

For Astrid - B.T. Dedication TBC - C.B.







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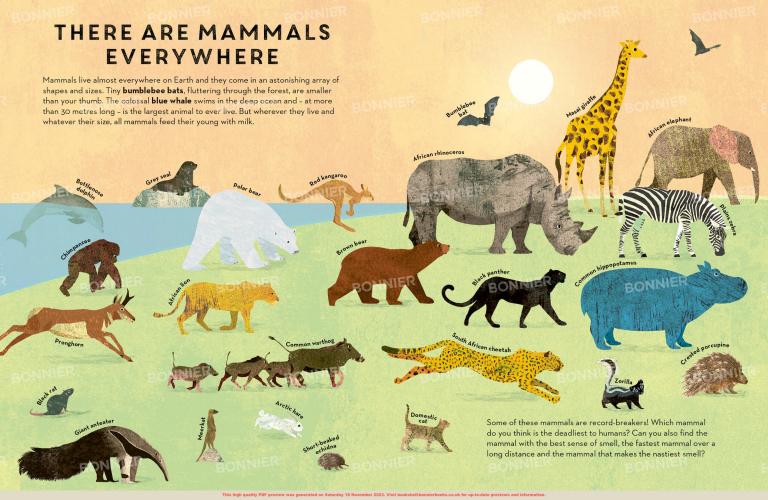
MAMMALS

EVERYWHERE



ILLUSTRATED BY BRITTA TECKENTRUP
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MAMMALS HAVE BEEN AROUND FORAGES

Mammals have been around for a really long time. The first mammals looked like shrews, which are tiny mouse-like animals with long. whiskered snouts. They lived about 210 million years ago, when dinosaurs walked the Earth and none of them grew much bigger than a cat! When the dinosaurs died out, mammals began B to change and evolve into the vast range of creatures that live today.



The mighty Gigantopithecus was one of the tallest mammals to ever live - reaching an





Morganucodons were amongst ONNIER





cat and ate leaves instead of grass. Sifrhippus lived about 50 million warmer than it is today.

Eomaia lived 125 million years ago. It was a long-snouted mammal that grew 10 centimetres long. The babies



lived on land, not in the sea! Pakicetus

probably spent most of its time hunting

ancestors would have kept a safe distance from this giant rhinoceros! Elasmotherium was a plant-eater

like Apidium, which lived 30 million like many of its modern relatives.



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Megatherium grew an

Woolly mammoths had long, during the last Ice Age. They went when temperatures increased.

is the giraffe. It can reach leaves high up in the trees

WHY ARE MAMMALS UNIQUE?

Mammals are a large and very successful group of animals. They have been able to spread across the world and survive in all sorts of habitats because they have some unique ways to stay warm, feed their young and get food.

WARM BLOOD

Mammals are warm-blooded - which means they can control their body temperature. This allows them to stay warm even if the weather turns cold, or if they live in cold water. They can also cool themselves down when they get too hot - they often do this by sweating or panting. African elephants flap their huge ears to cool down!



BIG BRAINS

Many mammals are intelligent animals that can play, learn and solve problems. This helps them to develop the skills they need to stay safe from predators and to find food.

FUR Hairs grow from a mammal's skin,

creating a thick fur coat that has many uses. It keeps the mammal warm and its colours and patterns can help to camouflage the mammal. so it can hide from predators.

BABIES AND MILK

Almost all mammals give birth to their babies (rather than laying eggs) and feed them with milk that the mother makes in a special part of her body called mammary glands. The milk is the perfect food for the babies and it protects them from disease.

SEA OTTERS

Sea otters can be spotted floating in the Pacific Ocean. Their favourite habitat is around a kelp seabed, where the world's largest and fastest-growing seaweed grows. The otters dive below the waves to find shellfish, fish and crabs to eat.

Sea otters have an incredible 125,000 hairs growing from every square centimetre of skin! The hairs are very fine and trap air between each strand. The air keeps the otter warm, like a thick, waterproof blanket. It also works like a life jacket, helping an otter to float.

A sea otter mother gives birth to one baby at a time, called a pup. While she floats in the water, she rests the pup on her belly.

2. Some shellfish are very

3. The sea otter floats on its back and rests the stone on its belly. It bashes the shellfish against the stone until it cracks open.

tough so the otter also collects a stone from the seabed and swims to the surface.

