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Opening extract from

Children's Animal Atlas

Written by

Barbara Taylor

Illustrated by

Katrin Wiehle

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HOW TO USE THE ATLAS

An atlas is a book of maps. This atlas is divided into 13 different regions that make up our planet. Each map is marked with country borders, the oceans, major rivers, lakes and mountains. The land is also shaded in different colours that represent the climate and vegetation, or biome, in that region. Each animal image on the map tells you that it lives in that area of the world.



Focusing on a biome

A biome is a region with a particular climate and vegetation that the animals living there depend on for their survival. The book focuses on an area from each continent, describes its biome and presents a selection of the animals that live there. You can use your stickers to add more animals to each biome scene.



My spotter's guide

Find out more about some of the most endangered animals in each continent. Complete the quiz and add the correct sticker in the space above each question.



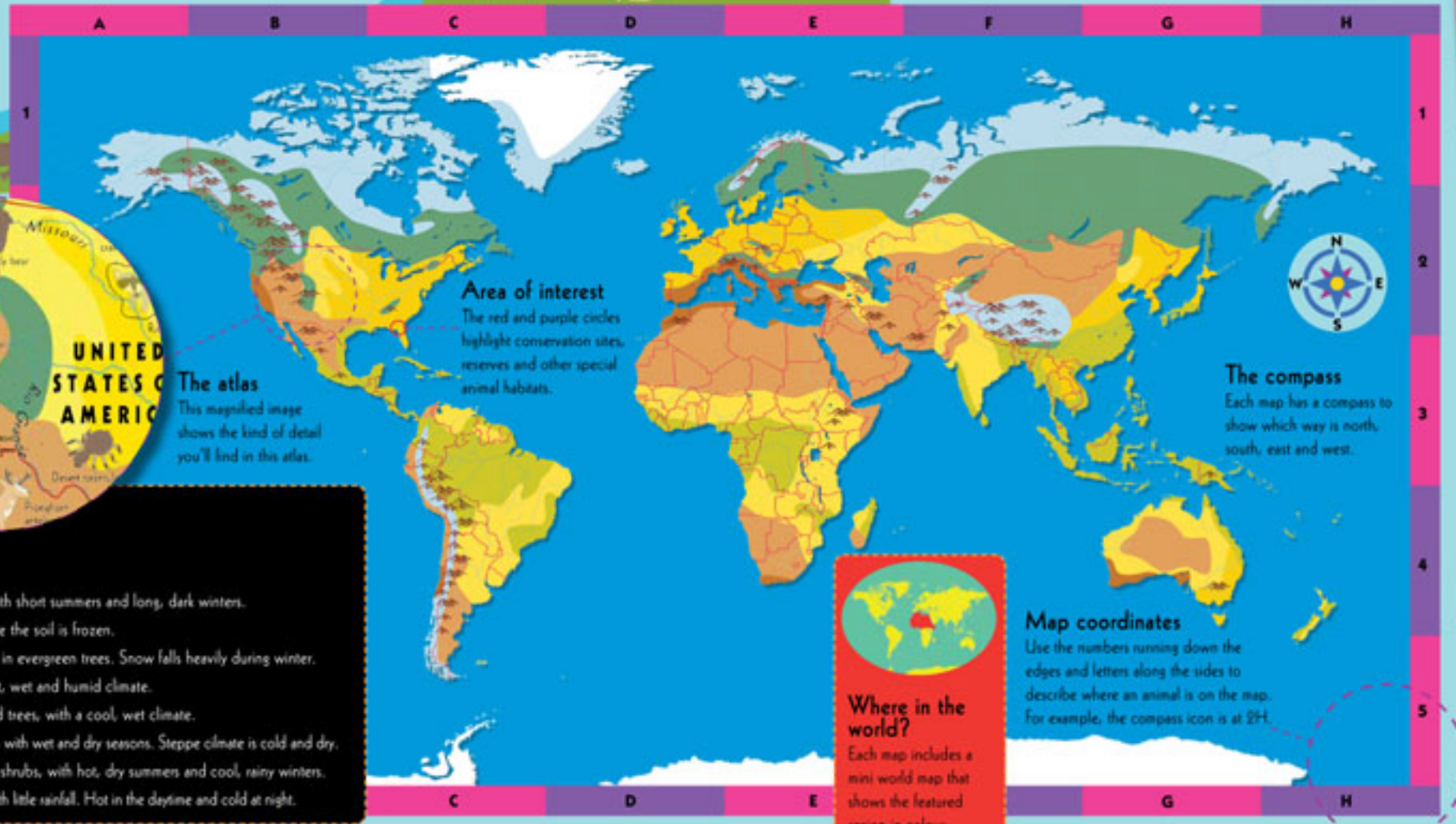
Postcards

Don't forget to write home and tell your family about your favourite animal! There are postcards from six different destinations. You can also decorate them with your stickers.



Animal stickers

Complete the maps by adding the stickers: find the right ones and stick them into the spaces marked by dotted lines. There are also stickers for free play.



Key to the maps

- Rivers
- Mountains
- Country borders
- Lakes
- Areas of interest



The atlas

This magnified image shows the kind of detail you'll find in this atlas.

Area of interest

The red and purple circles highlight conservation sites, reserves and other special animal habitats.

The compass

Each map has a compass to show which way is north, south, east and west.

Key to biomes

The land areas of Earth can be divided into at least eight major biomes.

