

## SOUTH AMERICA

- 39 Guianan red howler monkey
- 40 Nine-banded armadillo
- 41 Llama
- 42 Green anaconda
- 44 Goliath bird-eating spider
- 45 Maned wolf
- 46 Toco toucan
- 47 Common vampire bat
- 48 Jaguar
- 49 Cattle
- 50 Maned three-toed sloth
- 51 Termite
- 52 Galápagos tortoise
- 54 Horse
- 55 Hyacinth macaw

## EUROPE

- 57 Tawny owl
- 58 Pigeon
- 59 Eurasian red squirrel
- 60 House fly
- 61 Golden eagle
- 62 Wildcat
- 63 Donkey
- 64 Earthworm
- 65 European badger
- 66 Wild boar
- 67 European rabbit
- 68 European honey bee
- 70 Emperor dragonfly
- 71 Black rat
- 72 Red fox
- 74 Alpine chamois
- 75 Cat flea

## AFRICA

- 77 African savannah elephant
- 78 White-backed vulture
- 79 Common hippopotamus
- 80 African lion
- 82 Chimpanzee
- 83 Cheetah
- 84 Leopard
- 85 Desert locust
- 86 Nile crocodile
- 88 White rhinoceros
- 89 Plains zebra
- 90 African dung beetle
- 91 Greater flamingo
- 92 Reticulated giraffe
- 94 Mountain gorilla
- 95 African malaria mosquito
- 96 Ring-tailed lemur
- 97 Serengeti white-bearded wildebeest
- 98 Panther chameleon

## ASIA

- 101 Bornean orangutan
- 102 Asian elephant
- 104 Indian pangolin
- 105 Komodo dragon
- 106 Giant panda
- 108 Indian peafowl
- 109 Red junglefowl
- 110 Wild Bactrian camel
- 112 Snow leopard
- 113 Wild yak
- 114 Bengal tiger
- 116 Malaysian forest scorpion
- 117 King cobra

## OCEANIA

- 119 Little spotted kiwi
- 120 Red kangaroo
- 122 Leadbeater's possum
- 123 Common emu
- 124 Merino sheep
- 125 Grey-headed flying fox
- 126 Duck-billed platypus
- 127 Tasmanian devil
- 128 Koala

## ANTARCTICA

- 131 Orca
- 132 Hourglass dolphin
- 133 Black-browed albatross
- 134 Emperor penguin
- 136 Southern elephant seal
- 137 Antarctic krill

## OCEANS

- 139 Long-snouted seahorse
- 140 Great white shark
- 142 Staghorn coral
- 143 Common starfish
- 144 Sperm whale
- 145 Atlantic horseshoe crab
- 146 Lion's mane jellyfish
- 147 Textile cone
- 148 Sea otter
- 150 Clown anemonefish
- 151 Red lionfish
- 152 Common octopus
- 154 Leatherback turtle
- 155 Long-spined porcupinefish
- 156 Giant squid
- 157 Silver-lipped pearl oyster
- 158 Blue whale



- 160 What happens next?
- 161 Acknowledgements
- 162 Glossary
- 163 Index
- 164 Picture credits

## 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 2.9m; tail length: up to 1.1m  
**Diet:** Mostly deer and pigs, occasionally animals as large as a gaur (Indian bison)

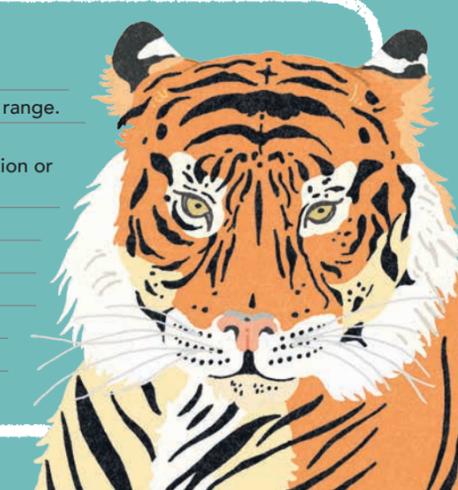
**Status:** Endangered (population decreasing)  
**Amazing fact:** There are now only around 2,300 Bengal tigers in Asia, living in small populations of less than 250 each.

