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In this book, you will:

discover interesting things about animals.

learn new words.

answer fun questions.

search for animals hidden in pictures.

find more animal activities at the back of the book.



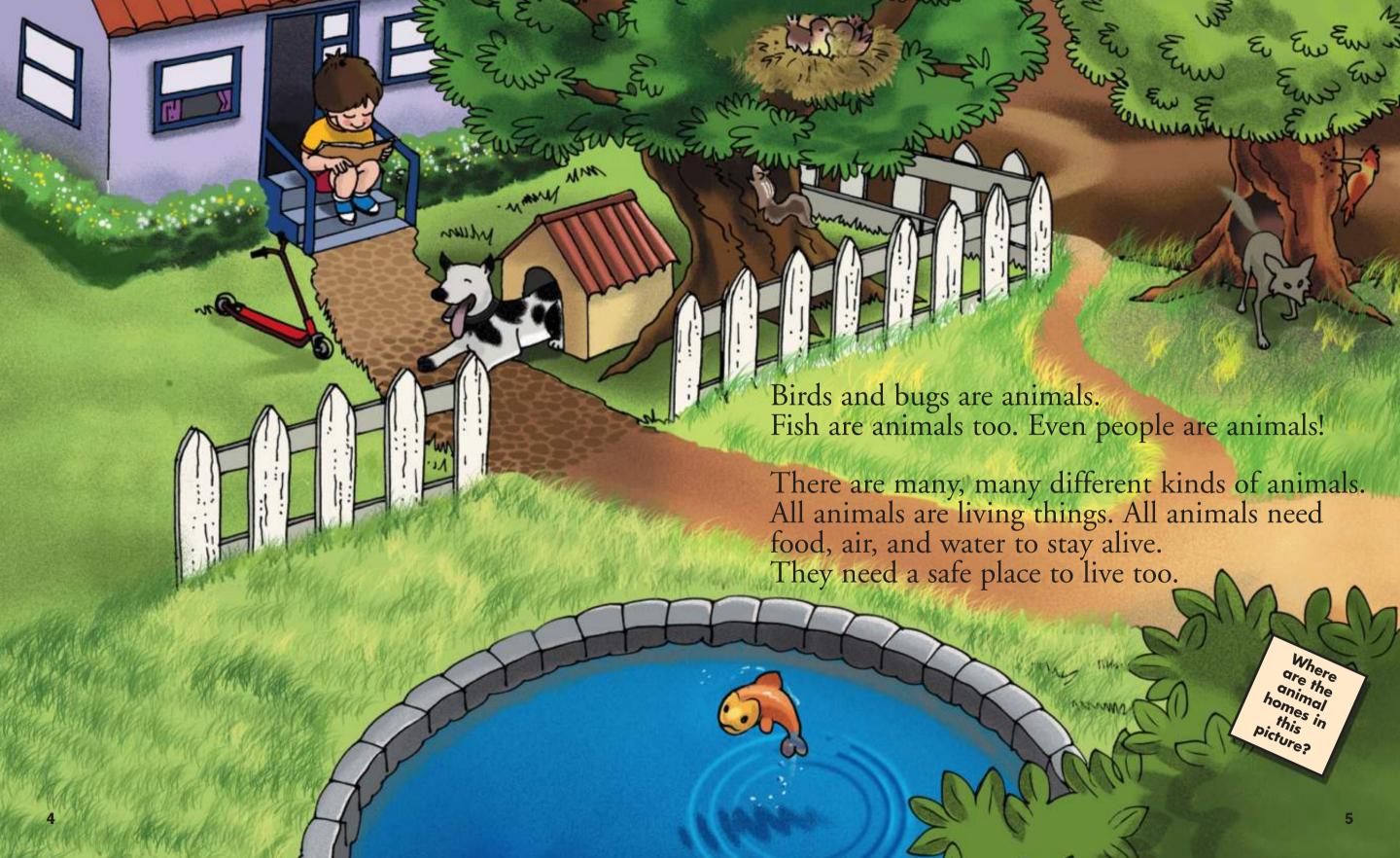
Everywhere in the world, animals are living and doing their best to stay alive.

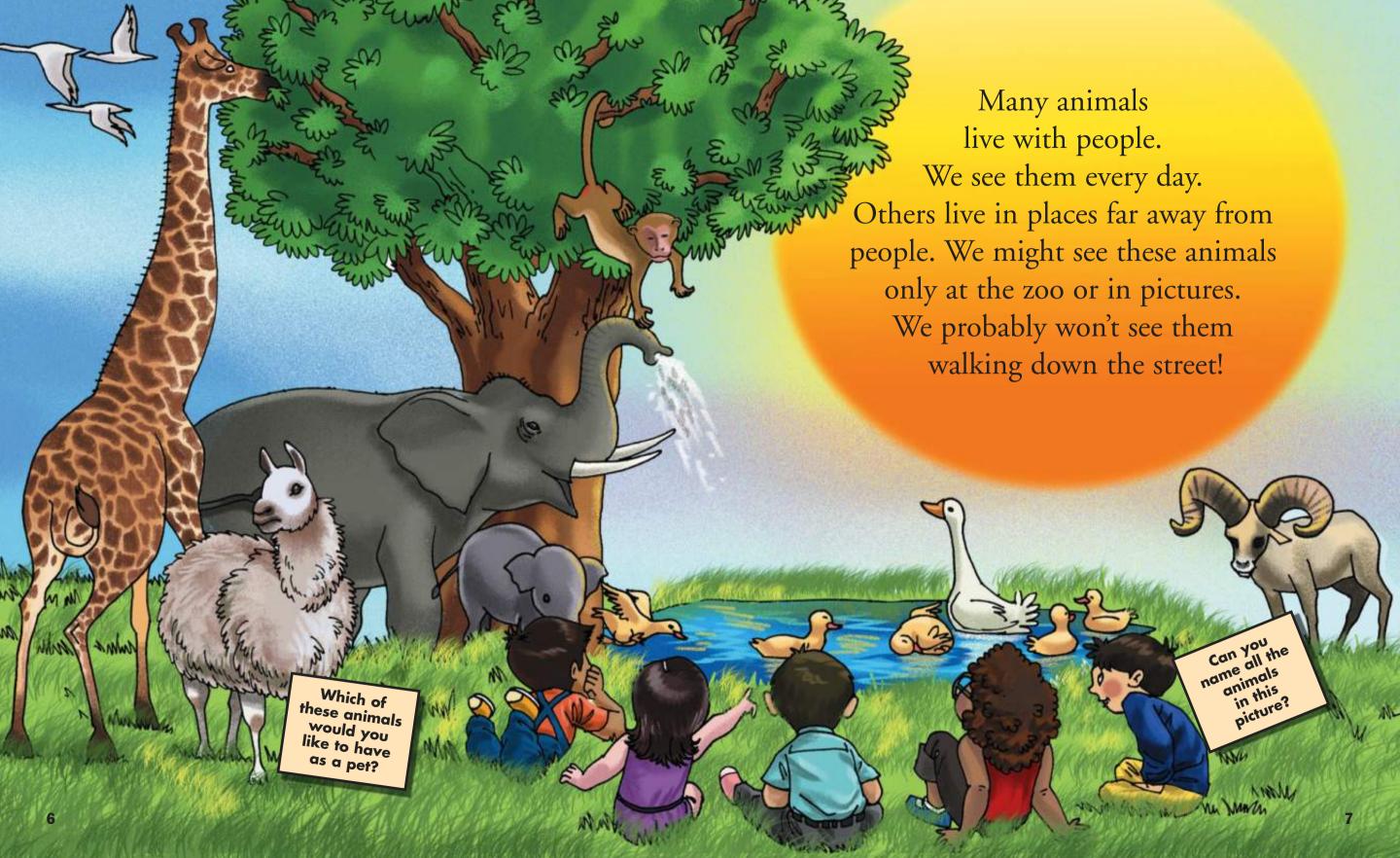
Animals are hiding and hunting. They are flying and diving, jumping and crawling.

