



Grade 1

**Skills 4** | Reader

**The Green Fern Zoo**

Grade 1

Skills 4

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# **The Green Fern Zoo**

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**Reader**

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EN FERN ZOO



# Meet Vern

My name is Vern, and I have the best job! My job is to take you kids in to see the Green Fern Zoo.

We will see things with wings and things with scales, things that bite and things that sting, things that creep and things that swim.

I have lots of fun facts and tales to share with you. So let's see the zoo and have some fun!

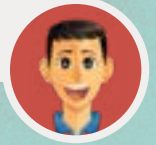






# Things that Swim

I hope you kids like things that swim, be·cause this is the room where we keep all the fish.



## Trout

The fish here are trout. A trout is a fish that swims in cool lakes and creeks. You can see that they have lots of spots and marks. The spots and marks help the trout hide. They make the trout look a lot like the sand on the bed of a creek.



Trout have lots of spots and marks. They make their home in lakes and creeks.



# Reef Sharks

Here's a big fish that makes all of the wee fish run and hide. This is a reef shark. It has that name be-cause it likes to make its home close to a reef, where there are lots of fish.



Reef sharks make their home by reefs.





## ***What Reef Sharks Look Like***

You can see that the reef shark has fins and a set of gills on its side. You can not see them from here, but this shark has lots of sharp teeth in its mouth.

## ***Food Reef Sharks Like***

Would a reef shark bite you? Well, you are not the lunch that this shark would like best. A reef shark likes to feed on squid, crabs, and shrimp. But it would be smart not to get the reef shark mad at you all the same!

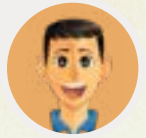


Reef sharks have fins, gills, and sharp teeth.



# Chimps

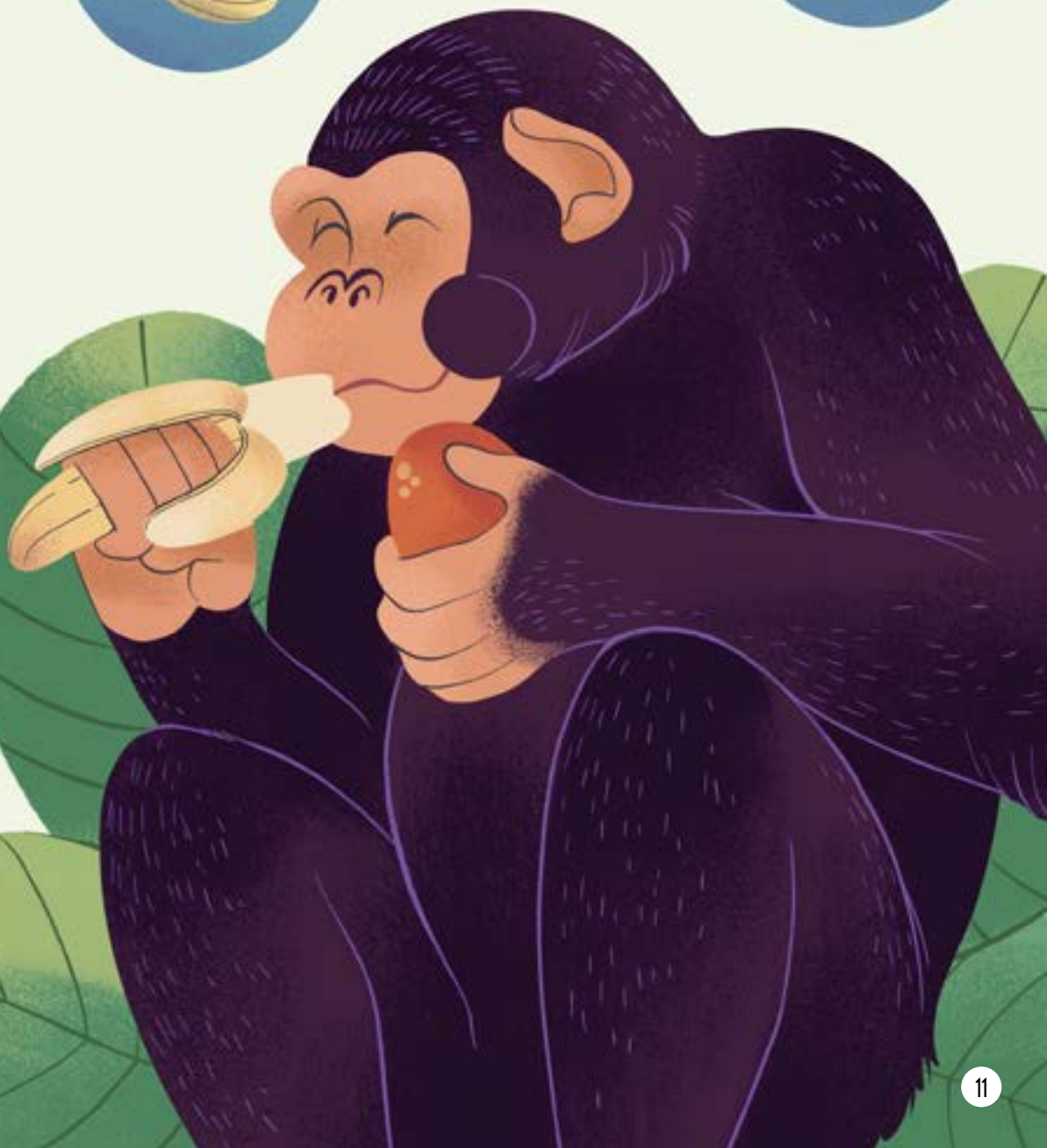
Next, let's see the chimps. We have ten chimps here at the Green Fern Zoo. You can see them all out there if you look hard.