## 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 travellers, 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 (urbanisation)
- 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

## A WORD FROM KIM

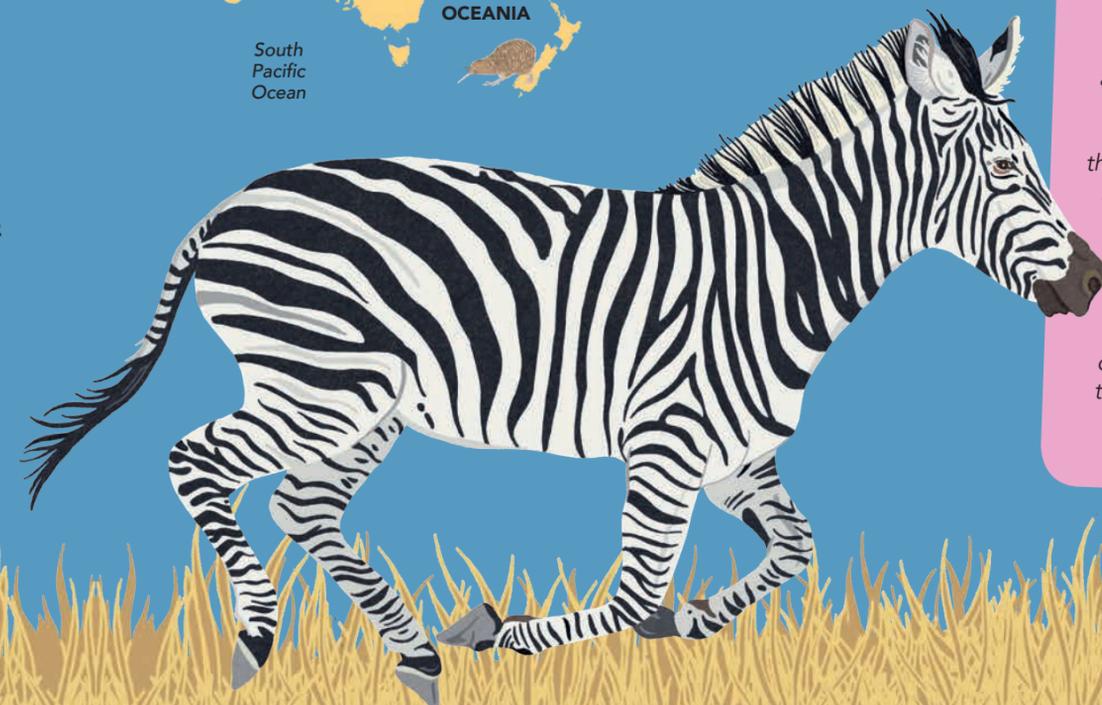
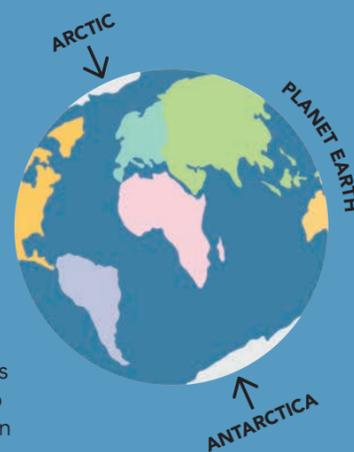
"Earth is the only planet known to support life in huge numbers and in a multitude of forms, ranging from bacteria and plants to animals such as starfish, zebras and ourselves. Animals are remarkable – we are still learning amazing things about them, but many are rapidly disappearing. Elephants, rhinos, 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."

## 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 team up similar animals into 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.