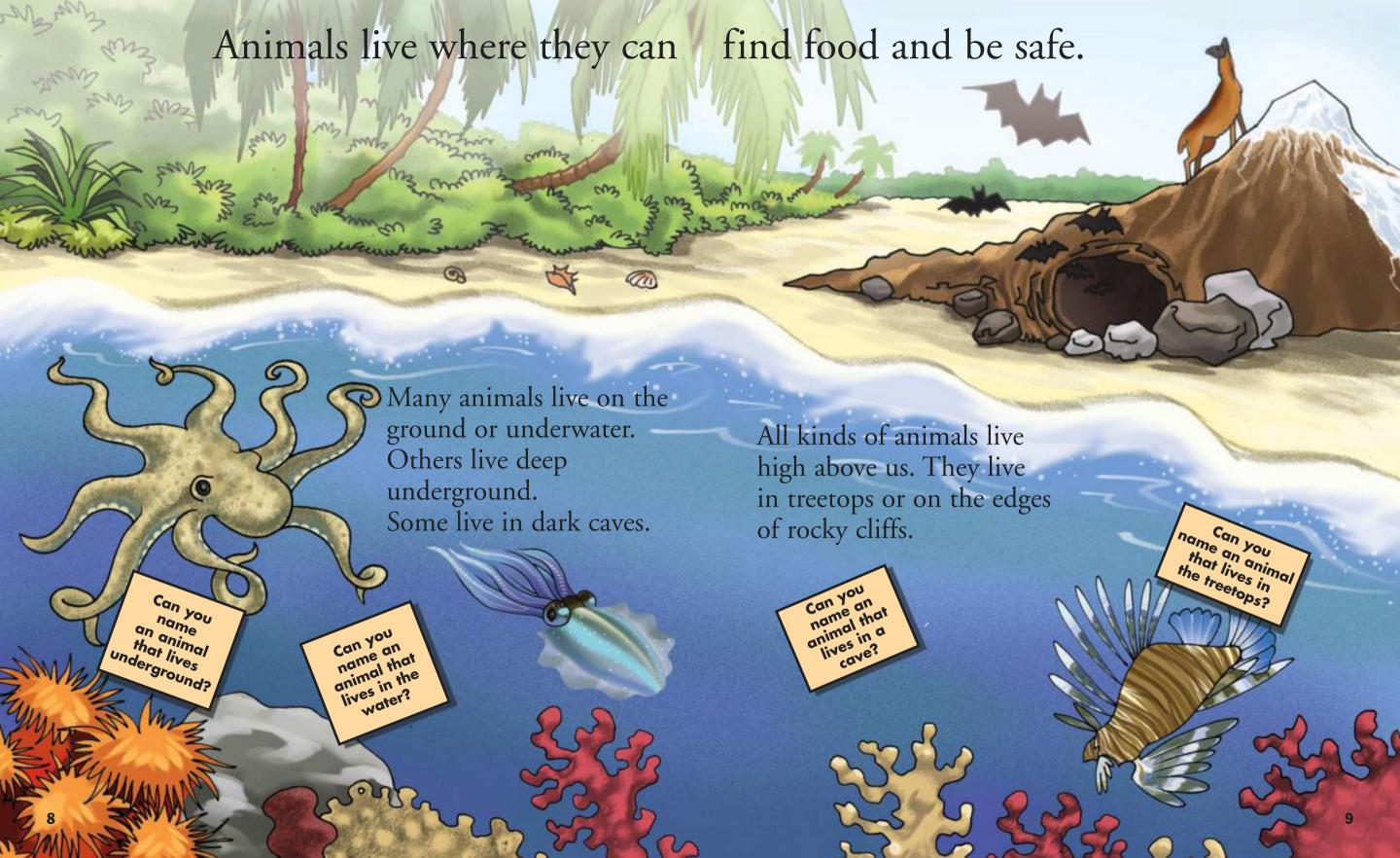
Animals are catching food and fighting. They are caring for their young and escaping from enemies.

Staying alive is an animal's most important job.