## Food Chimps Like

The one you see here is Bess. She has a snack in **her** mouth. Bess and the rest of the chimps like to munch on plants, nuts, and seeds.

Chimps like to munch on plants, nuts, and seeds.



## More Food Chimps Like

Do you see that chimp with the stick? That's Bart. Bart likes to have ants for lunch. To get the ants, he takes a stick and sticks it in an ant hill. Then he lifts it up and licks off the ants. Yum, yum!





Chimps like to munch on ants.



# Max the Babe

The chimp with the rope in his hand is Max. He's just a babe. He was born in March. Bess is his mom.

Max is a lot of fun. He likes to swing on the rope and splash in the pool.





Chimps like to have fun.



## Carl and Norm—Pals or Not Pals?

The two chimps up on the rocks are Carl and Norm. Carl is the one on the left. Carl and Norm are pals. But they were not pals last week.

Last week we gave them a branch from a fig tree for lunch. Norm took the branch and ran off with it. He ate all of the figs. Carl was mad at Norm all week.

But that was last week. This week the two of them are pals.





# Mandrills

## What Mandrills Look Like

Here you can see two man·drills. Man·drills are a lot like chimps.

Do you like the red nose? The man·drill with the red nose is a male.

## Grooming

The man·drill on the left is groom·ing the male with the red nose. She is look·ing for ticks and bugs. Man·drills like groom·ing be·cause it makes them look good and feel good, too.

The mandrill on the left is grooming the male mandrill with the red nose.



Look! One of the man·drills is yawning! You can see that she has long, sharp teeth. Those sharp teeth help her chop up her food.

MANDRILL TEETH







Mandrills have long sharp teeth.



# Food Mandrills Like

Man·drills like a lot of foods. We feed our man·drills ants, grass, nuts, bark, plant shoots, and roots.

Man·drills have sacks in·side their cheeks. They can stuff food in the sacks and keep it there un·til they need a snack. Then they pop the food out and munch on it!

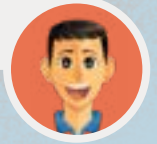




Mandrills can keep food inside their cheeks in sacks.

# Things with Wings

Next, let's see some things with wings.



## Puffins

This is a puff·in. He makes his home up **n**orth, not too **f**ar **f**rom the **N**orth Pole.

### *What Puffins Look Like*

Look at those cute feet! But they are not just cute. The puff·in's feet help him swim.

Note, as well, his big bill. The puff·in can use his bill to get fish.

Puffins make their home by  
the North Pole.



## *How Puffins Are Born*

Puff·ins are born from eggs. The puff·in mom and dad sit on their egg. The mom sits. Then the dad sits. In the end, the chick pops out of the shell. The mom and dad take care of the chick un·til it can care for it·self. Look! That puff·in has fish in her bill! She will feed those fish to her chick.



The mom puffin will feed fish to her chick.





# The Finch

In this next room, we have a finch. Un·like the puff·in, the finch makes a home in wood·lands. He can use his bill to snap up grass seeds for food.

I'm sad to tell you that the finch is gett·ing to be quite rare. We are proud to have five of them here at the Green Fern Zoo.

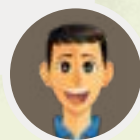




The finch makes its home in the woods.

# Big Cats

Do o you like cats? If you o, look there in the grass. Do o you see the cat?



## Bobcats

That is not the ort of cat that you keep in our home and feed cat food. That is a bob·cat. Bob·cats are not tame.

### *Food Bobcats Like*

Bob·cats are good hunt·ers. They hunt rabb·its, rats, and ome·times deer and sheep.

That bob·cat's name is Rob·ert, or Bob for short. Get it?

Bobcats are not tame.



# Panthers

If you look up on that rock, you will see a cat that's bigger than a bob·cat. It's a pan·ther.

## *What Panthers Look Like*

Pan·thers can have spots. They can be tan, too. Here at the Green Fern Zoo, we have two black pan·thers. The name of this one is Jet.





Panthers are bigger than bobcats.



That's Jet's sis·ter, Flash, up on the tree branch. Flash has strong legs that help her run fast. She has sharp teeth and sharp claws that help her hunt rabb·its and deer. She can use her claws to scam·per up a tree if she needs to.

You can see that she is not all black like Jet. She has some spots.



Panthers use their strong legs and sharp claws to get up trees.