1. A hungry sea otter uses its hand-like paws to pick sea urchins off the kelp or shellfish, such as clams, from the seabed.

CAN YOU FIND?

Long-spined sea urchins eat the giant kelp and damage the sea otters' habitat. How many sea urchins can you spot grazing on the huge fronds of seaweed?

WHERE DO MAMMALS LIVE?

Nearly all species of mammals live on land - about 98 per cent of them. However, there are groups of mammals that spend most, or all, of their lives in water. These include pinnipeds, whales and dolphins. Other groups of mammals are superb swimmers and spend lots of time in the water, but choose to stay on land when they give birth or raise their young.

WHALES

Whales are perfectly adapted to life in the ocean. They have smooth skin and torpedo-shaped bodies that slip easily through the water. They have flippers instead of legs and they breathe using blowholes on the top of their heads.

Whale mothers give birth in the ocean. Their babies are called calves and they stay close to their mothers while they grow and learn how to find food.

Blue whale babies are

enormous and they grow a thousand times faster than a human baby!

TUNDRA

The land around the Arctic is called the tundra and it is famous for its snowy blizzards and blustery winds. It is a difficult place to live - unless you can stay snug inside your own super-thick fur coat. Musk oxen have hair that almost touches their toes and they snuggle up next to each other to get the benefit of some buddy-body-warmth!



FORESTS

with tall trees that bloom all year round, producing plenty of fruit for any animals that can reach it

Orang-utans spend

almost all of their lives in the branches, using their strong arms to climb from tree to tree, following the fruit as it ripens.

DESERTS

Deserts are very dry habitats that experience extreme temperatures. Bactrian camels survive desert life by storing food and water as fat inside their two humps. They grow thick, shaggy fur for the icy winter, and shed it for the hot summer months.

BEAVERS

Beavers belong to a group of mammals called rodents that have super-strong front teeth. They use these teeth to gnaw trees and branches and use the wood to build their homes in the middle of a pond or slow-flowing river.

A beavers' home is called a lodge. It contains rooms, called chambers, where young beavers are kept safe from predators.

Beavers are good swimmers. They enter the lodge through tunnels underwater and can stay safe and warm in their home during long, cold winters.

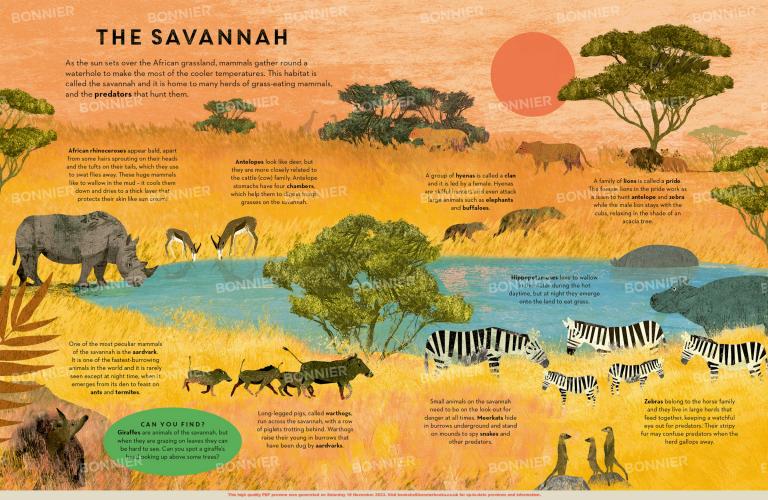


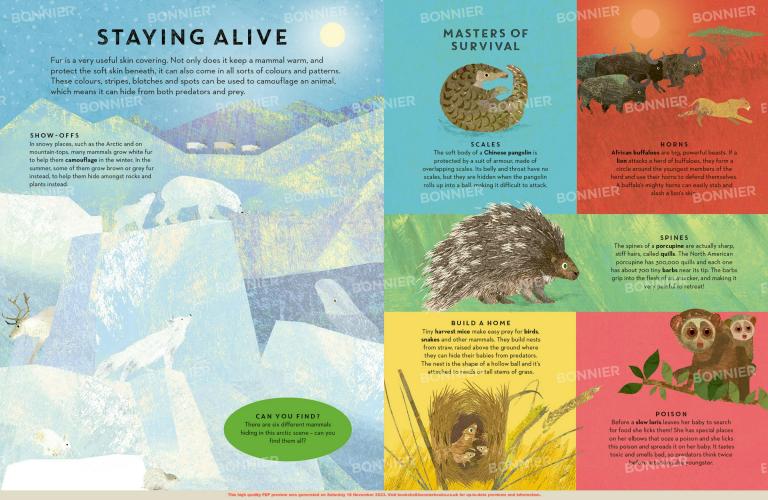
Many species of bat gather together in caves in big groups called colonies. They rest during the day by hanging upside-down from the cave ceiling and go hunting at night. Some caves can house more than five million batsl