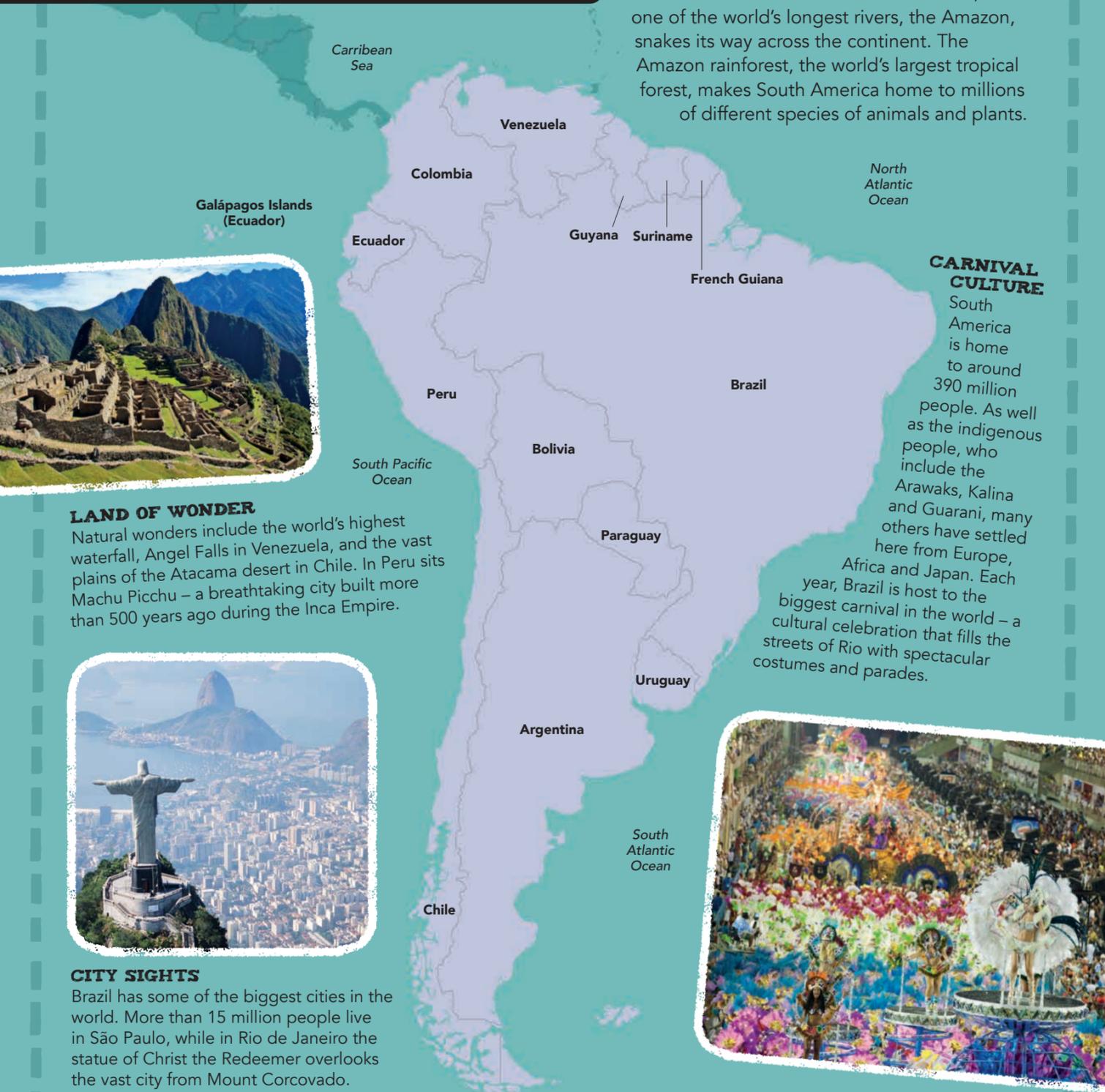


# SOUTH AMERICA



South America boasts such a variety of climates that a tour of the continent will include tropical rainforests,

vast dry deserts and the snow-capped mountains of the Andes. The Atlantic Ocean lies to the east and the Pacific to the west, while one of the world's longest rivers, the Amazon, snakes its way across the continent. The Amazon rainforest, the world's largest tropical forest, makes South America home to millions of different species of animals and plants.



## LAND OF WONDER

Natural wonders include the world's highest waterfall, Angel Falls in Venezuela, and the vast plains of the Atacama desert in Chile. In Peru sits Machu Picchu – a breathtaking city built more than 500 years ago during the Inca Empire.



## CITY SIGHTS

Brazil has some of the biggest cities in the world. More than 15 million people live in São Paulo, while in Rio de Janeiro the statue of Christ the Redeemer overlooks the vast city from Mount Corcovado.



## CARNIVAL CULTURE

South America is home to around 390 million people. As well as the indigenous people, who include the Arawaks, Kalina and Guarani, many others have settled here from Europe, Africa and Japan. Each year, Brazil is host to the biggest carnival in the world – a cultural celebration that fills the streets of Rio with spectacular costumes and parades.



## TROOP TACTICS

Adult male howler monkeys are dark reddish-brown with some golden fur on their backs, while the females

and babies are often lighter. A group of howlers, called a troop, needs several hectares of forest to form its territory.

