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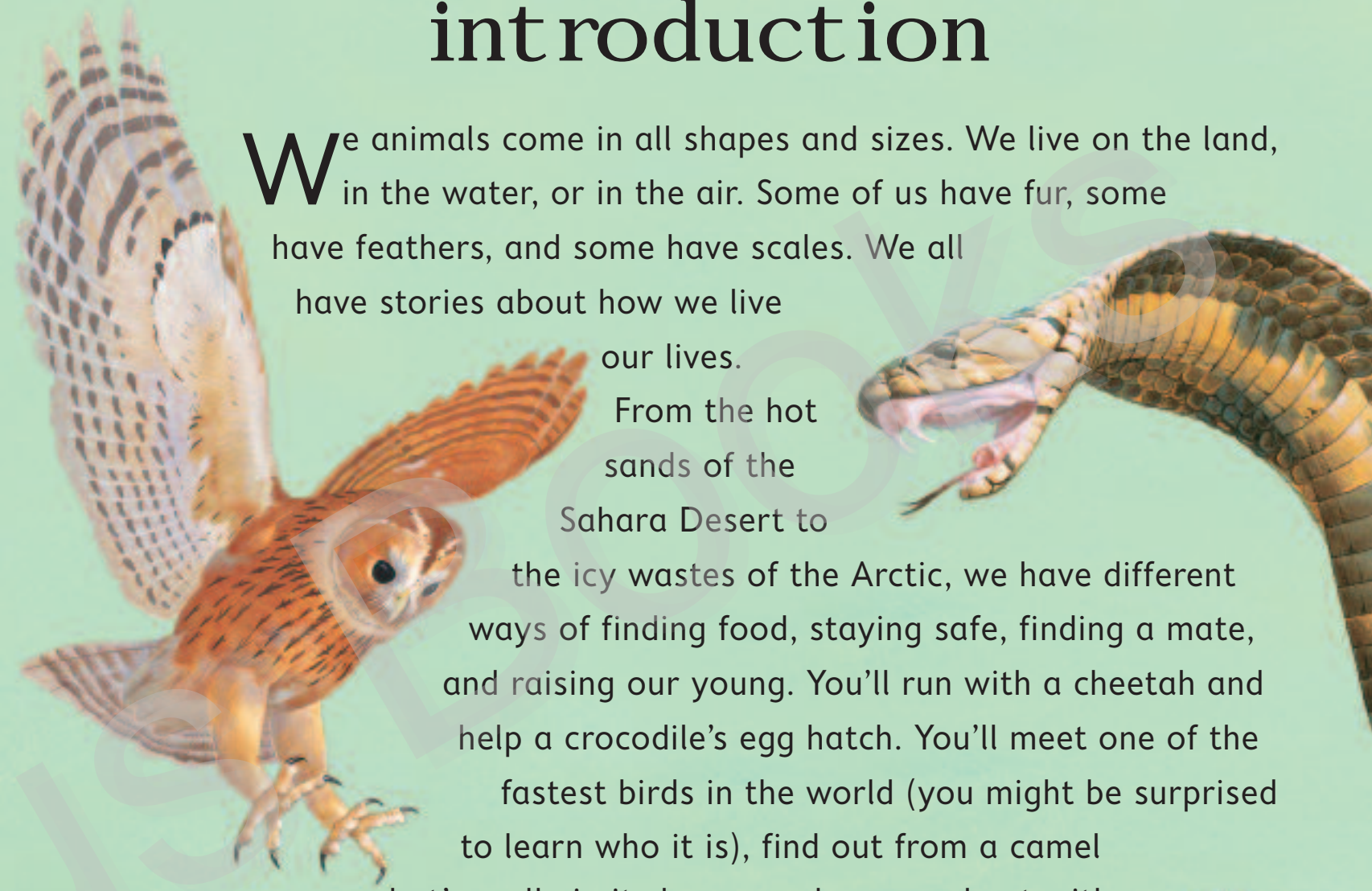
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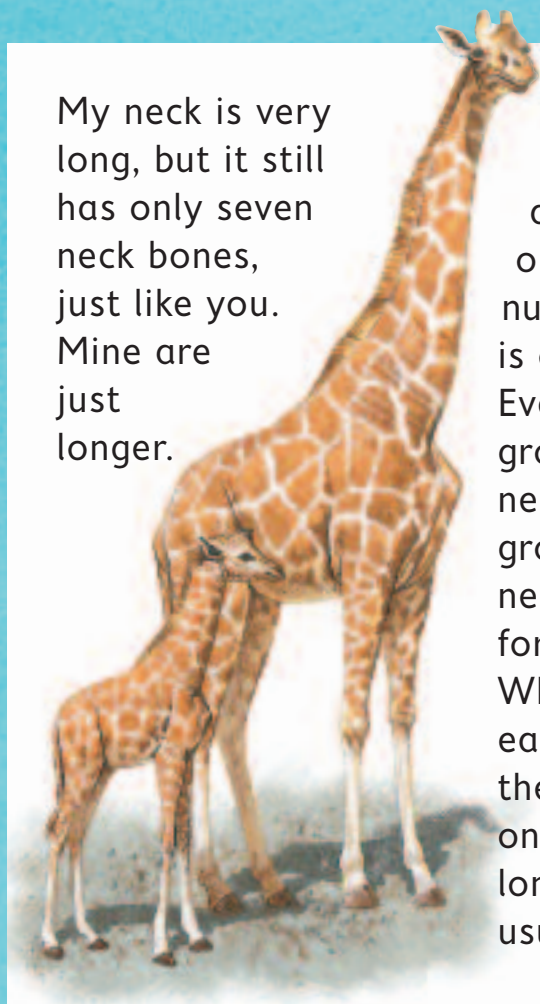
introduction