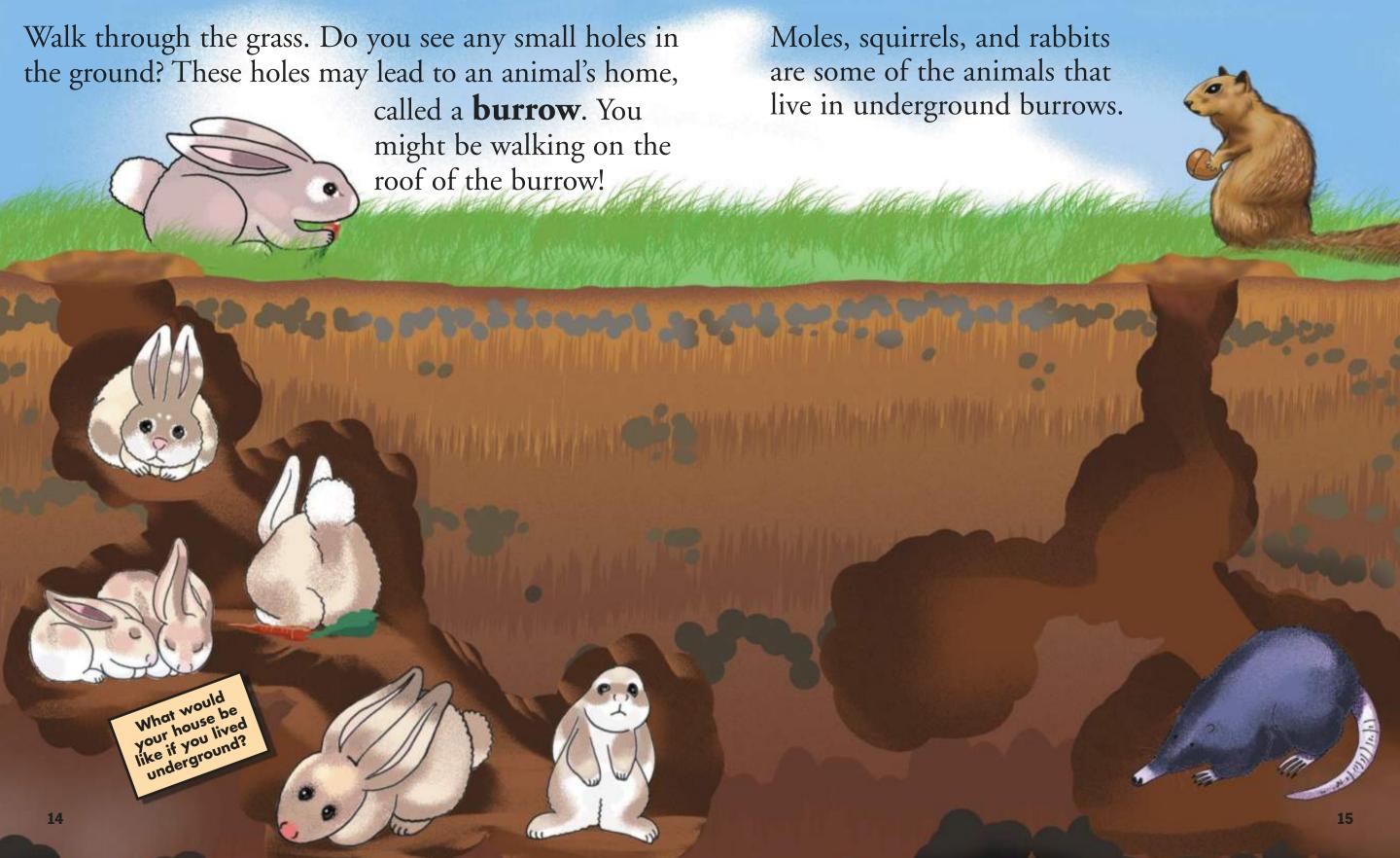


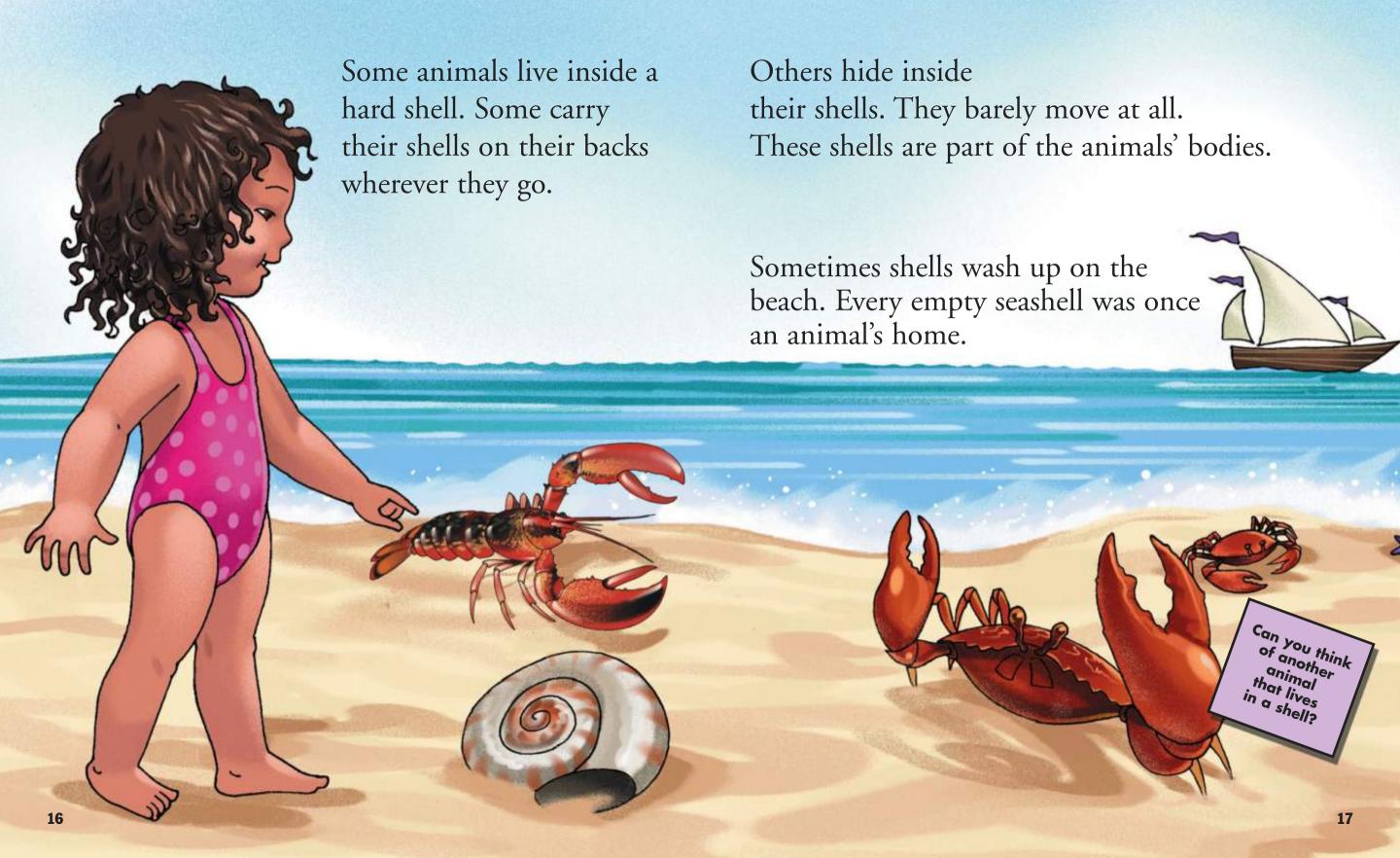


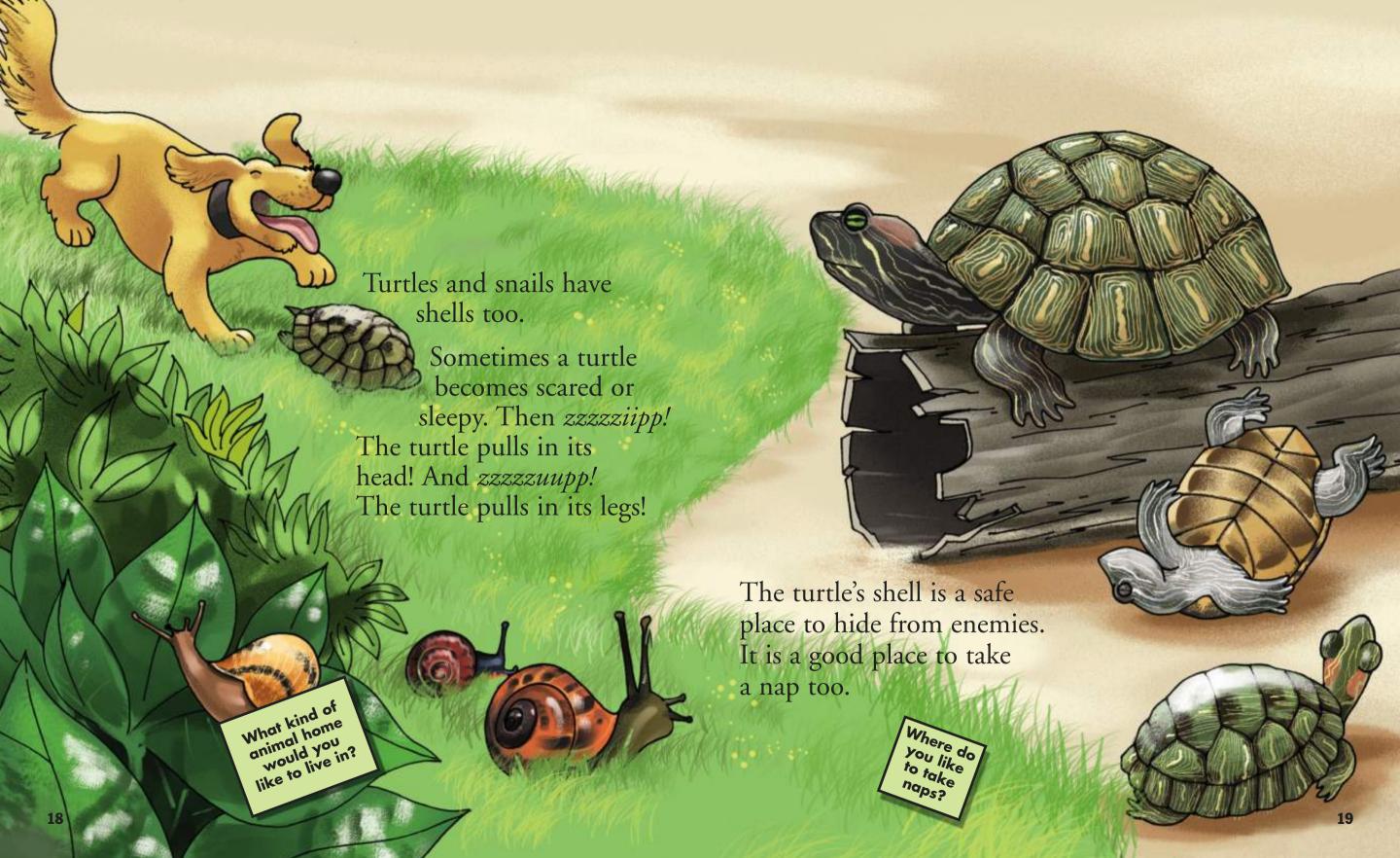




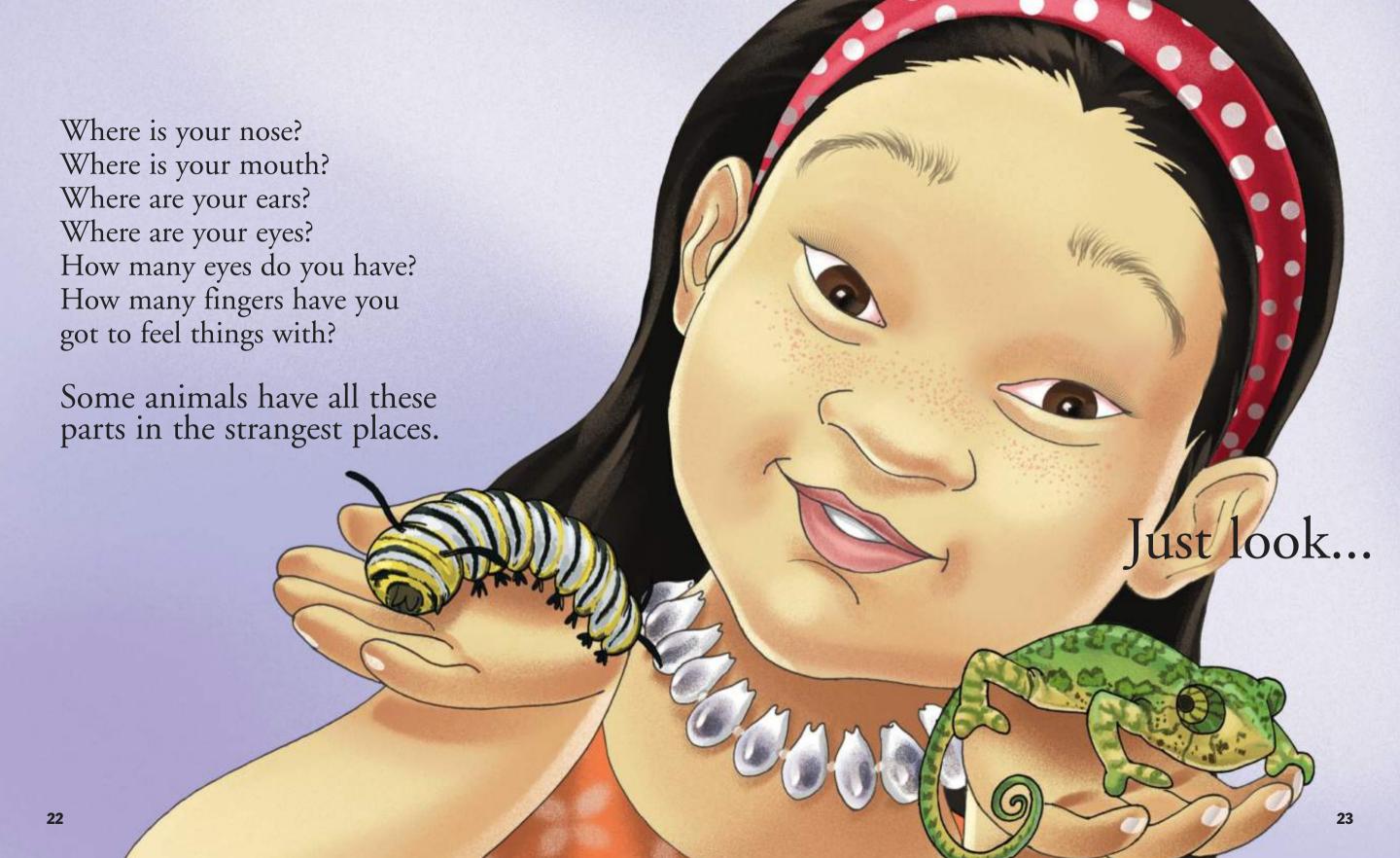


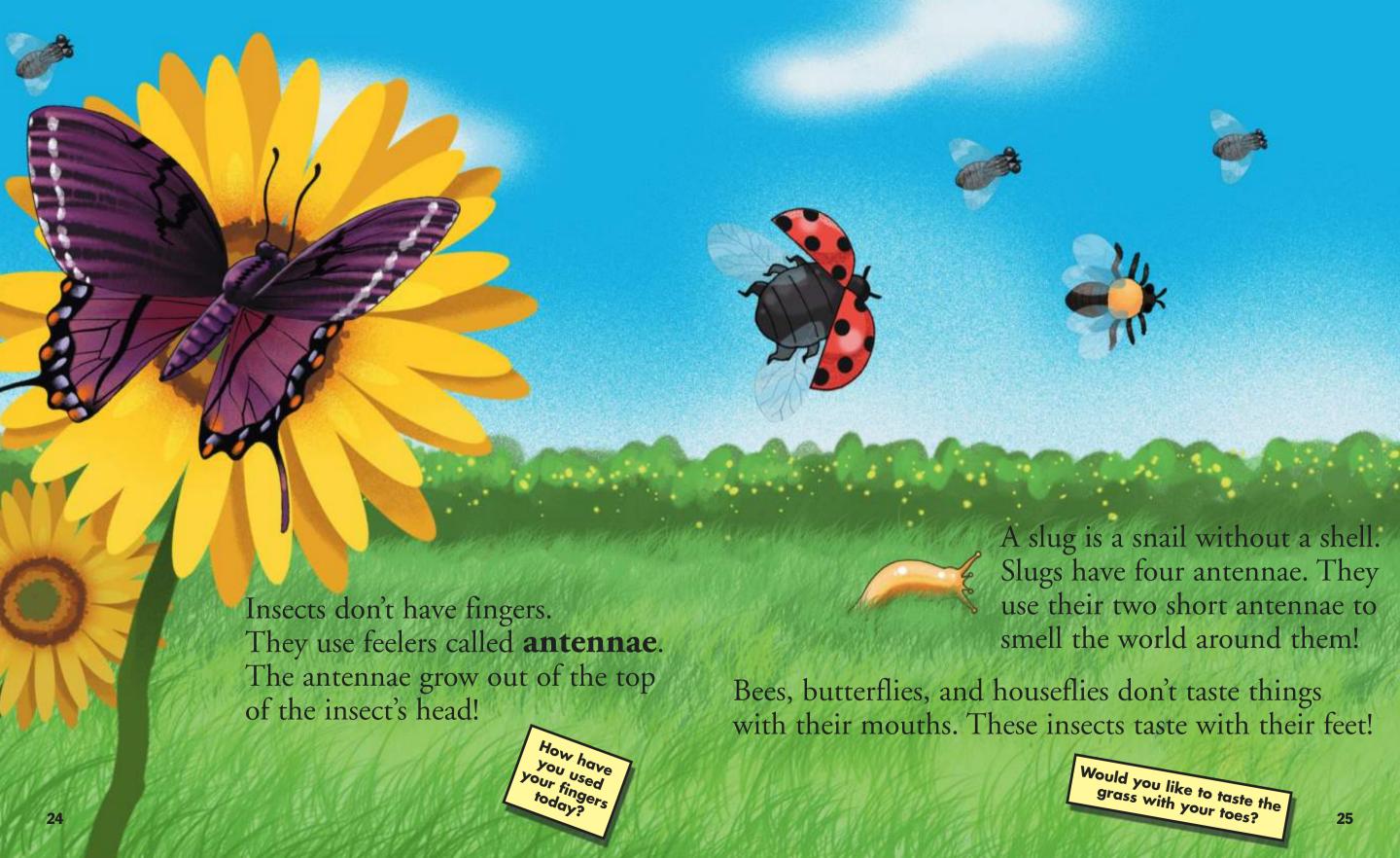


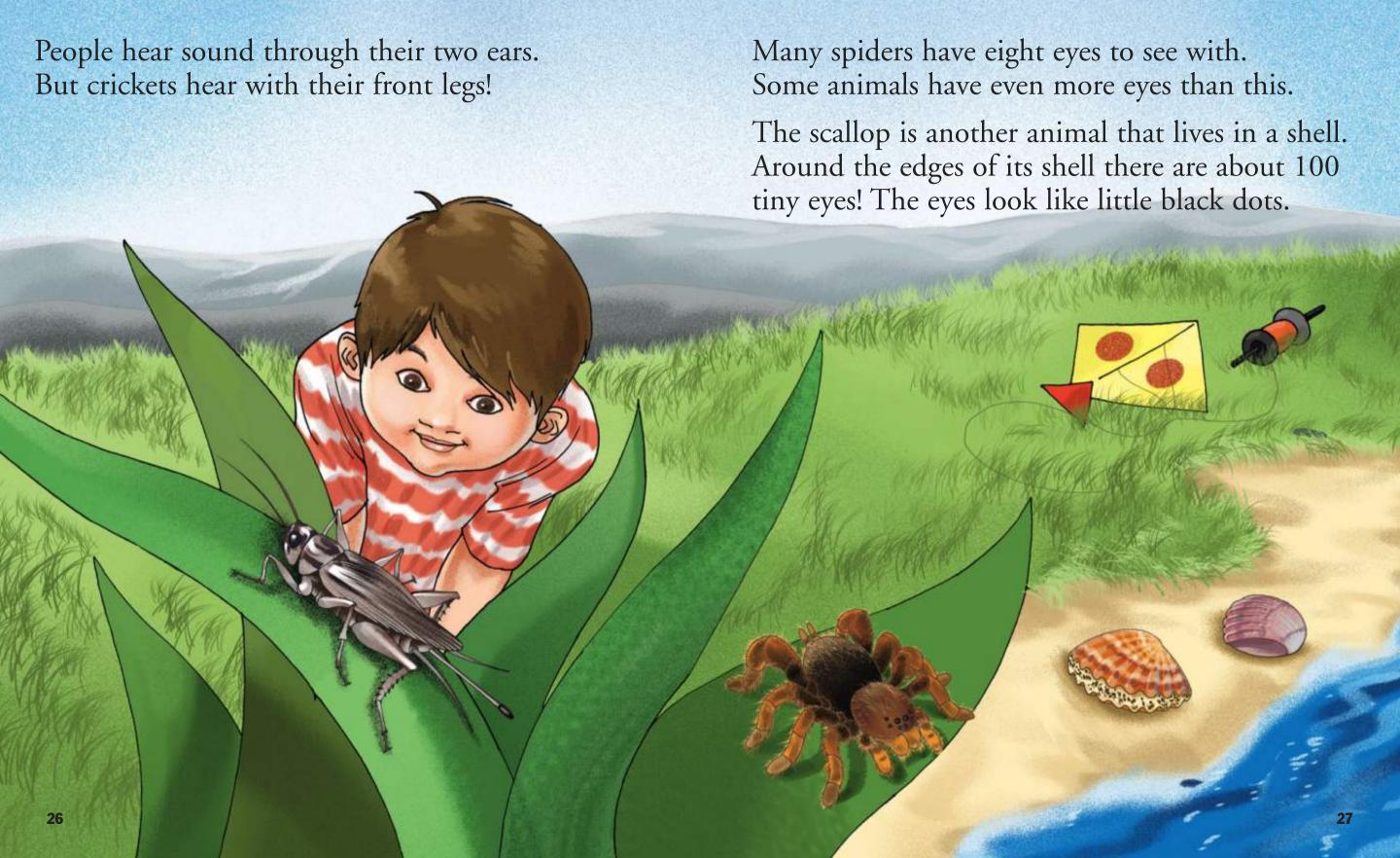












Wild animals must take care of themselves.
They have all kinds of ways to stay safe.

Many animals have coloring that matches their surroundings.





This makes it easier for them to hide from danger. It helps them hunt without being seen.





Animals in danger have all kinds

of ways to protect themselves.



Many birds and insects fly off as fast as they can. Others attack.