# Groundhogs

The background features a light orange sky with several white, fluffy clouds. Below the sky is a horizontal line representing the ground surface. Underneath this line, there is a layer of green grass. Below the grass, the ground is depicted in a dark brown color, showing a large, winding burrow system. The burrow starts from the left side, goes down, then curves to the right, and then goes down again. There are small, dark shapes scattered throughout the ground, possibly representing rocks or debris.

## What Groundhogs Look Like

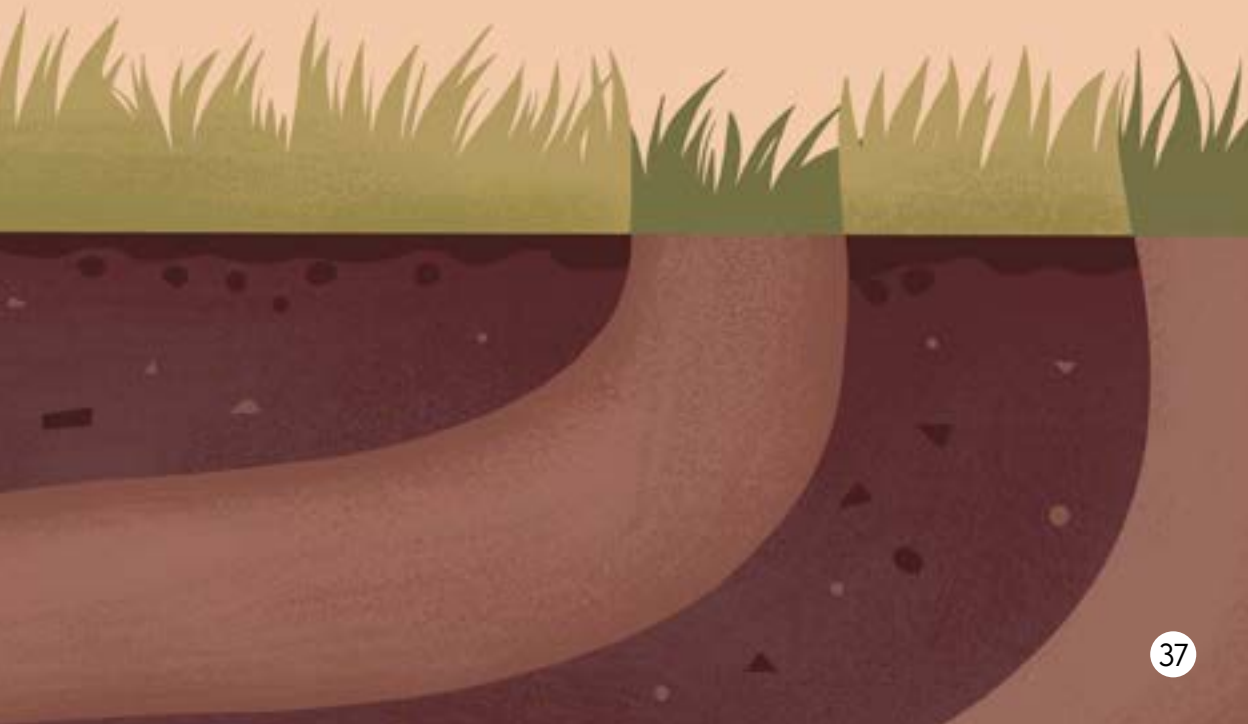
Here you can see a ground·hog.

Ground·hogs have sharp claws that help them dig holes in the ground. They spend a lot of time down in those dark holes.





Groundhogs make their home in holes in the ground.





# Food Groundhogs Like

Ground·hogs like to feed on grass and plants. But when they run out of their holes to get food, they have to be on the look·out. Some critt·ers, like bob·cats and snakes, like to dine on ground·hogs. This ground·hog here is sitt·ing up to see if there is a snake or a bob·cat close by.

This groundhog is on the lookout for bobcats and snakes.



# More Food Groundhogs Like

This ground·hog is named Pepp·er. We feed her grass, tree bark, and in·sects, but the food that she likes best is corn. We found that out yes·ter·day morn·ing when she got out from her pen.

We found her in the pett·ing zoo. She ate a lot of the corn that was there for the ducks and hens.



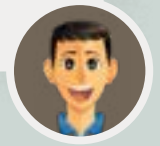
Groundhogs like to munch on grass, tree bark, insects, and corn.