## HOWLING TROOPS

At dawn and dusk, a troop of howler monkeys will call, sending a clear message to others as far as 5km (3mi) away that the territory is taken. In males, a bone in the throat called the hyoid bone is enlarged, making their calls louder. Once the leading males begin howling, other members of the troop join in.

## GOD OF THE ARTS

For the Mayan people, a howler monkey was the god of art and music. At a temple in the Mayan city of Copan, large statues shaking rattles are believed to be howler monkey gods.



# GUIANAN RED HOWLER MONKEY

While many animals hide, this noisy monkey makes itself known at an incredible volume. Travelling from tree to tree in the rainforests of northern South America, Guianan red howler monkeys fiercely defend their territory with their calls.

## FOREST THREATS

The destruction of the rainforest threatens howler monkeys, and they are also at risk from hunters who sell them as 'bushmeat'. Their diet of fruits and vegetation means that they spread seeds everywhere they go. Any threat to the howler monkey population soon becomes a risk to the forest itself, because new growth relies on their seed-filled dung.



## KEY FACTS

**Scientific name:** *Alouatta macconnelli*

**Size:** Head and body length: up to 63cm; tail length: up to 80cm

**Diet:** Fruit, flowers, leaves, tree bark and moss

**Status:** Least concern

**Amazing fact:** Howler monkeys are the loudest land animals in the world. Of living creatures, only the blue whale can beat them on volume.

# JAGUAR

At the top of the food chain, known as an apex predator, the jaguar's name means 'he who kills with one leap'. With a muscular body and sharp teeth, this big cat can overpower prey as large as deer, cattle and caimans. Their beautiful coat patterns put them at high risk from hunters, and as their forest territory continues to shrink, these wild cats need human protection.

## PAW PRINT FUR

To tell the difference between a jaguar and a leopard, the clue is in the spots. Unlike the leopard, the jaguar has spots inside its rosette-shaped circular markings. South American folklore says these were caused by the jaguar dabbing mud on with its paws, for better camouflage in the shadows. Big cats with mostly black fur are commonly known as black panthers.



Jaguar fur



Leopard fur

## JAGUAR GODS

These powerful big cats captured the imaginations of many South and Central American peoples. Mayans used jaguars to symbolise the 'night sun' of the underworld, and native peoples of the Amazon believed the Sun itself created these big cats. Many peoples worshipped jaguar gods, featuring them in their artwork and monuments.

This jaguar cub is being weighed. Orphaned cubs must be carefully monitored and taught how to live in the wild.



This Inca ornament is a jaguar made of embossed gold.

## KEY FACTS

**Scientific name:** *Panthera onca*  
**Size:** Head and body length: up to 1.7m; tail length: 40–80cm  
**Diet:** Jaguars are carnivores. Prey includes various mammals and reptiles, depending on location.

**Status:** Near threatened (population decreasing)  
**Amazing fact:** The jaguar is the third largest cat in the world, and the biggest in the Americas. It can see in the dark six times better than a human.

# CATTLE

From large, wild ancestors called aurochs, today we have around 1.4 billion domestic cattle in the world, with hundreds of breeds. Brazil in South America exports the most beef around the world, making billions of dollars a year. Cattle products are so popular it is difficult to imagine life without them.

## STRONG ROOTS

In the 1900s, cattle called zebu were brought to Brazil and bred with European cattle. Zebu have humps on their shoulders and a fold of skin under the neck. They originated in Southern Asia and are well adapted to the heat of the tropics. This gave farmers good beef and dairy breeds that were also hardy enough to thrive in South America.



## MILK AND MONEY

The Food and Agriculture Organisation recorded that there were 271 million dairy cows in the world in 2013. The Holstein-Friesian breed is the largest milk producer, with each cow capable of making more than 20 litres (35 pints) of milk per day.

The markings on the hides of Holstein-Friesian cows are like fingerprints – no two individuals have exactly the same pattern.



A cow and calf of the very popular Hereford breed



## THE SACRED COW

In the Hindu religion cows are sacred – they symbolise life and the Earth, playing an important part in festivals celebrating nature. In most of the states of India it is illegal to eat beef (cattle meat). Cows are seen as important providers, giving milk and other dairy products. Their dung makes a valuable fertiliser, or can be used as fuel.