- **Snow & Ice:** cold, dry and windy region, with short summers and long, dark winters.
- **Alpine & Tundra:** cold, treeless land where the soil is frozen.
- **Coniferous Forest:** cool, wet area covered in evergreen trees. Snow falls heavily during winter.
- **Rainforest:** densely vegetated area with a hot, wet and humid climate.
- **Temperate Forest:** area full of broad-leaved trees, with a cool, wet climate.
- **Grassland/Savannah:** grassland area; warm, with wet and dry seasons. Steppe climate is cold and dry.
- **Mediterranean Scrub:** rocky area of small shrubs, with hot, dry summers and cool, rainy winters.
- **Desert & Semi-desert:** dry, barren land with little rainfall. Hot in the daytime and cold at night.

Where in the world?

Each map includes a mini world map that shows the featured region in colour.

Map coordinates

Use the numbers running down the edges and letters along the sides to describe where an animal is on the map. For example, the compass icon is at 2H.

SOUTH AMERICA

This colourful continent has the largest variety of animal life on the planet, including more than three thousand different species of birds. Furry animals such as the spectacled bear and vicuna are suited to the cold Andes Mountains. In contrast, the tropical rainforest of the Amazon, where sloths, monkeys and birds climb, swing and glide through a tangled network of branches, is hot, wet and humid.



FACT FILE

Heaviest snake
Anaconda: up to 250 kg
Slowest mammal
Three-toed sloth: moves at 0.24 km/h
Largest meat-eater
Spectacled bear: up to 154 kg
Largest living tortoise
Galápagos tortoise: up to 250 kg

Caribbean Sea
Yellow-backed oriole
Cavy
VENEZUELA
COLOMBIA
GUYANA
Orinoco
French Guiana
SURINAME
Golden poison dart frog
Emerald tree boa
Three-toed sloth
Equator
ECUADOR
PERU
Black caiman
Tiger shark
Amazon
Madeira
Tapajós
Giant armadillo
Harpy eagle
Spectacled bear
Bald uakari
Giant otter
Andes Mountains
Amazon Rainforest
Leafcutter ant
BRAZIL
Tocantins
Great rhea
São Francisco
Vicuna
Jaguar
Toco toucan
Maned wolf
Capybara
Pacific Ocean
BOLIVIA
Hyacinth macaw
Paraná
Golden lion tamarin
Atlantic Ocean
PARAGUAY
Galápagos tortoise
Atacama Desert
Chinchilla
CHILE
URUGUAY
Andes Mountains
ARGENTINA
Burrowing owl
Harpy eagle
Hoatzin
Andean condor
Patagonian Desert
FALKLAND ISLANDS (UK)
Bald uakari
Three-toed sloth
Hyacinth macaw
Blue morpho butterfly
Emerald tree boa
White-tipped sicklebill
Jaguar
Giant armadillo
Capybara
Spectacled caiman
Giant otter
Leafcutter ant
Anaconda

Galápagos Islands

This group of islands lies 1,000 kilometres west of Ecuador, and is a sanctuary for all kinds of animals that live nowhere else in the world. These include the world's largest tortoise, a cormorant that cannot fly, and a marine lizard that feeds on seaweed.

Amazon Rainforest

Animals live at all levels in the dense rainforest, rather like people living in a block of flats. Many animals make their homes in the treetops, where there are plenty of leaves, flowers and fruits to eat. On the forest floor, larger animals such as the giant armadillo dig for food, and meat-eating jaguars quietly stalk their prey.

NORTHERN EUROPE

Although there is little space for wildlife in the densely populated lands of northern Europe, the thick conifer forests and long coastline provide safe homes for birds and other animals. The animals in these parts have different ways of surviving in the winter. Mammals may sleep underground or hibernate, and many birds fly south to spend the colder months in warmer African countries.



Scandinavian conifer forests
These huge, dark forests stretch across Norway, Sweden and Finland. They are made up of evergreen trees that keep their needle-like leaves all year round, and provide shelter for animals such as wild boar and red squirrels. The forest lakes are ideal habitats for beavers.

FACT FILE

Largest land animal
European bison: up to 1,000 kg
Smallest European bird
Goldcrest: 14.5 cm wingspan
Longest hibernation
Dormouse: 6–7 months each year
Fastest land animal
European hare: runs up to 72 km/h



ICELAND

Norwegian Sea

Scandinavia

Conifer forest

Wolverine

Otter

SWEDEN

FINLAND

Conifer forest

Gulf of Bothnia

Atlantic Ocean

NORWAY

Conifer forest

Osprey

Crossbill

Badger

Goldcrest

North Sea

Gulf of Finland

Lake Vänern

Red squirrel

Avocet

Red deer

Wild cat

IRELAND

UNITED KINGDOM

DENMARK

Baltic Sea

Bottlenose dolphin

Hedgehog

NETHERLANDS

Thames

Fallow deer

Woodpecker

Eurasian eagle owl

Vistula

English Channel

Elbe

Great crested newt

POLAND

Large blue butterfly

BELGIUM

GERMANY

LUXEMBOURG

Seine

Long-eared bat

Loire

Dormouse

European hare

Rhine

Danube

CZECH REPUBLIC

SLOVAKIA

European bison

Kittiwake

FRANCE

Bay of Biscay

SWITZERLAND

Stag beetle

AUSTRIA

Grey seal

Wild boar

Alps

LIECHTENSTEIN

Adder

Rhône

Pyrenees

Atlantic puffin

Eider duck

Guillemot

Farne Islands, UK
Every year, about 150,000 pairs of sea birds lay their eggs and raise their chicks on this small group of islands. About 1,000 grey seal pups are also born here every autumn.