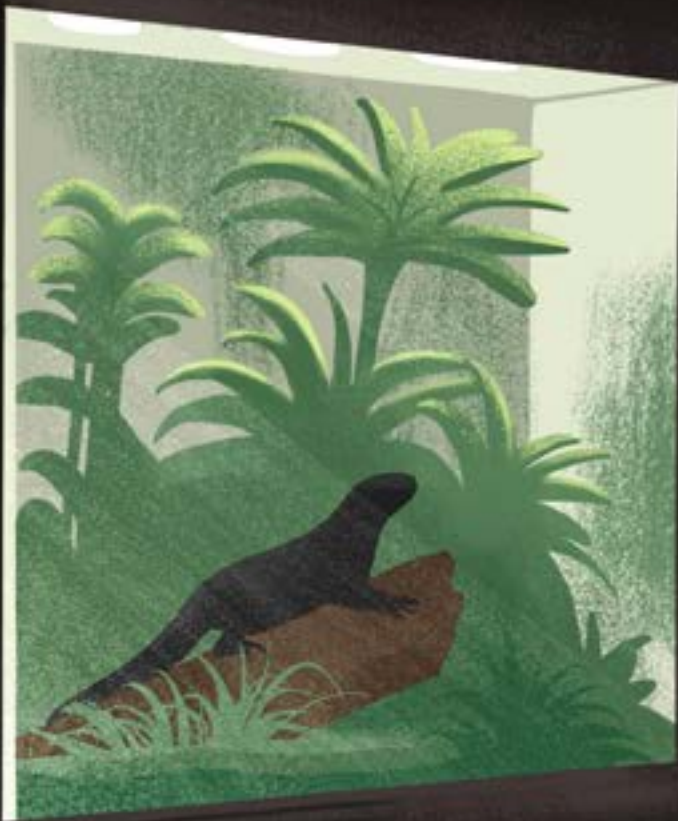
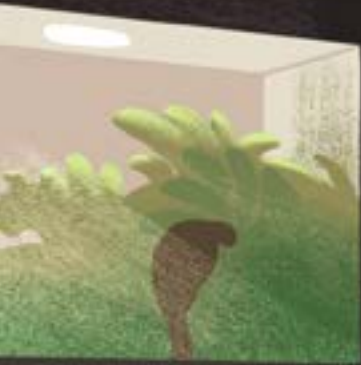
# The Reptile Room

Who likes snakes? Hands up if you like them!

Some kids like snakes best of all, and some kids can't stand them. If you do not like snakes, you can skip this next room be·cause it is the rep·tile room.







At the zoo, snakes make their home in the Reptile Room.

# Garter Snakes

This is a gar·ter snake. Gar·ter snakes feed on slug·s, in·sects, and frog·s. For those critt·ers, the gar·ter snake is a kill·er. But for us, it is harm·less. A gar·ter snake could bite you, but its bite would not make you sick.





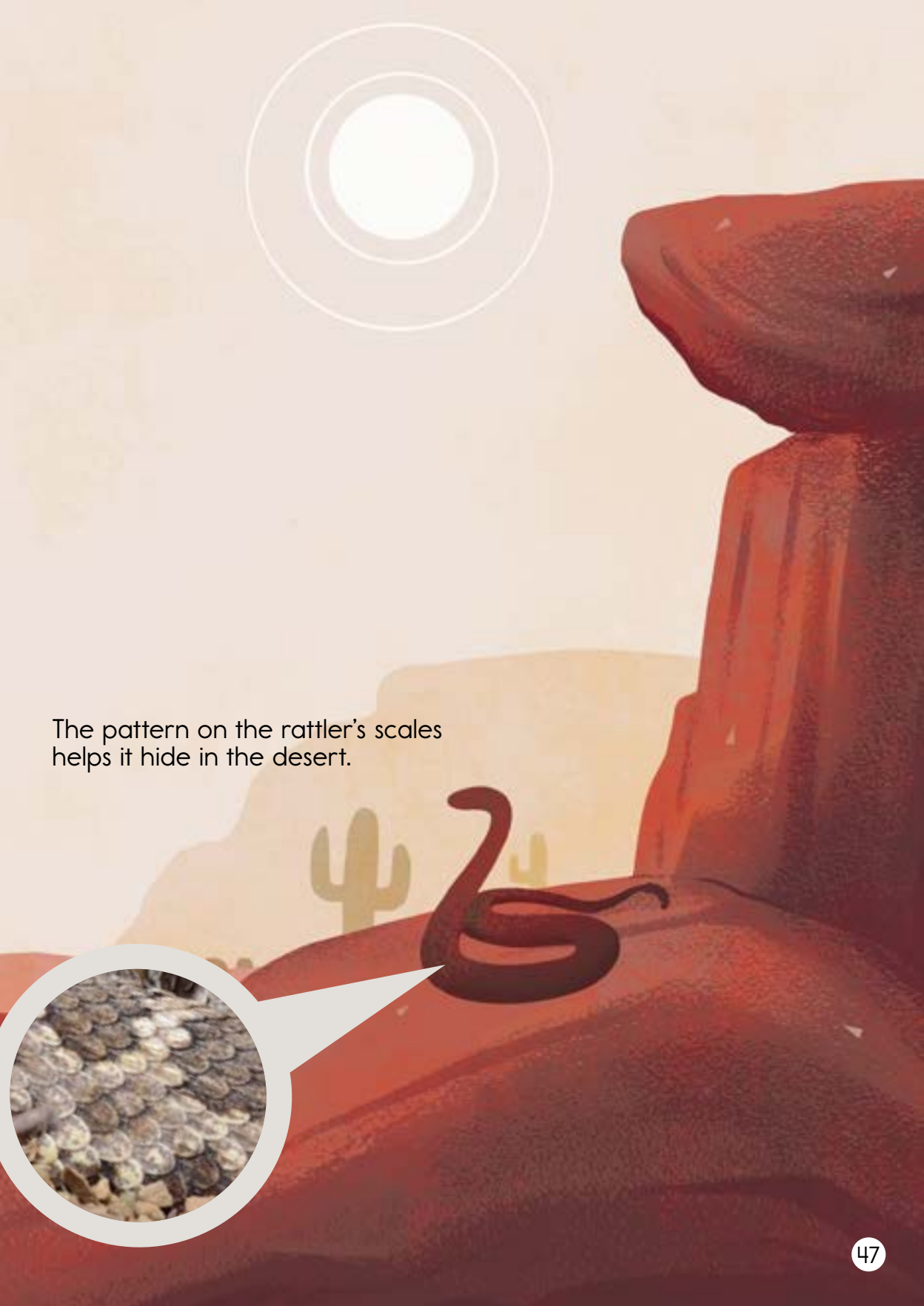
Garter snakes are harmless.