## BEEFY PROFITS

Cattle were highly valued by early cultures because they provided milk, meat and leather. Today these products have become global industries. There are more than 210 million cattle in Brazil, and the demand for grazing land now threatens the rainforest – home to many endangered creatures.

## KEY FACTS

**Family:** *Bos taurus*  
**Size:** Length: 1.2–1.5m; height to shoulder: 1.2–1.4m  
**Diet:** Pasture (grasses and hay) and cattle feeds made from grains

**Status:** Domestic animal, not evaluated  
**Amazing fact:** Cattle are ruminant mammals. This means that after swallowing food, they bring it back up to chew again, sometimes several times.

# OCEANIA



As its name suggests, Oceania is a region connected by the blue waters of the Pacific Ocean, rather than land borders. Located to the southeast of Asia, Oceania's largest countries are Australia, Papua New Guinea and New Zealand. Scattered across the

region are many small volcanic and coral islands. Oceania features some of the world's most spectacular and largely untouched landscapes, including sandy beaches, tropical forests, snowy mountain ranges and Australia's rural outback.



Maori men performing a traditional war dance

## PACIFIC PEOPLES

With a total population of around 40 million, Oceania includes large cities such as Sydney in Australia, with around five million people, as well as tiny islands where nobody lives at all. Native people include the Aboriginal Australians and the Maori of New Zealand.



Aerial view over the Solomon Islands

ASIA

Indian Ocean

Papua New Guinea

Solomon Islands

Coral Sea

Vanuatu

Fiji

Pacific Ocean

Australia

New Caledonia (France)

## SAFE HAVEN

Oceania is home to some unique wildlife, including many of the world's marsupials – mammals that mostly raise their young in pouches. Egg-laying mammals, such as the duck-billed platypus, are also found here. Movement of people and wildlife from other continents has brought new threats to the safe haven of Oceania.

Tasmania (Australia)

Tasman Sea

New Zealand

## ULURU

In the desert landscape of central Australia stands Uluru, also known as Ayers Rock. This large rock formation is sacred to the Aboriginal people and attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists each year.



North Island brown kiwi with egg

## RECORD BREAKERS

Of all the world's birds, kiwis lay the largest eggs in relation to their size. A female kiwi may lay an egg that weighs as much as a quarter of her weight. Sadly, many do not hatch, and without protection only five per cent of the chicks reach adulthood.

## SHOCK OF THE NEW

Little spotted kiwis used to live on both the North and South Islands of New Zealand. Sadly, they died out on both islands, probably due to new predators arriving, brought by European settlers. Thanks to conservation efforts, little spotted kiwis now live in small populations on several islands, including Kapiti Island. Some have now been reintroduced to New Zealand's North Island.



# LITTLE SPOTTED KIWI

The little spotted kiwi is the smallest and most endangered of the five kiwi species. A national symbol of New Zealand, this surprising survivor was once considered extinct but has now become a conservation success story.

## ISLAND SANCTUARIES

Moving these flightless birds to islands where predators cannot threaten them has rescued little spotted kiwis from extinction. The population is now around 1,500, and considered stable and recovering, thanks to sanctuaries and community projects. To monitor kiwi numbers and locations, their calls are counted and specially trained dogs and radio tracking systems are used. In these safe habitats, more than half the kiwi chicks now survive.



Kiwis forage at night, in the leaf litter of the forest floor. Unlike any other bird, kiwis have nostrils at the end of their long beaks.

## KEY FACTS

**Scientific name:** *Apteryx owenii*

**Size:** Length: up to 45cm

**Diet:** Mostly small invertebrates, especially earthworms, also beetle and crane fly larvae, caterpillars, spiders and the fruit of the hinau tree

**Status:** Near threatened (population stable)

**Amazing fact:** After the female little spotted kiwi has laid an egg, it is the male that will sit on the nest until it hatches. The hatchling will then stay close to him for about a month.

# RED KANGAROO

This speedy hopper is the largest land mammal in Australia and the largest living marsupial in the world. Thriving in the grasslands of the Australia's rural outback, the red kangaroo has become a much-loved Australian icon, recognised all over the world.

