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Opening extract from
Children's Animal Atlas

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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.

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.

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.



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.



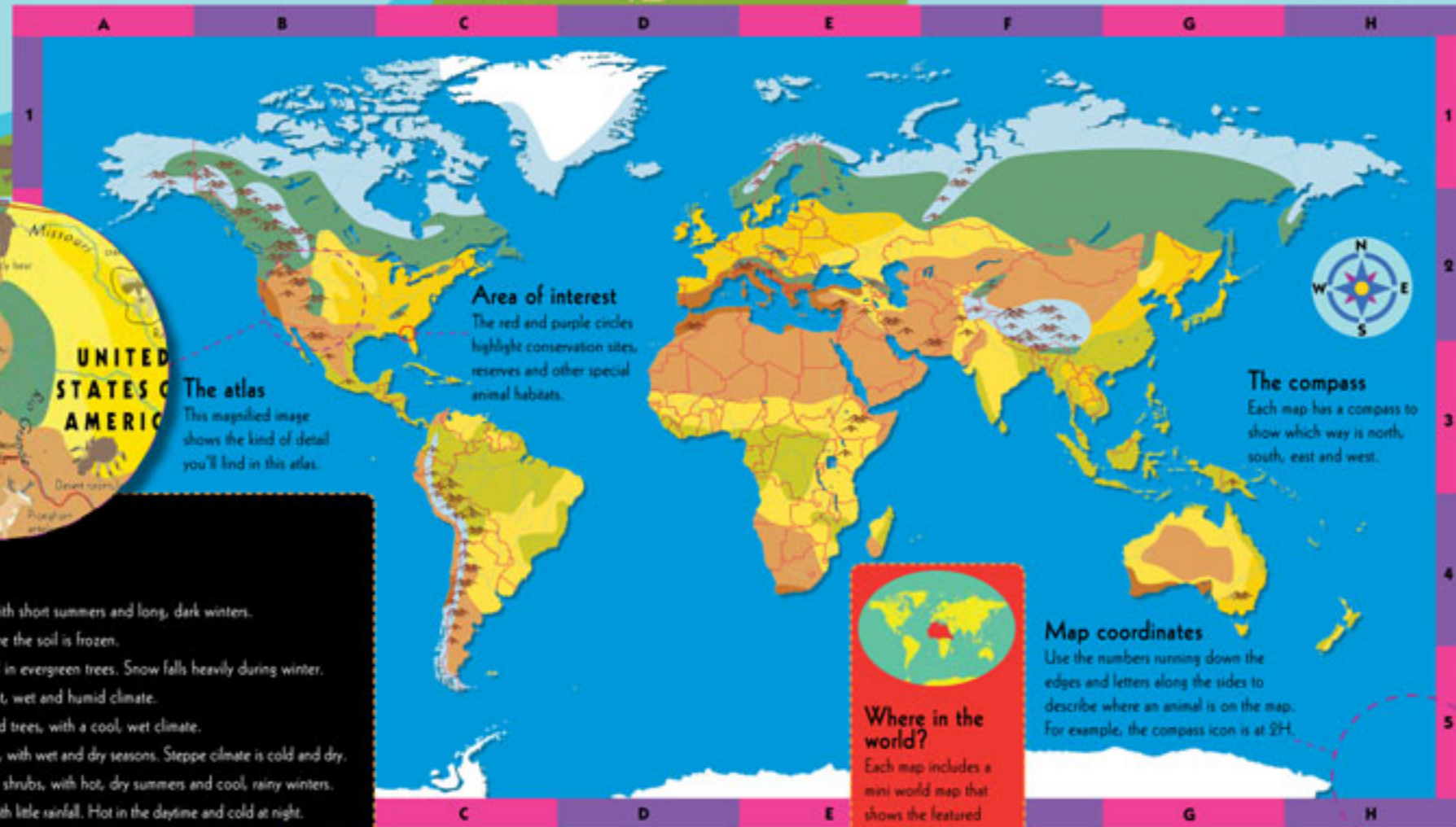
Postcards

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.



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.

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.

Where in the world?

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

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

Anacoconda: 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

Galapagos tortoise: up to 250 kg



Galapagos 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 tree-tops, 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 needles 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



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.

A B C D E 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 14 15