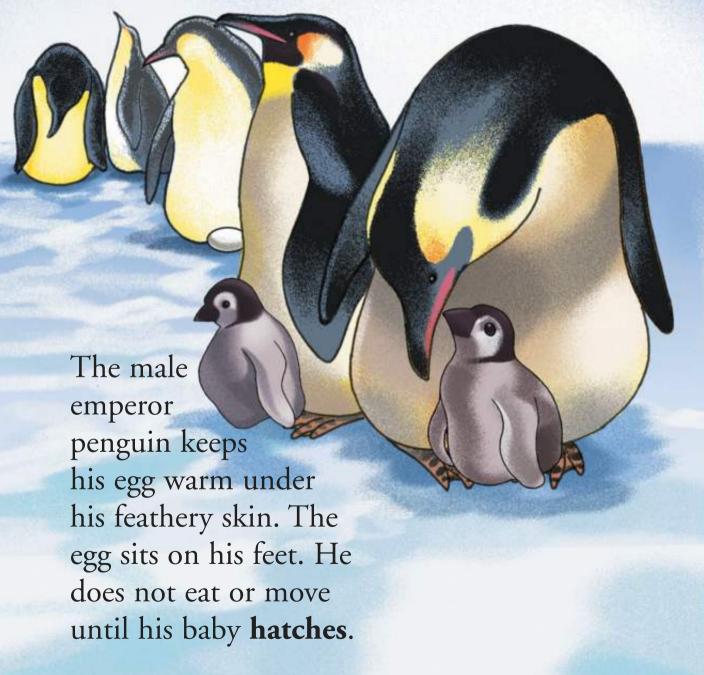
Lots of animals are fast runners. Kangaroos leap away on strong legs. Some snakes and other animals shoot poison at their enemies.