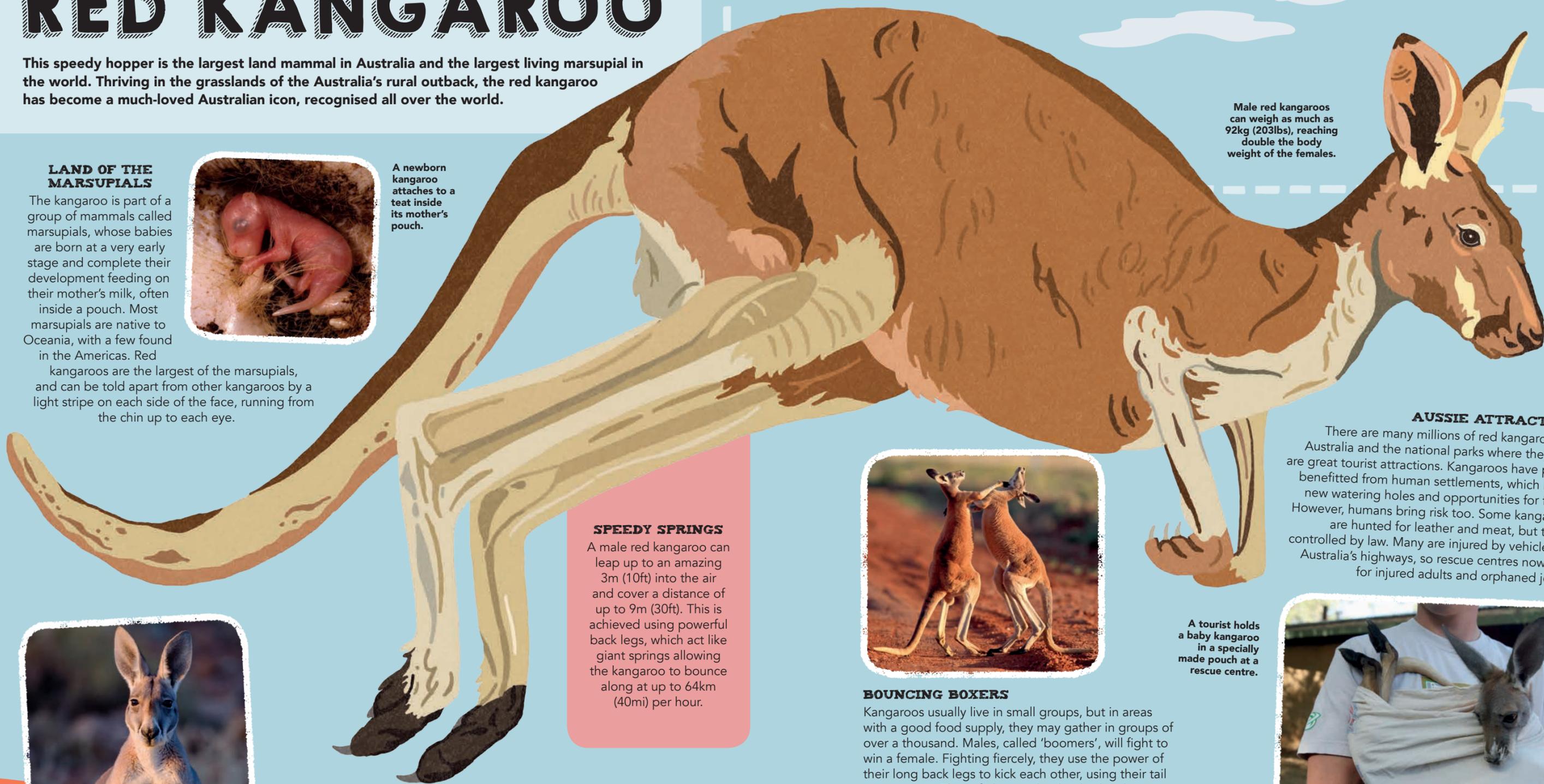
## LAND OF THE MARSUPIALS

The kangaroo is part of a group of mammals called marsupials, whose babies are born at a very early stage and complete their development feeding on their mother's milk, often inside a pouch. Most marsupials are native to Oceania, with a few found in the Americas. Red

kangaroos are the largest of the marsupials, and can be told apart from other kangaroos by a light stripe on each side of the face, running from the chin up to each eye.



A newborn kangaroo attaches to a teat inside its mother's pouch.



Male red kangaroos can weigh as much as 92kg (203lbs), reaching double the body weight of the females.

## SPEEDY SPRINGS

A male red kangaroo can leap up to an amazing 3m (10ft) into the air and cover a distance of up to 9m (30ft). This is achieved using powerful back legs, which act like giant springs allowing the kangaroo to bounce along at up to 64km (40mi) per hour.