CAN YOU FIND? Other animals like to camp out in a

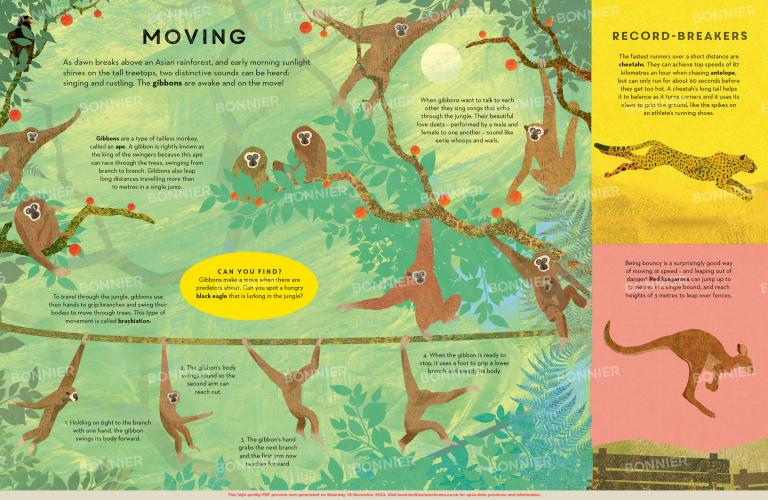
beavers' lodge, including water voles. Can you find one of these small, furry rodents with a long tail?

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MAMMAL PARENTS PARENTING SKILLS: GREY WOLVES Most mammal mothers keep their young inside their bodies while they grow all except for two very strange groups: monotremes lay eggs and marsupials raise their babies in pouches. EGG-LAVING MAMMALS There are just five species of mammal that lay eggs: four species of echidna and just In Spring, the alpha female chooses a male one species of duck-billed platypus. to mate with. The two wolves nuzzle each Grey wolves live in large family groups other, touching noses and grooming each called packs. The leaders of the pack are other's fur. The wolves form a close bond called the alpha female and alpha male. that lasts for a lifetime. Echidnas can grow up to 100 centimetres long. They have short legs, a long snout and tiny eyes and they have spines growing between strands of The alpha female is pregnant for about hair. Some echidnas lay a single egg in a burrow, 60 days and she uses this time to dig a but others keep their egg in a pouch. At seven months old, the playful pups are den where she will hide her pups. During allowed to join the pack on hunting trips. the pregnancy, four to six pups grow They watch the adults to learn how to inside their mother's body, in a special find, chase and kill prey. place called a uterus. MAMMALS WITH POUCHES There are about 300 species of marsupial and, like the monotremes, many of them live in or around Australia. Koalas, kangaroo, quolls, wombats and A kangaroo joey stays in its oppossums are all types of marsupial. mother's pouch for several months as it grows, although it may climb out from time to time to stretch its leas! When the pups are four weeks old, they are brave enough to leave the Pups are born blind and deaf, but they have den and explore. They now have a good sense of smell. The mother feeds teeth and can start to eat meat. them with milk but other females in the pack can also make milk and take over feeding when the mother wants a rest. Mother kangaroos give birth to tiny babies, called joeys, which are often no bigger than a jellybean. A joey must make its own way to the The whole pack helps to care for the mother's pouch, where it latches on to a teat growing pups and they even babysit and suckles on its mother's milk. when the alpha wolves go hunting. This high quality PDF preview was generated on Saturday 18 November 2023. Visit bookshelf.bonnierbooks.co.uk for up-to-date previews and information