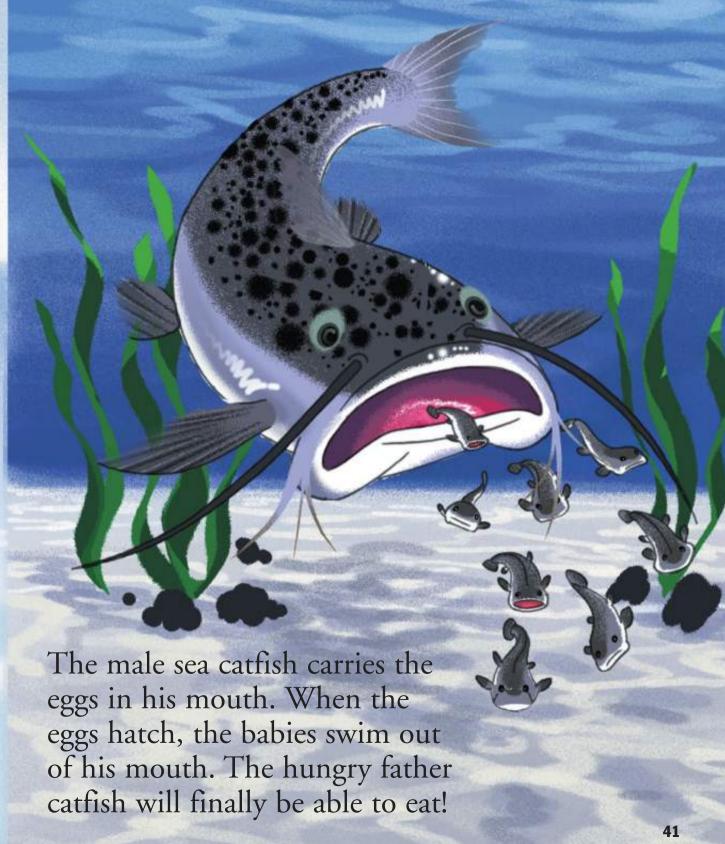


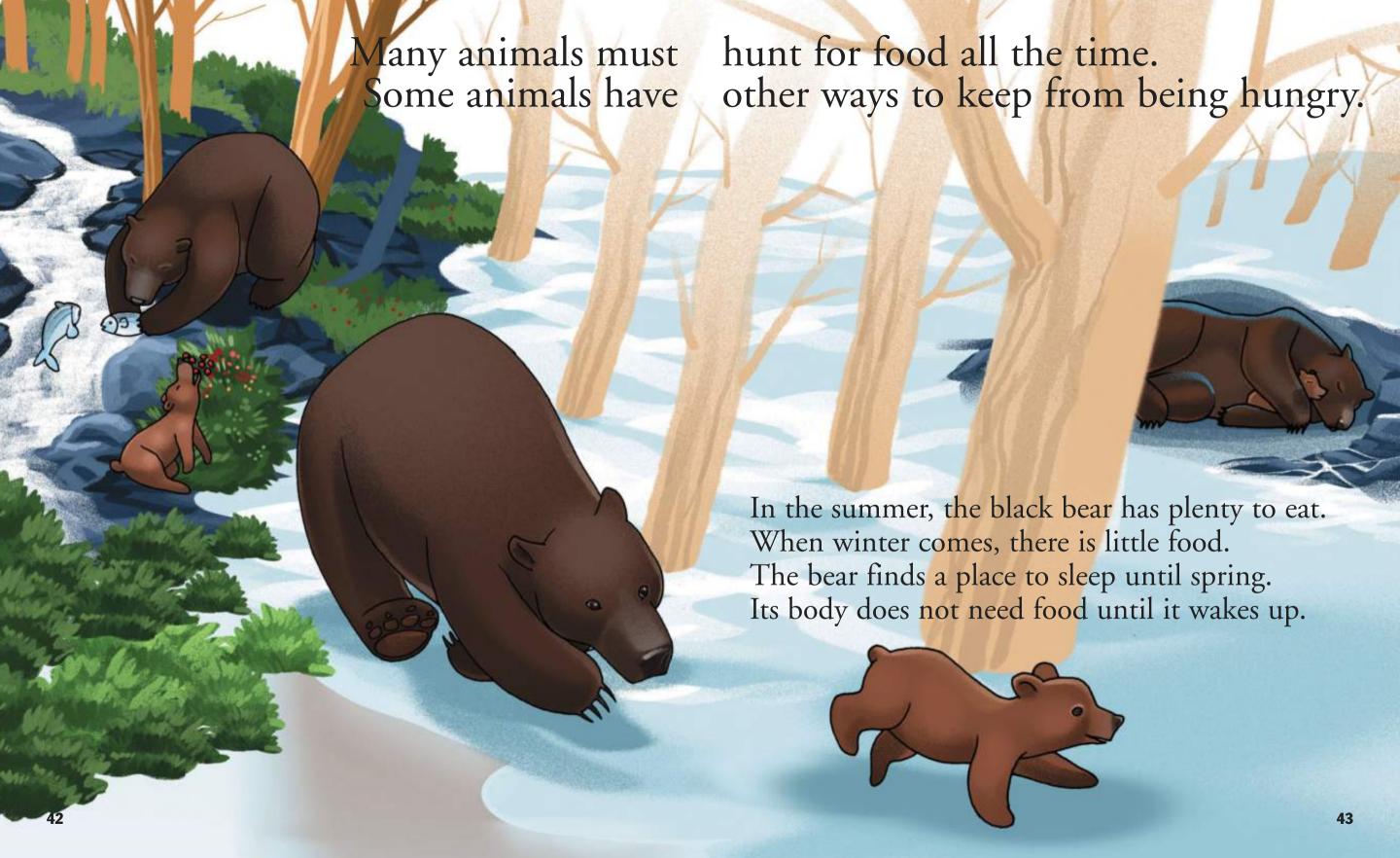


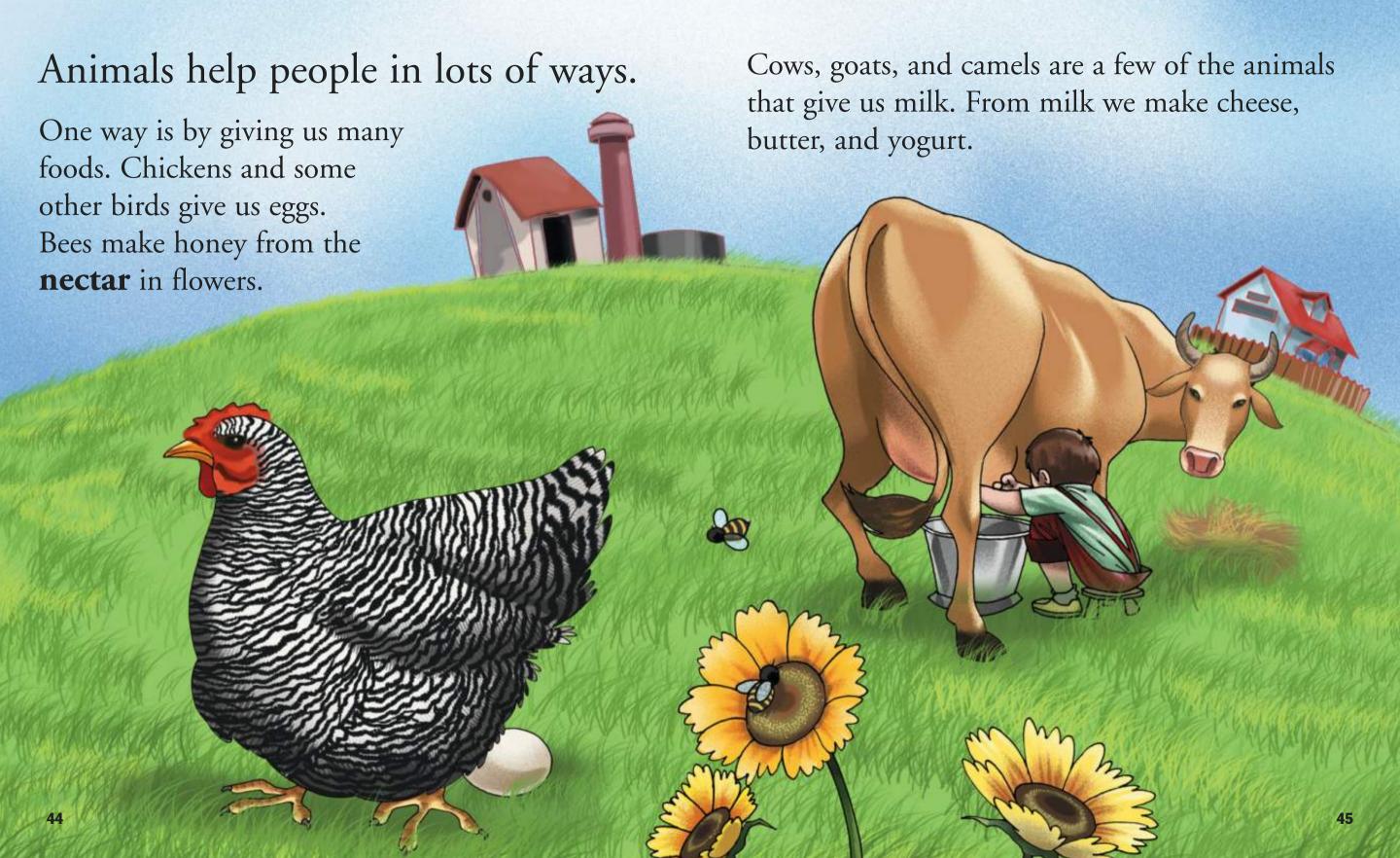


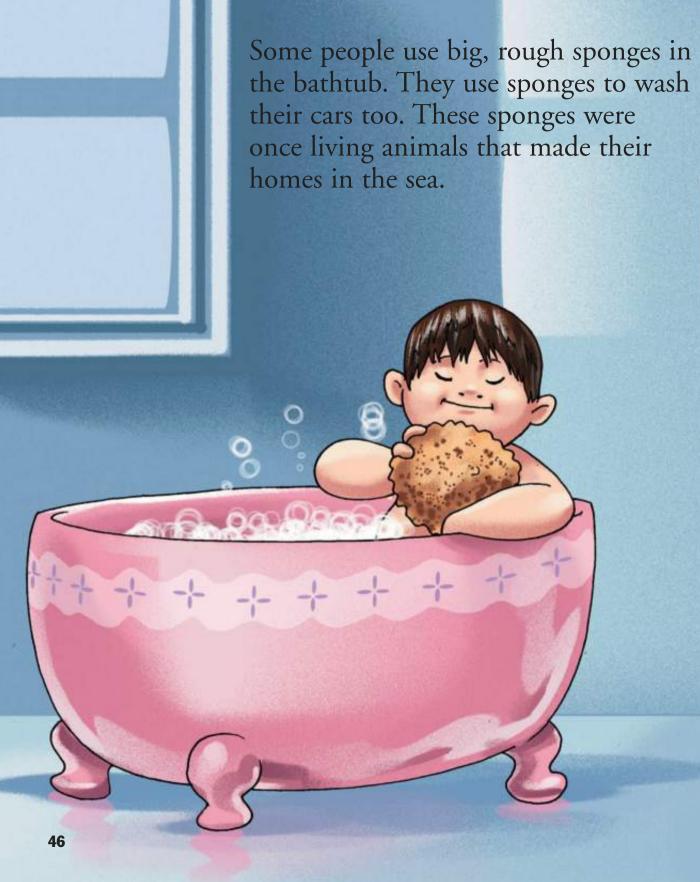
Father birds and fish sometimes baby-sit their eggs.