## BOUNCING BOXERS

Kangaroos usually live in small groups, but in areas with a good food supply, they may gather in groups of over a thousand. Males, called 'boomers', will fight to win a female. Fighting fiercely, they use the power of their long back legs to kick each other, using their tail as a support. These fights can lead to broken bones, internal injuries and even the death of the weaker male.

## AUSSIE ATTRACTION

There are many millions of red kangaroos in Australia and the national parks where they live are great tourist attractions. Kangaroos have partly benefitted from human settlements, which bring new watering holes and opportunities for food. However, humans bring risk too. Some kangaroos are hunted for leather and meat, but this is controlled by law. Many are injured by vehicles on Australia's highways, so rescue centres now care for injured adults and orphaned joeys.

A tourist holds a baby kangaroo in a specially made pouch at a rescue centre.



## RAISING ROOS

A female red kangaroo gives birth to one blind, hairless baby after only 33 days' development. The baby is very tiny, but climbs up into the mother's pouch where it attaches to a teat and feeds on milk. Once it is large enough, the young kangaroo, known as a joey, peeks out from inside the pouch to see the world. It won't leave the pouch permanently until around seven to eight months old, and may continue to suckle for longer.

## KEY FACTS

**Scientific name:** *Osphranter rufus*

**Size:** Head and body length: up to 1.4m; tail length: up to 1m

**Diet:** Grasses and similar flowering plants, also leaves and fruits of certain shrubs

**Status:** Least concern (population stable)

**Amazing fact:** All at the same time, a mother kangaroo may have one baby feeding in its pouch, another that has left the pouch but returns to suckle, and a fertilised egg waiting to develop.

# 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 organised 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 non-living things, such as rocks, soil and water.

**ECO-TOURISM** Travelling 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 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.

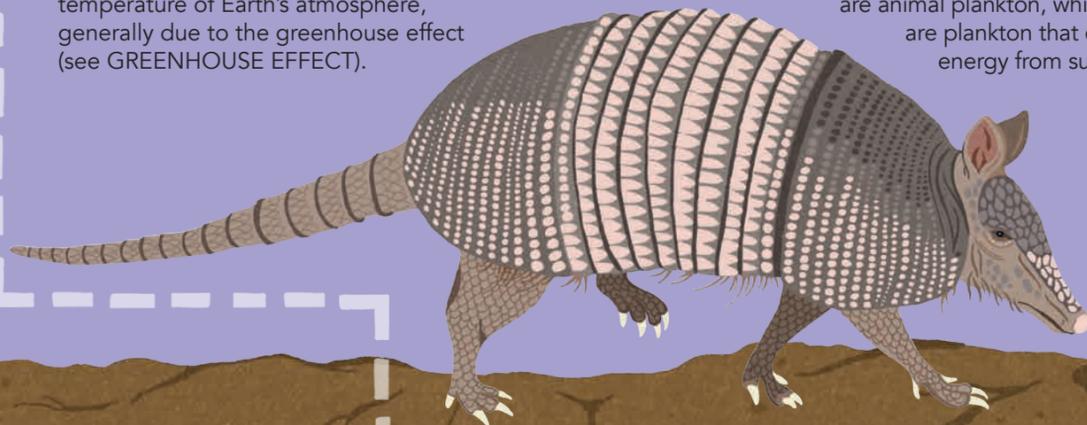
**POACHING** Illegal hunting, killing or capturing of wildlife.

**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** (See PLANKTON) Zooplankton are animal plankton, while phytoplankton are plankton that can produce energy from sunlight.



# INDEX

## A

albatross (black-browed) 133  
Alpine chamois 74  
anaconda (green) 42–43  
Arctic tern 16  
armadillo (giant) 40  
armadillo (nine-banded) 40  
armadillo (pink fairy) 40

## B

badger (European) 65  
bat (common vampire) 47  
bear (brown) 31  
bear (grizzly) 31  
bear (polar) 14–15  
beaver (American) 21  
bison (American) 28–29  
boar (wild) 68  
bonobo 82

## C

camel (wild Bactrian) 110–111  
cattle 49  
chameleon *Brookesia micra* 98  
chameleon (panther) 98–99  
cheetah 83  
cheetah (king) 83  
chimpanzee 82  
clown anemonefish 150  
cobra (king) 117  
cod (Arctic) 17  
cod (Atlantic) 17  
cod (polar) 17  
coral (staghorn) 142  
crab (Atlantic horseshoe) 145  
crocodile (Nile) 86–87  
coyote 27