# Rattlers

This is a ratt·ler. He is a des·ert dwell·er that hunts for rats and rabb·its. He has a patt·ern on his scales that helps him blend in and hide in the des·ert sands. When the ratt·ler is hidd·en, it is hard for rats and rabb·its to see him.





The pattern on the rattler's scales helps it hide in the desert.





A ratt·ler is not harm·less like a gar·ter snake. If you ev·er see this snake hiss·ing and coil·ing up, you bett·er stand back and let it be. The ratt·ler has sharp fangs, and a bite from a ratt·ler could kill you. But we are safe here in the rep·tile room. There is a sheet of glass keep·ing us safe from the snakes.





A bite from a rattler can be harmful.

# Termites

## Food Termites Like

What do you kids like to have for lunch? Hot dogs? Chick·en nugg·ets?

What if I gave you a lump of wood or a big tree stump for lunch? Would you like that?

Well, if you were a ter·mite, you would like it. Ter·mites are in·sects that like to munch on wood.



Termites are insects that like to munch on wood.

# A Termite Home

See this big spike sticking up from the ground? It looks sort of like a rock, but it is a ter·mite mound. If you could look in·side, you would see lots of ter·mites.







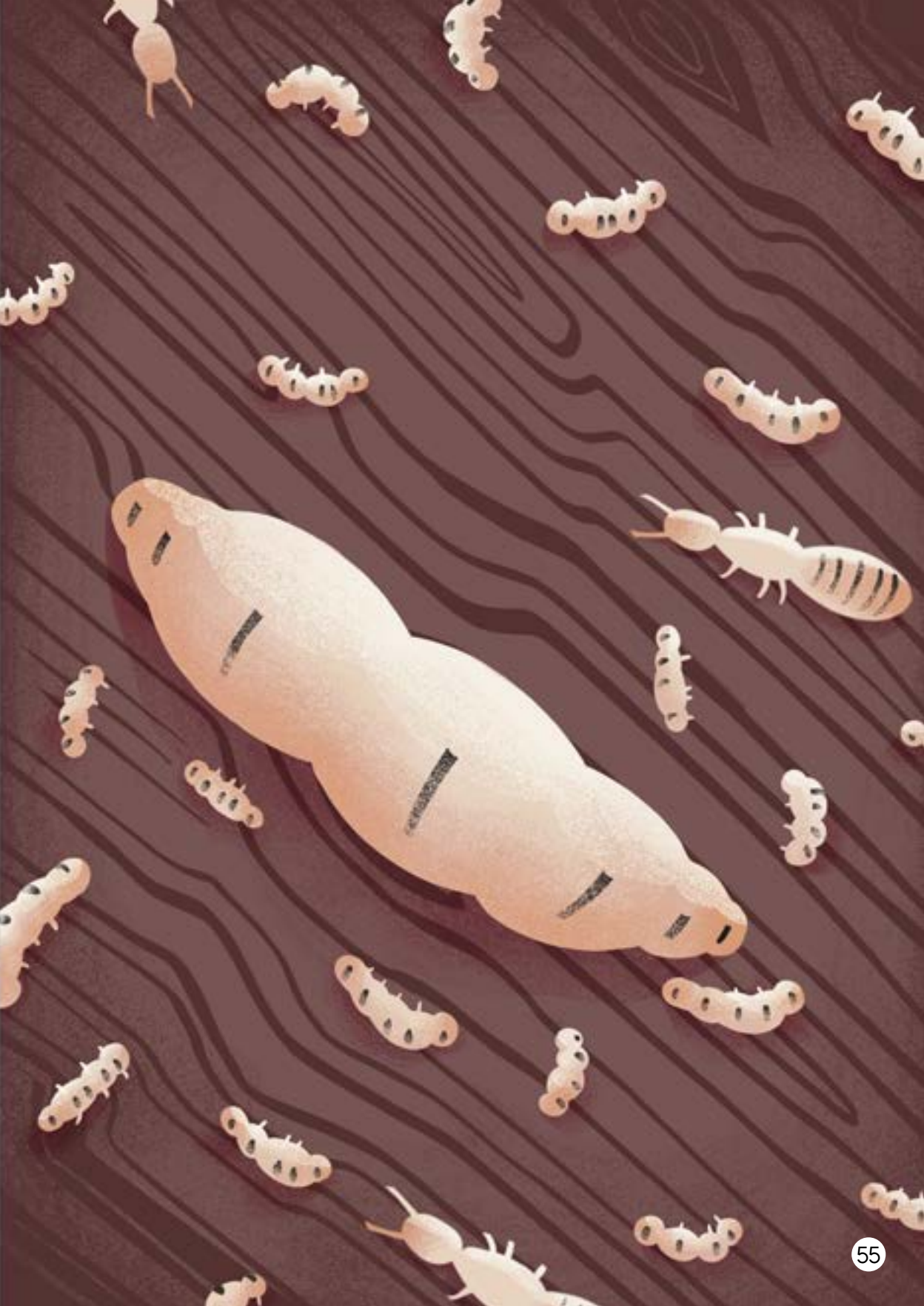
Termites make their home in this mound.