We animals come in all shapes and sizes. We live on the land, in the water, or in the air. Some of us have fur, some have feathers, and some have scales. We all have stories about how we live our lives. From the hot sands of the Sahara Desert to the icy wastes of the Arctic, we have different ways of finding food, staying safe, finding a mate, and raising our young. You'll run with a cheetah and help a crocodile's egg hatch. You'll meet one of the fastest birds in the world (you might be surprised to learn who it is), find out from a camel what's really in its hump, and go on a hunt with a pride of lionesses. But first, an African elephant is waiting to tell you all the things it can do with its amazing trunk ...



why do giraffes have long necks?

My neck is very long, but it still has only seven neck bones, just like you. Mine are just longer.

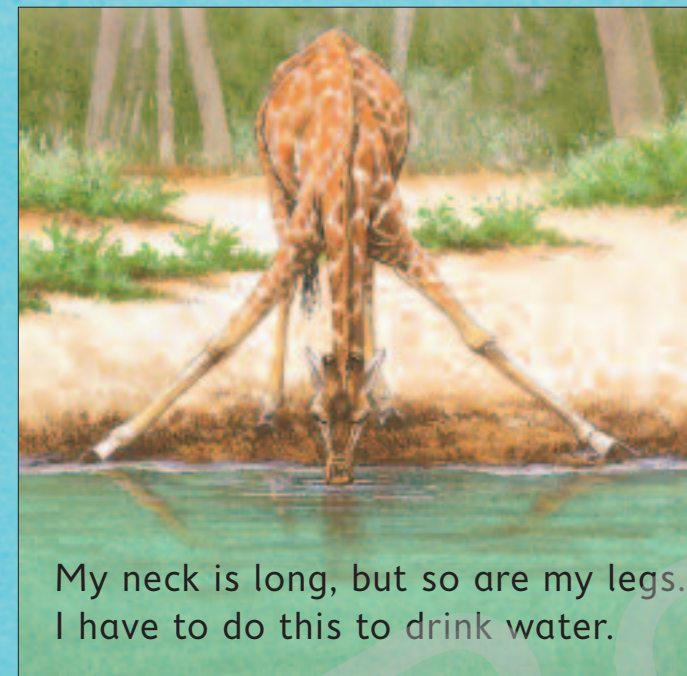


My baby is a few weeks old. He will nurse until he is one year old. Even when he's grown up, his neck will keep growing. A long neck is useful for fighting. When males hit each other with their heads, the one with the longer neck usually wins.

Zebras eat the tough tops of the grass. Wildebeests—also called gnus—tear out the leafy middles. This makes room for little gazelles to reach the juiciest plants growing close to the ground.

Here on the African savanna, animals like me are known as browsers because we eat leaves from trees and bushes. I'm a giraffe. I'm lucky to be so tall because I can reach the best new leaves and shoots from the treetops. Lots of us savanna animals eat plants, but we all eat different things—grass, leaves, fruit, and so on. That's how we can live together without fighting or going hungry.

This Cape eland is the largest African antelope. Using its horns, it pulls down or breaks off branches in order to eat the leaves.



My neck is long, but so are my legs. I have to do this to drink water.

The black rhinoceros uses its top lip to grab leaves, or even tree bark.

With my long black tongue I strip leaves from the treetops. So does the elephant using its trunk. The gerenuk stands on its hind legs to feed while the tiny dik dik eats leaves from the lowest branches.