## D

dolphin (Commerson's) 132  
dolphin (hourglass) 132  
donkey 63  
dragonfly (emperor) 70  
duck-billed platypus 126  
dung beetle 90  
dung beetle (African) 90

## E

eagle (bald) 24  
eagle (golden) 61  
earthworm 64  
elephant (African forest) 77  
elephant (African savannah) 77  
elephant (Asian) 102–103  
emu (common) 123

## F

flamingo (greater) 91  
flea (cat) 75  
fly (house) 60  
fox (grey-headed flying) 125  
fox (red) 72–73

## G

giraffe (Maasi) 93  
giraffe (northern) 93  
giraffe (reticulated) 92–93  
giraffe (southern) 93  
gorilla (mountain) 94

## H

hippopotamus (common) 79  
honey bee (European) 68–69  
horse 54  
horse (Criollo) 54  
horse (Peruvian Paso) 54  
hummingbird (ruby-throated) 32  
husky 9

## J

jaguar 48, 84  
jellyfish (lion's mane) 146  
junglefowl (red) 109

## K

kangaroo (red) 120–121  
kiwi (little spotted) 119  
koala 128–129  
Komodo dragon 105  
krill (Antarctic) 137

## L

lemur (ring-tailed) 96  
leopard 48, 84  
leopard (Amur) 84  
leopard (snow) 112  
lion (African) 80–81  
lion (Asiatic) 81  
lionfish (red) 151  
llama 41  
locust (desert) 85  
lynx (Iberian) 67

## M

macaw (hyacinth) 55  
monarch butterfly 34–35  
monkey (Guianan red howler) 39  
mosquito (African malaria) 95  
moth (luna) 26  
moth (miller) 31

## N

narwhal 13

## O

octopus (common) 152–153  
okapi 92  
orangutan (Bornean) 101  
orca 131  
owl (tawny) 57  
oxpecker (red-billed) 89  
oyster (silver-lipped pearl) 157

## P

panda (giant) 106–107  
pangolin (Indian) 104  
peafowl (Indian) 108  
penguin (Adélie) 135, 137  
penguin (chinstrap) 135  
penguin (emperor) 134–135  
penguin (gentoo) 135  
penguin (king) 135  
penguin (macaroni) 135  
penguin (rockhopper) 135  
penguin (royal) 135  
pigeon 58  
porcupinefish (long-spined) 155  
possum (Leadbeater's) 122  
pufferfish 155  
puma 25

## R

rabbit (European) 67  
rat (black) 71  
rat (brown) 71  
rattlesnake (western diamond-backed) 37  
reindeer 10–11  
rhinoceros (black) 88  
rhinoceros (white) 88

## S

salmon (sockeye) 30  
scorpion (Arabian fat-tailed) 116  
scorpion (deathstalker) 116  
scorpion (Indian red) 116  
scorpion (Malaysian forest) 116  
sea otter 148–149  
seahorse (long-snouted) 139  
seahorse (White's) 139  
seal (harp) 12  
seal (southern elephant) 136  
shark (bull) 141

shark (great white) 140–141  
shark (tiger) 141  
sheep (Finnish Dorset) 124  
sheep (Merino) 124  
sloth (maned three-toed) 50  
sloth (pygmy three-toed) 50  
spider (Goliath bird-eating) 44  
spider (western black widow) 33  
squid (giant) 156  
squirrel (Eurasian red) 59  
squirrel (grey) 59  
starfish (common) 143  
starfish (crown-of-thorns) 143  
sugar glider 122

## T

Tasmanian devil 127  
termite 51  
textile cone 147  
tiger (Amur) 115  
tiger (Bengal) 114–115  
tortoise (Galápagos) 52–53  
toucan (toco) 46  
tree frog (red-eyed) 36  
turtle (leatherback) 154

## V

vulture (white-backed) 78

## W

walrus 18–19  
whale (blue) 158–159  
whale (sperm) 144  
wildcat 62  
wildcat (African) 62  
wildebeest (Serengeti white-bearded) 97  
wolf (grey) 22–23, 27  
wolf (maned) 45

## Y

yak (wild) 113

## Z

zebra (plains) 89  
zebu 49  
zooplankton 146