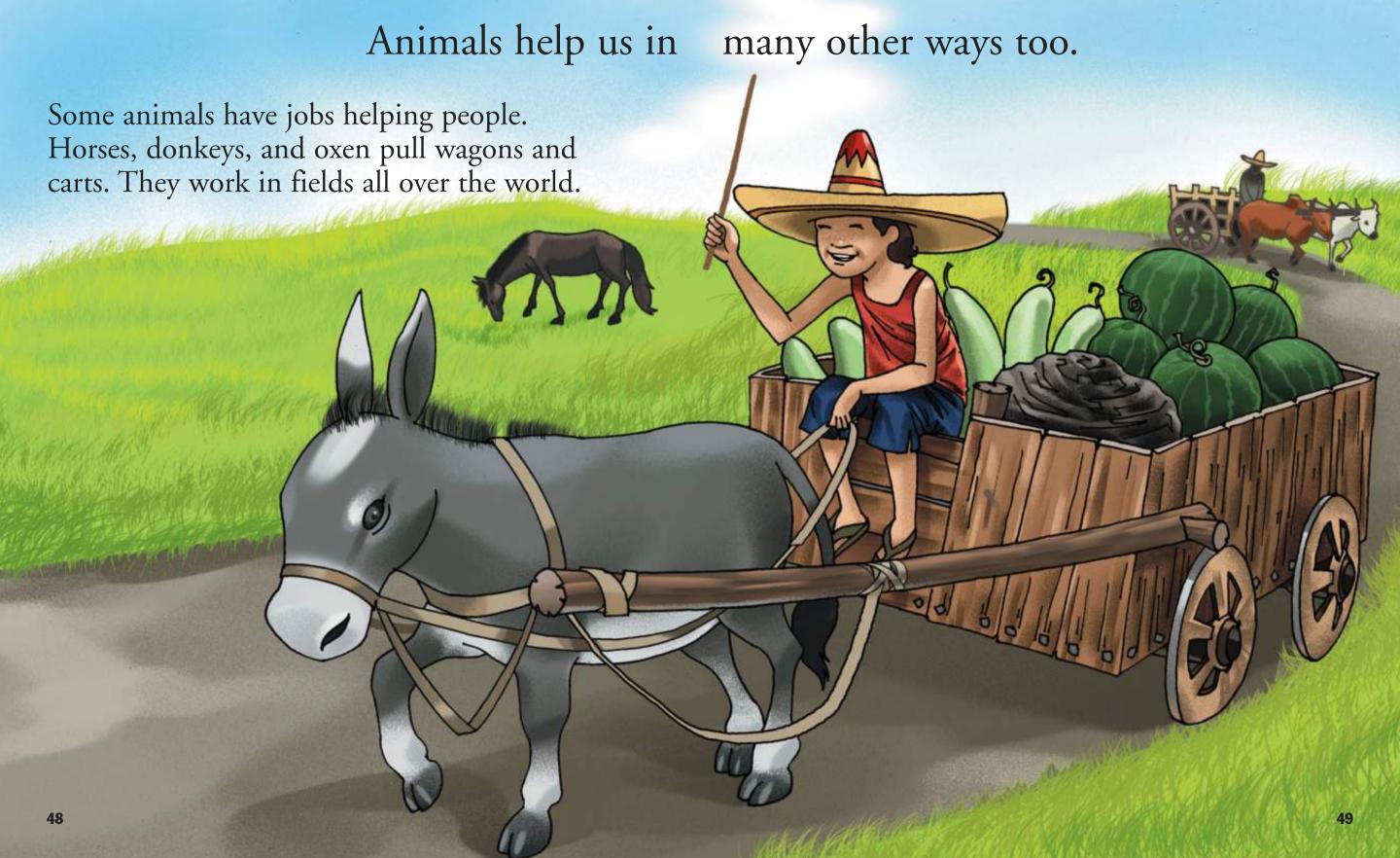


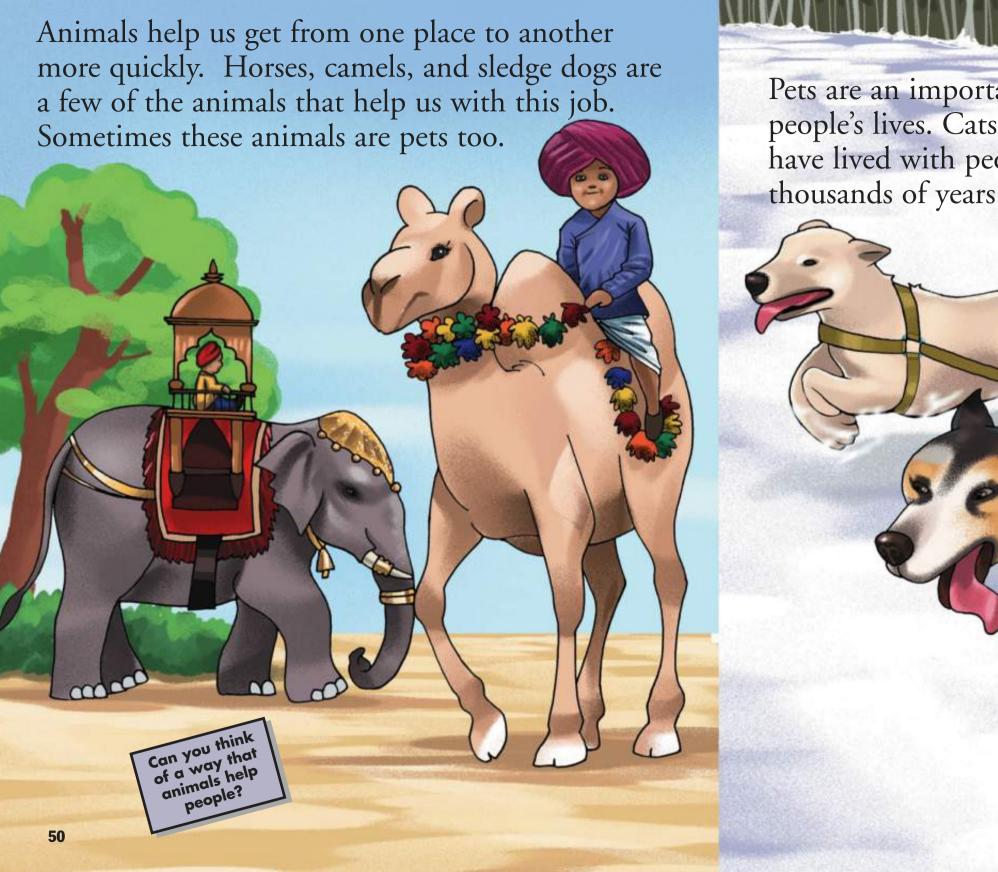


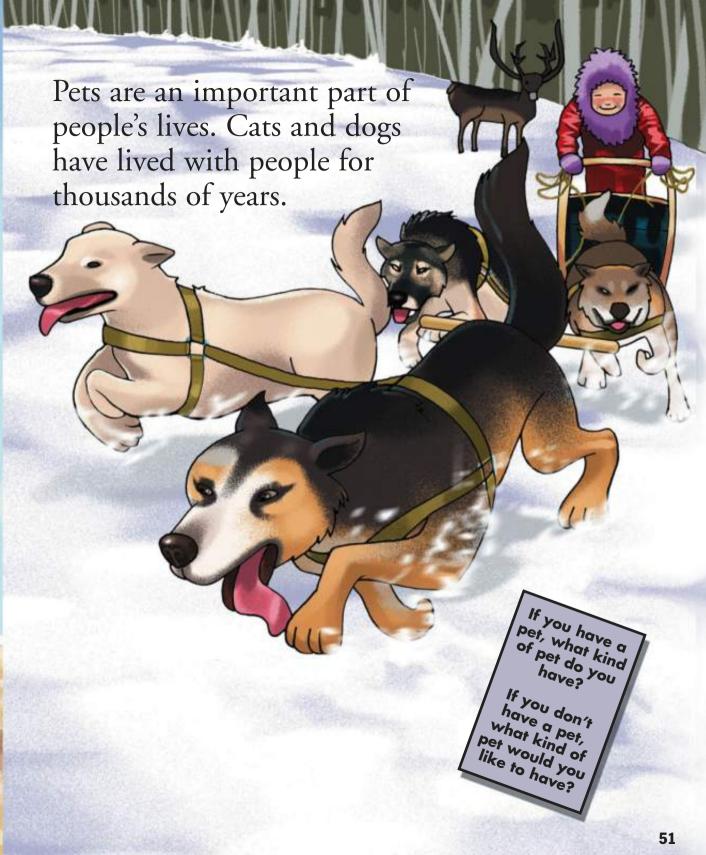


We make sweaters and other warm clothes from sheep's wool.

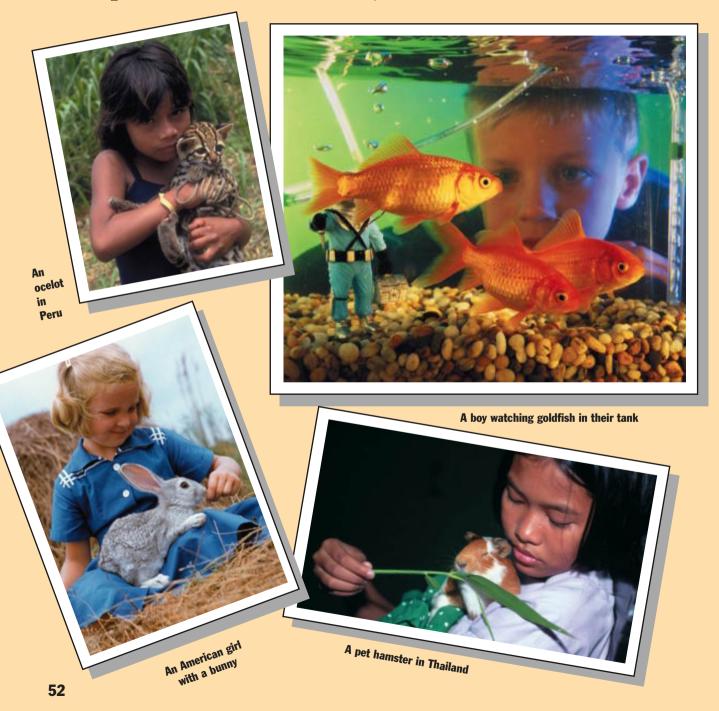




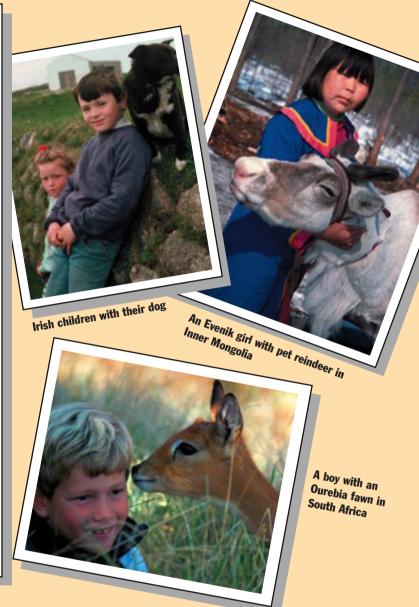




Unlike long ago, today people have all kinds of different pets. Bunnies, snakes, and guinea pigs are pets. So are parrots, fish, and many other animals.