# What Termites Look Like

If you would like to see what **ter·mites** look like, take a peek in this box.

As you can see, **ter·mites** look a lot like ants. They have six legs like ants. A **ter·mite** mound has a queen who makes eggs, just like in an ant·hill. Here you can see that the **ter·mite** queen is much **bigg·er** than the rest of the **ter·mites**.

Would a **ter·mite** munch on your home? It would if your home is made of wood. The **ter·mites** from a big mound could have your liv·ing room **for** lunch and your bed·room **for** dinn·er!



# River Otters

## What River Otters Like To Do

Do o you like to run and jump?  
Do o you like to chase your pals? Do o  
you like to splash in the pool in the  
summ·er? Do o you like to slide down  
hills in the win·ter?

Well, if you like to do those things,  
you would make a good ott·er! You  
can see three of our riv·er ott·ers  
up on the rocks: Al·ex, All·en, and  
Ag·nes. That's Al·ex up on top of  
All·en. The last one is Ag·nes.





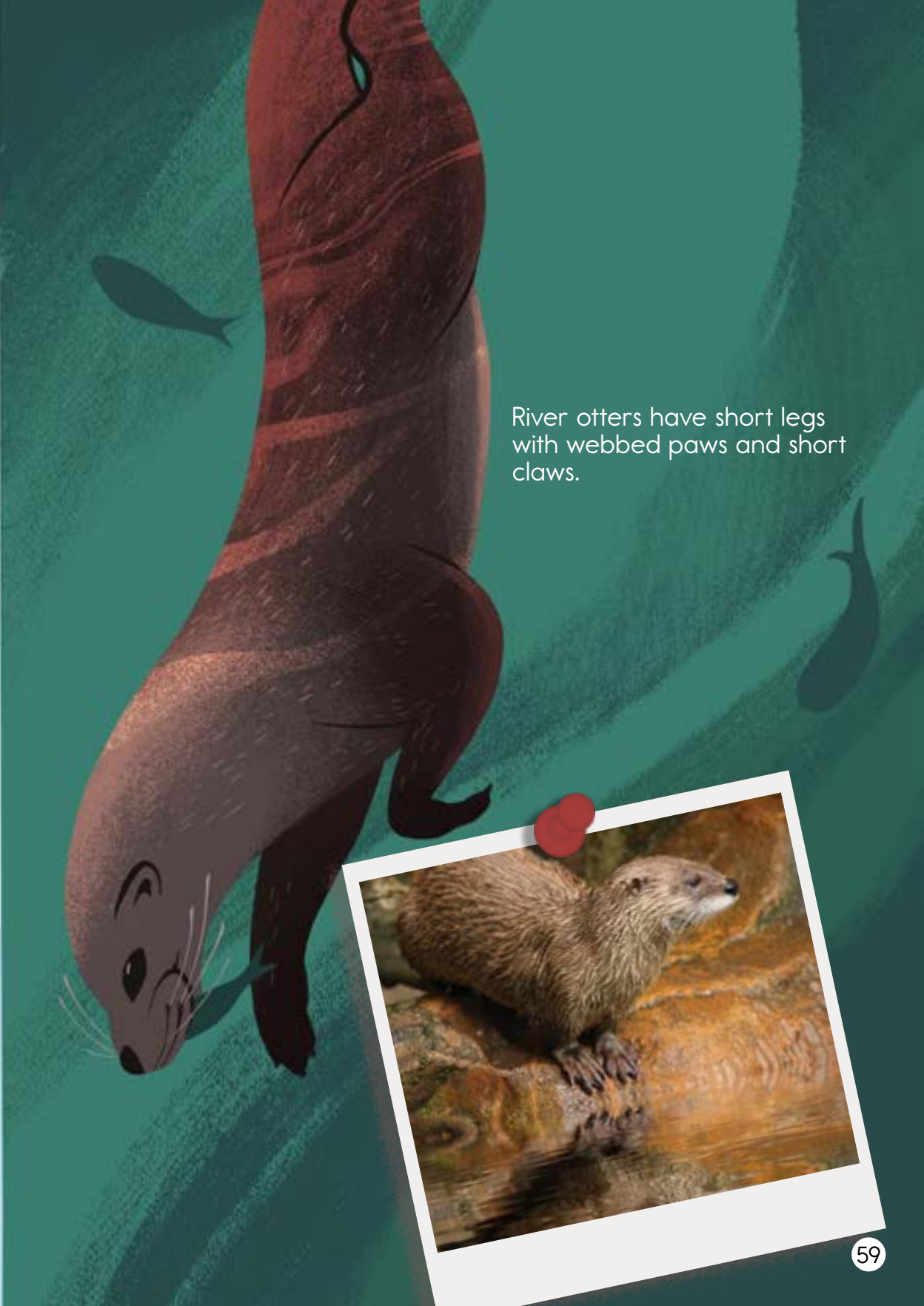


## What River Otters Look Like

Ott·ers have short, strong legs with webbed paws and sharp claws. The webb·ing helps the ott·ers swim fast and get their food. Riv·er ott·ers hunt for fish, frogs, and crabs.

## River Otter Homes

When it is time for bed, the riv·er ott·ers scam·per to their den. They have nests on land that are lined with grass, moss, and bark.



River otters have short legs with webbed paws and short claws.



# Cranes and Spoonbills

## Sandhill Cranes

Here you can see two sand·hill cranes.

A sand·hill crane has long legs, a dark, point·ed bill, and a red spot next to its bill. Sand·hill cranes are found in wet·lands. They like to hunt for frogs, snakes, and in·sects.




Sandhill cranes have long legs, a pointed bill, and a red spot next to its bill.



## *Sandhill Chicks*

Those are sand·hill cranes, too. In fact, that's a mom and a dad with their chicks. Be·fore sand·hill cranes have chicks, the mom and dad make a nest. The mom sits on the eggs for 4 weeks un·til the chicks are born.



An illustration of a sandhill crane family in a wetland. Two adult cranes, a male and a female, are shown with their two chicks. The male crane is on the right, standing tall with its long neck extended. The female crane is on the left, leaning forward as if to peck at the ground. Two small, brownish chicks are positioned near the adults. The background features a large, dark tree trunk and bare branches, with various green plants and reeds in the foreground and midground. The overall color palette is muted, with greens, browns, and the pale pinkish-tan of the cranes.