A female elephant, called the matriarch, leads the herd. She is old and can remember the route she must sake, and she knows how to search for water, scanning the sky for signs of rain clouds. There has been no rain for some time, so the land is dry and the plants are dying. It is time for the herd to move west. They start a journey that will cover about 500 kilometres, much The elephants reach Lake Banzena where they rest, seeking bade in Hickets of trees while they wait for the rany season to begin. They can talk to said other by melting low rumbing sound that travel long distances through the ground. Elephants hear and feel the rumbles. of it in blistering heat and sudden In the hot desert lands of Mali in Africa, elephant families set out on an epic journey each year in search of food and water. Only by working as a team and taking care of each other, can these huge mammals survive in this harshest of habitats. A baby elephant – aralf – lies in the mud to cool down. Gaffizia er cared for by their mothers, aunts rousins and sellings. They stroke the baby, or gently slap it with their trunks if it moves too far if from the safety of the head. MALI ELEPHANTS Elephants produce lots of poo, or dung. Dung begies collect the dung, roll it into balls and/ay their eggs in: When the eggs hatch the grubs eat the dung. How many dung beetles can you find? The grey douds on the horizon tell the elephant that rains are falling in the south, and they begin the next stage of their test. Their traditional route takes them through villages that have been built in the area, so now they must valk even further to avoid the villages. CAN YOU FIND? At the beginning of the dry season, herds of elephants roam along marshes, just south of Timbuktu. There is water and some small trees grow here, where the desert sands start to spread across the land. When the rainy season is over, the elephants will continue their circular route, back to where they began in the marshes of the north. Finally, the herd reaches the lush grasslands of Forn'i The safe yeason has turned the land green, with plants springing up everywhere. The waterholes are full again, and the elephants can plus together in the water, enjoying a well-samed rest. The elephants have to travel quickly so they can each the arms before they die of thirst or starvation. Young elephants are helped along by their family, and allowed to rest in the shade of their large bodies.

The lives of mammals have been intertwined with humans since the earliest times. For many thousands of years, people have hunted mammals for meat and used their skins

and furs. Cattle, camels, llamas and horses have been used to plough the land or carry people and their goods far across the globe.





PEOPLE AND PETS

Wild cats may have been tamed, or

domesticated, more than 10,000 years

ago! The first dogs lived among humans

even earlier, when wolves were used on

hunting trips during the last Ice Age.

Today, cats and dogs are still much-

loved companions.

MAMMALS AT WORK MYTHS AND LEGENDS

Some mammals have been trained to do important tasks. Assistance dogs help people who cannot see or hear, or who have difficulties with moving. Lifesaving rats have been trained to sniff out bombs in war zones and mice have learned how to find dangerous drugs that pass through airports.

All over the world, people have put mammals at the centre of their stories. These include flying horses, such as Pegasus from the Greek myths. Some world religions revere mammals such as cattle, bears and

elephants, and honour them in festivals and ceremonies.

Mammals are an essential part of the natural world, but they are in greater danger than ever before. In modern times, 85 species of mammal have already gone extinct, and nearly a quarter of all mammal species are at risk of going extinct - which means dying out forever.

MAMMALS IN DANGER

There are fewer than 20 vaquitas are river porpoises left in the world. They have suffered from pollution and also get trapped in fishing nets. It's hoped that the last few can be saved, before it is too late.

No one has seen a wild scimitar-horner oryx in its desert home since 1988. These majestic beasts were hunted for their horns and now they are kept safe behind fences. Hopefully one day they can be released back into the wild.

Cotton-top tamarins live in the forests of South America, but is thought only 2,000 of them still survive there. In the past, they were sold as pets. and their habitat has been removed to build homes for people instead. Scientists and local people are now working hard to save them.

The shrinking jungles of Sumatra, an island in Southeast Asia, are home to fewer than 80 rhinos. Their forests have been cut down to make way for farms and they are hunted for their horns. The last Sumatran rhinos are now kept safe and protected from hunters.

HUMANS ARE MAMMALS TOO

Humans belong to the group of mammals called primates, which includes monkeys and apes. We are similar to our primate cousins in many ways!



Like humans, monkeys and apes have hands and use them to grip, hold, throw and pick up small things. Chimps poke sticks into termite mounds then pull them out to lick the buas.

Human childhood is a time of play and learning. The childhood of an orang-utan lasts for about seven years, and during this time the mother cares for her youngster and teaches it how to find the best fruits to eat.



Primates are experts at communicating. They use sounds to talk, but they also use their faces to show how they are feeling. Chimps pout and whimper when they are feeling unhappy and when they are happy they make a special smile, with their lower teeth showing.

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