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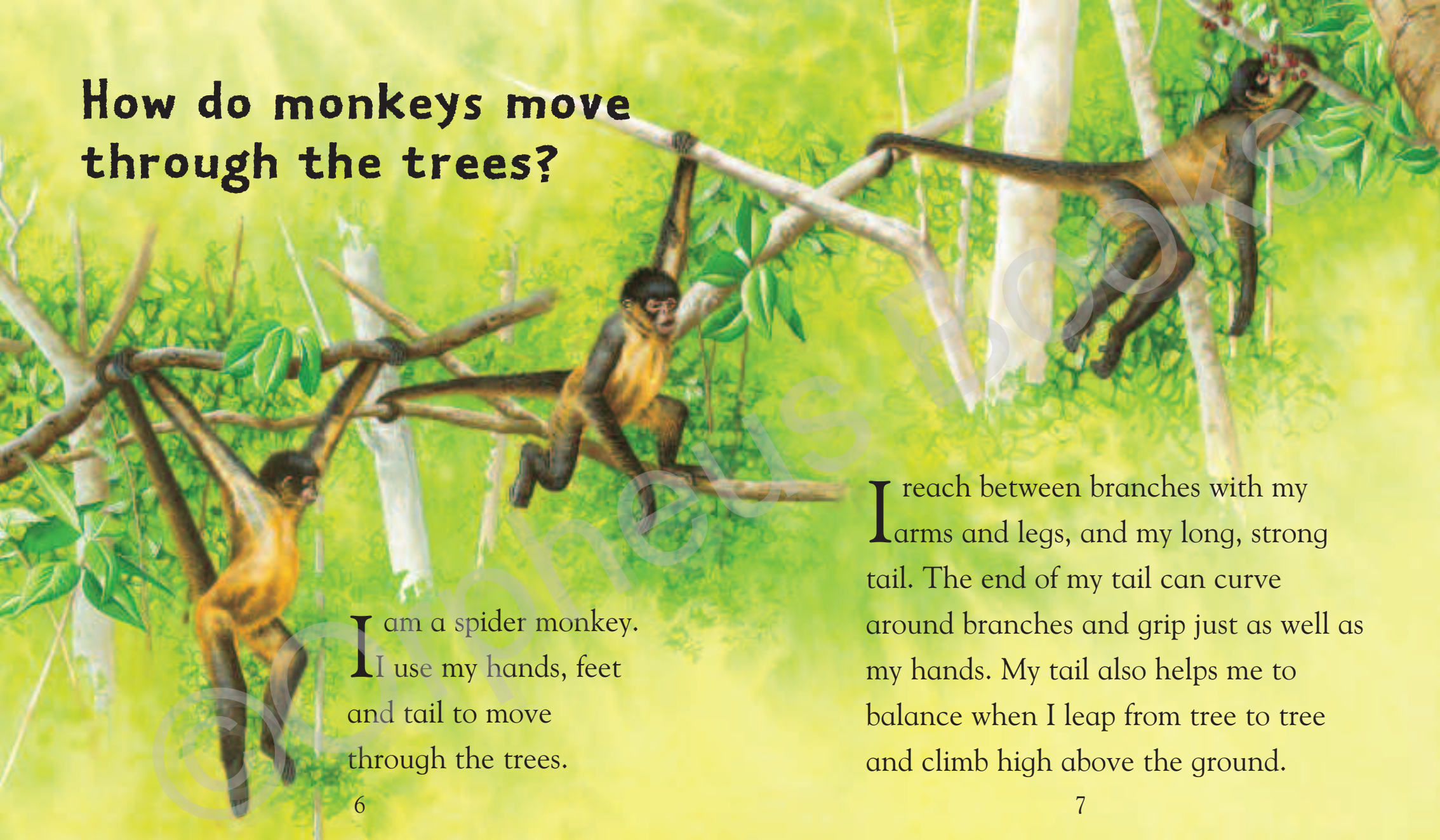
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Monkeys and apes

We are your closest relatives. Have you spotted the resemblance? Just like you, we've got flat faces, forward-looking eyes and large brains. Many, but not all, monkeys have tails and live in the trees. Apes don't have tails. Did you know that the great apes—chimpanzees, orang-utans and gorillas—can all use tools? Not altogether surprising, because you humans are great apes too!

How do monkeys move through the trees?



I am a spider monkey.
I use my hands, feet
and tail to move
through the trees.

I reach between branches with my arms and legs, and my long, strong tail. The end of my tail can curve around branches and grip just as well as my hands. My tail also helps me to balance when I leap from tree to tree and climb high above the ground.



My eyes face forwards, just like yours. This helps me to judge distances as I swing through the trees. I can also see in colour, which is very useful for helping me find fruits and flowers that are good to eat.

My favourite food is fruit, but I will also eat leaves, shoots, birds' eggs and even bark, which I strip off with my teeth. Luckily, I have strong jaws to chew tough bark and seeds. I look for food during the daytime, and sleep high up in the trees at night