A sandhill mom  
and dad look for  
food with their  
chicks.

# Spoonbill Cranes

That's a spoon·bill. He has that name be·cause his bill is shaped like a spoon.

The spoon·bill wades in pools to get his food. He swings his bill back and forth. If he feels an in·sect swim·ing in·side his bill, he snaps it shut.

When spoon·bills have chicks, they make a nest. When the chicks are born, they can't see. The mom and dad have to care for them un·til they can see.



# The Ostrich

This is an os·trich. He is a big one. He tips the scales at close to two hun·dred pounds.

An os·trich has wings that it can flap, but it can't get off the ground. Still, an os·trich can run fast on land. It can run as fast as a car!

If it gets mad, an os·trich can kick you. My pal Fred here at the zoo got kicked **ed** by an os·trich. The os·trich broke Fred's leg in three spots! Ouch!





An ostrich has a long neck and is big.





# Deer

Look there! Do you see the two deer in the woods? The one who is looking at us is named Hope.

Hope was not **born** in this zoo. I found **her** by my home one **morn·ing af·ter** a storm. A tree fell on **her** and broke **her** leg. She could not stand up.

I drove **her** here and the vet **fixed** up **her** leg. We named **her** Hope and found a spot **for her** in the zoo. To·day **her** leg is fine and she is as strong as **ev·er**.

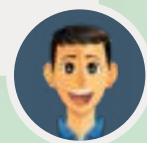
Deer make their home in the woods.



# The Petting Zoo

Well, kids, the last thing that you all get to see is the petting zoo.

You can't pet the ostrich, the otters, or the spoonbills. And it would not be wise to pet the panther or the bobcat! But in this part of the zoo, you can pet all of the critters.



This rabbit's name is Hoss. He likes it when you rub his neck.



Here are two chick·ens. They like it when you toss them seed **corn**.

You can pet the chick·ens, too. But some·times they get **scared**. It's best if you do not run up to them be·cause runn·ing scares them.



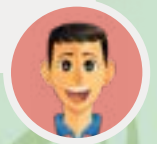


You can feed corn to chickens in the petting zoo.

There's Pam, our pet pig. You can pet **her**, too. Pam likes to be **pett·ed**.

Well, kids, that's it **for me**. I hope you had a good time at the zoo **to·day**. I had fun **point·ing** out **some** of the **critt·ers** that I like best.

I hope **some** of you can **vi·sit** with **your** moms and dads. There is so much to see here at the Green **Fern** Zoo. You **could** **vis·it** us five times and still see lots of cool things!





You can even pet pigs in the petting zoo.







