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Opening extract from

# The Wonder Garden

Written by

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Illustrated by

**Kristjana S Williams**

Published by

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# Imprint

*For Eiðar and Ísól, my two squirrels, and with thanks to Joanna Bagge, whose work on this book has helped make it what it is today*

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Written by Jenny Broom

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**JENNY BROOM** studied at the Slade before becoming an author and editor of children's books. Her natural history title *Animalium* was voted Children's Book of the Year by *The Sunday Times*, and shortlisted for the National Book Awards and Blue Peter Award. She lives and works in London.

## *To Find Out More...*

**Animal Diversity Web**
An online database of animal natural history provided by the University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology.
www.animaldiversity.org

**BBC Nature: Habitats**
An online collection of habitats from around the world.
www.bbc.co.uk/nature/habitats

**National Geographic**
Be inspired to care for your planet with this resource provided by the National Geographic Society.
www.nationalgeographic.com

***Natural History***
This book, authenticated by the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, contains information on more than 6,000 species.
DK Publishing 2010

**WWF**
Explore diverse habitats from around the globe with this conservation charity's website.
www.worldwildlife.org/places


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THE Black Forest
22–29
THE Chihuahuan Desert
38–45
THE Himalayan Mountains
6–13
THE Amazon Rainforest
14–21
THE Great Barrier Reef
WANDER THROUGH THE WONDER GARDEN AND EXPLORE FIVE EXTRAORDINARY HABITATS. HERE YOU WILL MEET REAL-LIFE ANIMALS IN FANTASTICAL ENVIRONMENTS THAT ARE INSPIRED BY NATURE.



STEP INSIDE THE

# Wonder Garden



The diversity of the environments to be found here is astonishing: terrains, climates and conditions, and the challenges these pose to life, are all different. But however diverse these habitats may seem, there is one thing that they share: an ecosystem made up of plants and animals that have found incredible ways to adapt and survive.

For many centuries, we humans lived here in coexistence with nature. Today, more and more of us live a life apart, with the Wonder Garden on our doorstep left forgotten.



So, turn the page to creep through the **AMAZON'S** hot, humid rainforests, then dive down to discover the **GREAT BARRIER REEF'S** teeming shoals of fish. From there, travel to one of the driest environments on Earth, the **CHIHUAHUAN DESERT**, where horizons stretch before you endlessly, and then, feel nature surround you as you wander into the woodland of the **BLACK FOREST**. And lastly, travel to the roof of the world, the **HIMALAYAS**, from where you can see Earth's Wonder Garden stretch out before you in all its majesty...

# THE Amazon Rainforest

**UNEQUALLED IN SIZE, COMPLEXITY AND DIVERSITY, THIS RAINFOREST IS THE WORLD'S ZOOLOGICAL JEWEL.**

At than 55 million years old, its scale is mind-boggling:
**IT IS MORE THAN 4 MILLION SQUARE KILOMTRES IN SIZE, AND PRODUCES 20 PER CENT OF THE WORLD'S OXYGEN.**

*Ahead of you is a dense, vast forest, shrouded in mist. The air starts to thicken, the temperature rises and the humidity makes you feel clammy and sticky. With every footstep, the foliage multiplies until it begins to dwarf you. The horizon becomes obscured by plants, and the sunlight that reaches the forest floor is dappled; you look up and see that you are shadowed by a giant canopy of trees that tower overhead.*

*Soon, you stand alone, swatting and swiping at insects, and listening to the howls and hoots of animals hidden in the undergrowth. You have arrived in the Amazon, the largest tropical rainforest and one of the richest concentrations of life on Earth.*

Home to more than **5 MILLION SPECIES OF PLANT, INSECT AND ANIMAL**, and over **1,500 OF THE WORLD'S BIRD SPECIES,** the vast size of this habitat is hard to imagine.

Carving through the rainforest's heart flows its spectacular life-source, **THE AMAZON RIVER: MORE THAN 6,400 KILOMETRES LONG,** it contains more than 2,000 species of freshwater fish in its waterways and tributaries. Animals in this environment can cover vast territories, or rely on just one tree for their survival, but each like its habitat, is extraordinary. Often, the animals are also extreme:

the largest snake in the world, the anaconda, one of the fiercest fish in the world, the piranha and the lethally toxic golden poison frog, all live here – and they may be just the tip of the iceberg as **THERE ARE MANY MILLIONS THOUGHT TO BE LEFT UNDISCOVERED...**



1. Tufted capuchin *Cebus apella*
2. Scarlet macaw *Ara macao*
3. Blue morpho butterfly *Morpho peleides*
4. Jaguar *Panthera onca*
5. Golden lion tamarin *Leontopithecus rosalia*

# Life Abundant

**BECAUSE OF ITS WARM, HUMID CLIMATE, AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES ARE ABUNDANT IN THE RAINFOREST. THE KIND THAT YOU COULD ENCOUNTER WILL DEPEND ON THE TIME OF DAY THAT YOU CHOOSE TO EXPLORE THE FOREST'S POOLS AND PLANT LIFE...**

### POISON-DART FROG
*Family: Dendrobatidae*

The poison-dart frog may seem small and vulnerable, but it is able to freely wander through the forest by day because of the brilliant colours of its skin, which advertises to potential hunters that their bodies contain a **TOXIN SO LETHAL THAT AN ADULT HUMAN COULD BE KILLED** by eating one.

### GLASS FROG
*Family: Centrolenidae*

Wander out at night and you'll find that the forest has become a **CLAMOUR OF MUSICAL CLICKS, WHOOPS AND CROAKS.** Look up into the high leaves where you will find the glass frog, calling out his high-pitched *PEEP!*, which attracts female mates and warns other males away from his territory. Its skin is glass-like in its transparency – and so translucent in some species that you can see its heart beating!

### BUTTERFLIES

Millions of migratory butterflies create a **WHIRLING CLOUD OF COLOUR...** scarlet peacocks, blue morphos and golden Homerus swallowtails create a rainbow overhead.

### ANACONDA
*Eunectes murinus*

**SLOWLY WINDING THROUGH THE BRANCHES** is the long, strong anaconda. This snake never stops growing, and becomes the largest in the world, killing its prey by wrapping it and crushing it to death.

### BLACK CAIMAN
*Melanosuchus niger*

**BEWARE THE BLACK CAIMAN** stealthily sliding through the water. This creature is so fierce that fully grown – protected by its scaly armour and strong jaws – it becomes an apex predator, un-hunted by any other species.


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