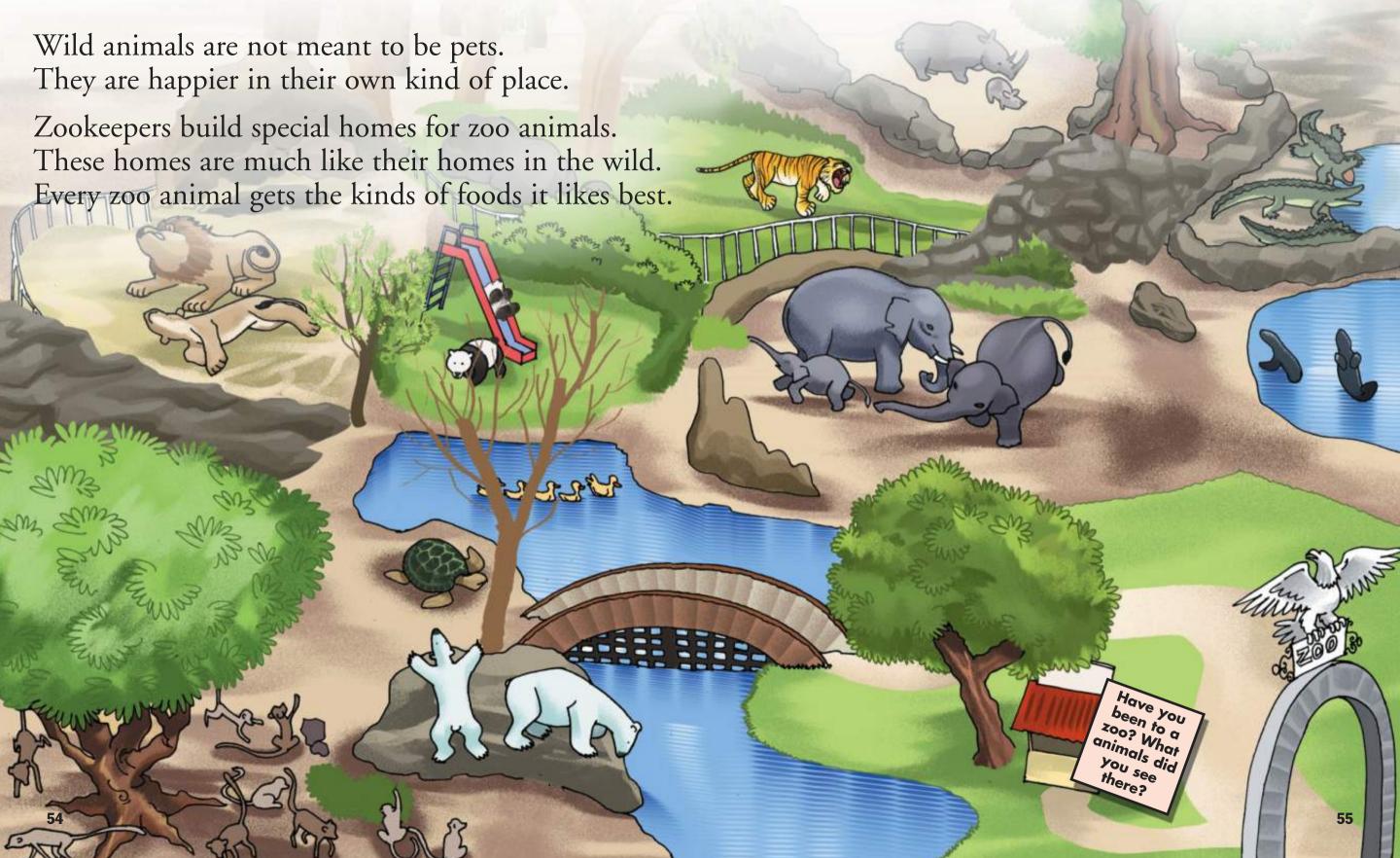


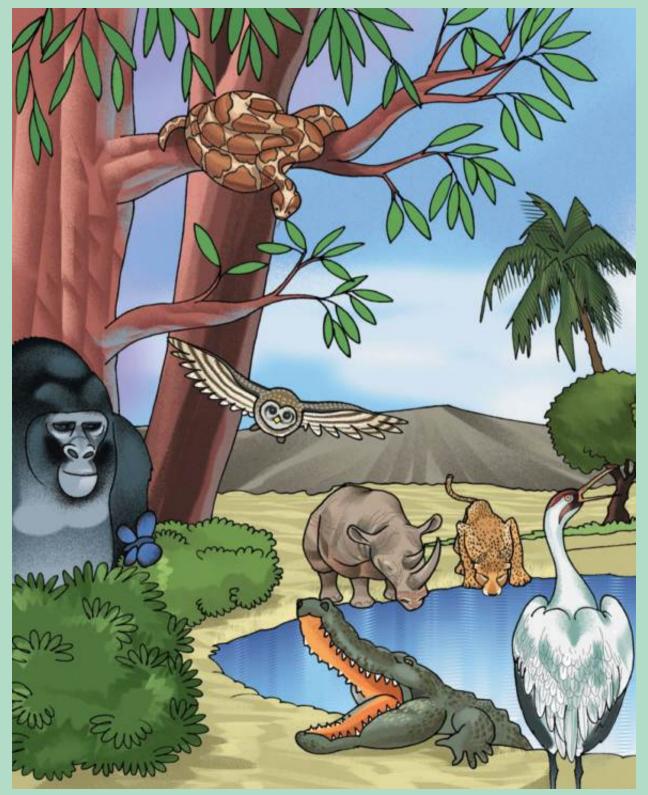
A pet turkey in Madagascar

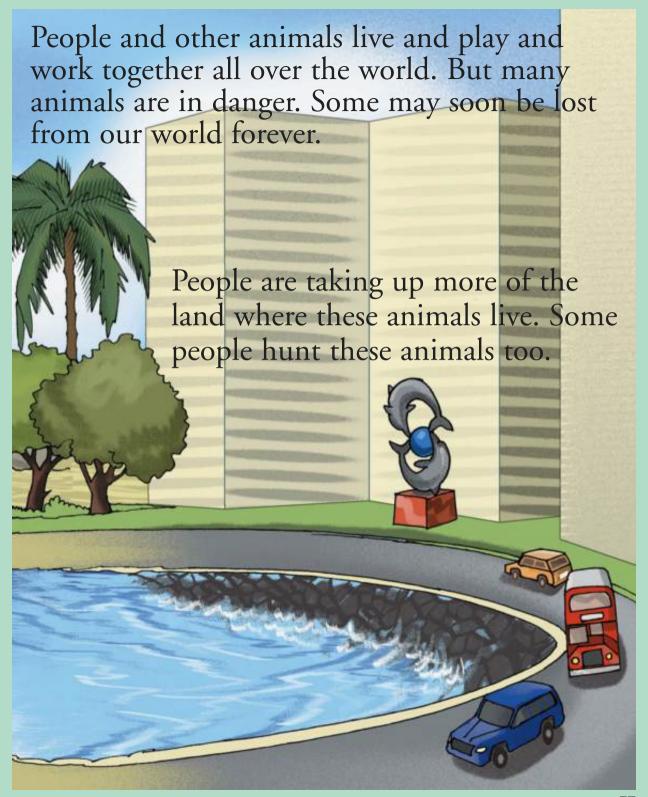
Pets need to be treated with love and kindness. They need food, water, and a place to sleep, just like people do. They should never be teased, hurt, or frightened.

What is the strangest pet you can think of?

Always be good to your pet!











Our world would be so quiet and colorless without all the animals that live here with us!



antennae (an TEN eye) the long feelers on the heads of most insects

burrow (BUR oh) a hole dug in the ground by an animal to live in

hatches (HACH ez) comes out of an egg

lair (lare) the place where a wild animal rests or sleeps

lodge (lawj) a beaver's home or shelter

nectar (NEK ter) a sweet liquid found in many flowers

spines (spynz) stiff, pointed parts that stick out sharply on some animals and plants

twig (twig) a small branch, usually without leaves

wildlife (WILD life) wild animals that do not live with people

Fun Ways to Learn about ANIMALS

Animal Guessing Game

Cut four pieces of thick paper in half. Then cut each half in half again. You will have a total of 16 pieces of paper. These are the cards you will use to play the animal guessing game. Now go through this book and find 16 different animals. Draw a picture of one of the animals on one side of a card, leaving the opposite side blank. Write the name of the animal on the same side as your drawing. Then draw another animal on another card, and continue until all the cards have a picture of an animal on them. Turn the cards over and write one or two facts about the animal on the blank side. For instance, if you draw a giraffe on one side, the other side might say, "I have a very long neck" and "I am brown and white."

Now see how much your friends and family know! Show them the cards one by one. Can they guess the correct animals just from the clues you put on the cards? You can also make a set of cards with a friend, each of you thinking up eight different animals.

Make a Strange New Animal

Get lots of colored paper, crayons, and colored pencils. You can also use sticks, yarn, pieces of cloth, or empty toilet paper rolls. Imagine an animal no one has ever seen before. Draw on paper or glue pieces of colored paper and other materials together to make your strange new animal.

If you have old magazines with pictures of animals in them, use these too. Cut out body parts from different animals and glue them together to make your new animal! What is this new kind of animal called?

You can write its name on the paper or tell others what you have named it.

Does it have a tail? Wings? Claws?

Where does it live? Draw the animal's home or describe what the home looks like.

What does it eat? Draw a picture of the kinds of food your animal would eat.

Animal Home Hunt

Find a friend to take a walk with. Explore your backyard, a park, or any outdoor place.

Look closely all around you as you walk. Look at the ground, in bushes, under rocks, and high up in the trees. See how many animal homes you can find. Look for anthills, bird nests, even doghouses!

When you get back to your own house, draw a map of the places you went. Show on the map the places where you found animal homes.



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Helping Children Get the Most out of the NIMALS Volume

The activities on the previous page will help your child expand his or her knowledge, skills, and self-confidence. Young children learn best when they are engaged in activities that they are genuinely interested in, so don't insist they continue with things they seem to be growing bored with.

Animal Guessing Game. Help your child cut the cards so that they are basically the same size and shape. If you're the one doing the clue-writing on the cards, try to get your child to provide those clues himself or herself, and be sure to write down the exact words. Your child is more likely to pay attention to the words if you write them down exactly as they were spoken. If your child can't think of any or doesn't know what kinds of clues would work, suggest ideas. You might pose your suggestions as questions (e.g., "Is there something we could say about this animal's color?") so that the child is more of a decision maker in what information the cards provide, even if he or she isn't able to write yet.

Make an Animal. Be sure to provide plenty of crayons, colored pencils, paper, and glue. Also have ready string, yarn, ribbon, fabric swatches, or other materials that can be glued to paper. If the children are too young to use scissors, cut shapes for them yourself, cut animal photos from magazines into pieces, or encourage them to tear out the shapes from paper by hand. Let the children create a collage effect on paper as they invent their animal. Let their creativity follow its own course, even if what they are creating doesn't look "right." Ask questions about their animals, and ask them to tell you what they call the kind of animal they've invented. Kids love to come up with silly new words!

Animal Home Hunt. Children are intrinsically curious. The more their curiosity is aroused, the more they will want to learn. As you walk, let your children be the first to discover evidence of animal homes. If they miss something that you see, subtly direct their attention and see if they spot it by themselves first before you point it out. As you walk, ask questions like, "What kind of animal do you think lives in this hole?" "How do you think the ants moved all this dirt?" and "What did the birds use to build this nest?"

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