# Glossary

## Chapter 1: Meet Vern

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zoo

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p.2



fern

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p.2



scales

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p.2



sting

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p.2



creep

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p.2



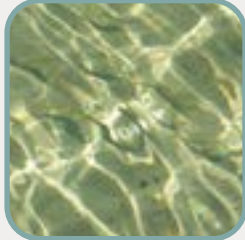
# Chapter 2: Things that Swim

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creek

p.4



bed of a creek

p.4



wee

big

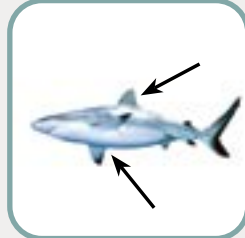
wee

p.6



reef

p.6



fins

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gills

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squid

p.8

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chimps

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look hard

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ant hill

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babe

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fig

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mandrill

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p.18



female



grooming

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ticks

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plant shoots

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puffin

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bill

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finch

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woodlands

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bobcat

---

p.30



tame

---

p.30



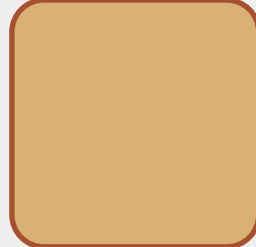
not tame



panther

---

p.32



tan

---

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# Chapter 7: Groundhogs

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groundhog

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critters

p.38



to be on the  
lookout

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insects

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pen

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reptile

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garter snake

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garter snake

p.46



scales

p.46



desert

p.46



desert dweller

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coiling up

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termite

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stump

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p.50



spike

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termite mound

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queen

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otter

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webbed

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webbed paws

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den

---

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moss

---

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bark

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sandhill cranes

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wetlands

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chicks

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spoonbill crane

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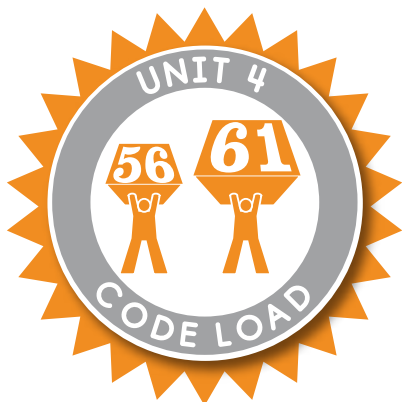


## About this Book

This book has been created for use by students learning to read with the program. Readability levels are suitable for early readers. The book has also been carefully leveled in terms of its “code load,” or the number of spellings used in the stories.

The English writing system is complex. It uses more than 200 spellings to stand for 40-odd sounds. Many sounds can be spelled several different ways, and many spellings can be pronounced several different ways. This book has been designed to make early reading experiences simpler and more productive by using a subset of the available spellings. It uses *only* spellings students have been taught to sound out as part of their phonics lessons, plus a handful of Tricky Words, which have also been deliberately introduced in the lessons. This means the stories will be 100% decodable if they are assigned at the proper time.

As the students move through the program, they learn new spellings and the “code load” in the decodable Readers increases gradually. The code load graphic on this page indicates the number of spellings students are expected to know in order to read the first chapter of the book and the number of spellings students are expected to know in order to read the final chapters in the book. The columns on the opposite page list the specific spellings and Tricky Words students are expected to recognize at the beginning of this Reader. The bullets at the bottom of the opposite page identify spellings, Tricky Words, and other topics that are introduced gradually in the unit this Reader accompanies.



## Code Knowledge assumed at the beginning of this Reader:

### VOWEL SOUNDS AND SPELLINGS:

/i/ as in skim  
/e/ as in bed  
/a/ as in tap  
/u/ as in up  
/o/ as in flop  
/ee/ as in bee  
/ae/ as in cake  
/ie/ as in bite  
/oe/ as in home  
/ue/ as in cute  
/oo/ as in soon  
/oo/ as in look  
/ou/ as in shout  
/oi/ as in oi  
/aw/ as in paw

### CONSONANT SOUNDS AND SPELLINGS:

/m/ as in swim, swimming  
/n/ as in run, running  
/t/ as in bat, batting  
/d/ as in bid, bidding  
/k/ as in cot, kid, rock, soccer  
/g/ as in log, logging  
/f/ as in fat, huff  
/s/ as in sit, hiss  
/z/ as in zip, hums, buzz  
/v/ as in vet  
/p/ as in tip, tipping  
/b/ as in rub, rubbing  
/l/ as in lamp, fill  
/r/ as in rip, ferret  
/h/ as in ham  
/w/ as in wet  
/j/ as in jog  
/y/ as in yes  
/x/ as in box

/ch/ as in chin  
/sh/ as in shop  
/th/ as in then  
/th/ as in thin  
/ng/ as in king  
/qu/ as in quit

### OTHER:

- Punctuation (period, comma, quotation marks, question mark, exclamation point, apostrophe)

### TRICKY WORDS:

a, I, no, so, of, all, some, from, word, are, were, have, one, once, to, do, two, who, the, said, says, was, when, where, why, what, which, here, there, he, she, we, be, me, they, their, my, by, you, your, because, could, would, should, down

## Code Knowledge added gradually in the unit for this Reader:

- Beginning with "Meet Vern": the sound /er/ spelled 'er' as in her
- Beginning with "Things That Swim": the sound /ar/ spelled 'ar' as in car
- Beginning with "Chimps": the sound /or/ spelled 'or' as in for
- Beginning with "Mandrills": two-syllable words
- Beginning with "Groundhogs": Tricky Word yesterday; /t/ as in asked, /d/ as in filled
- Beginning with "Deer": Tricky Word today

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