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Opening extract from

Big Book of Big Animals

Written by

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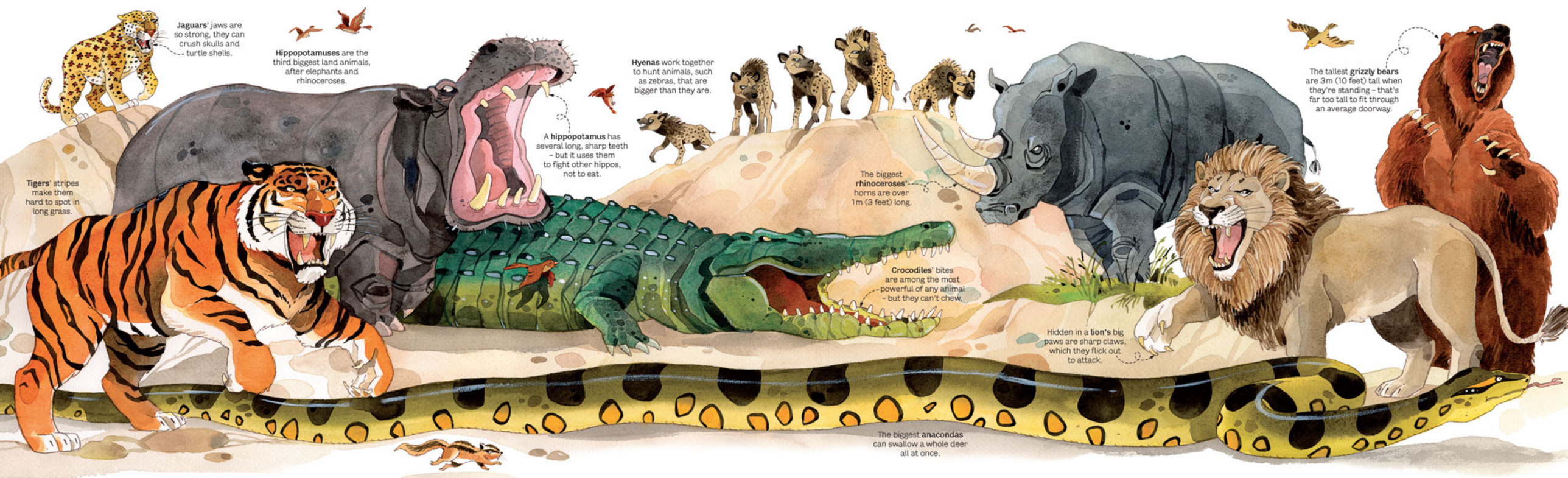
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Jaguars' jaws are so strong, they can crush skulls and turtle shells.
Hippopotamuses are the third biggest land animals, after elephants and rhinoceroses.
Hyenas work together to hunt animals, such as zebras, that are bigger than they are.
A **hippopotamus** has several long, sharp teeth – but it uses them to fight other hippos, not to eat.
Tigers' stripes make them hard to spot in long grass.
The biggest **rhinoceroses**' horns are over 1m (3 feet) long.
Crocodiles' bites are among the most powerful of any animal – but they can't chew.
Hidden in a **lion's** big paws are sharp claws, which they flick out to attack.
The tallest **grizzly bears** are 3m (10 feet) tall when they're standing – that's far too tall to fit through an average doorway.
The biggest **anacondas** can swallow a whole deer all at once.


Polar bears are the fiercest bears of all. They mostly hunt seals, and swim long distances to find food.
Wolves live in packs. Together, they hunt massive animals such as moose.
Seals must come up for air, though danger often lurks on the surface.
Narwhal tusks grow longer than an ice hockey stick.
Big **elephant seals** weigh as much as an elephant.
Antarctic fur seals have strong flippers, to help them move across land.
A **muskox** weighs about the same as a horse, but it's shorter and much bulkier.
This long hair covers a soft underlayer of warm fur.
Walrus tusks can be longer than a person's arm.
Walruses have very thick skin, so it doesn't tear on sharp rocks.
The heaviest **moose** weigh more than three reindeer put together.
The biggest moose's antlers are up to 2m (6 feet) across.
Emperor penguins raise their chicks in colder conditions than any other birds – as cold as -60°C (-76°F).
Penguins can cover long distances, sliding on their stomachs.
These wings are called flippers. They are used for swimming, not flying.

Biggest, fastest, heaviest...

Ostriches lay the biggest eggs. The largest weigh more than 20 hens' eggs.

Hen's egg

Cheetahs are the fastest land animals. They can run at over 100kph (60mph).

The biggest butterfly is the **Queen Alexandra's birdwing**. It's wider than a dinner plate.

This bird weighs about as much as a 4-year-old child.

The heaviest flying bird is the **great bustard**.

The tallest dog is the **Great Dane**.

The biggest Great Danes are as tall as a Shetland pony.

Australian pelicans have the biggest beaks of any bird – they hold more water than a large watering can.

The biggest hunter is the **sperm whale**. It grows much longer than a bus, and hunts huge animals including colossal squid.

A chihuahua is about as tall as a can of beans.

...it's a **colossal squid**.

Colossal squid have the biggest eyes of any animal – they are bigger than bowling balls.

Experts think the biggest **colossal squid** may grow to over 13m (43 feet) long – though no one's ever seen one that big.

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