

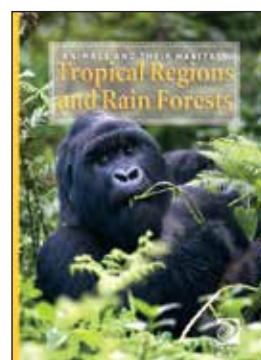
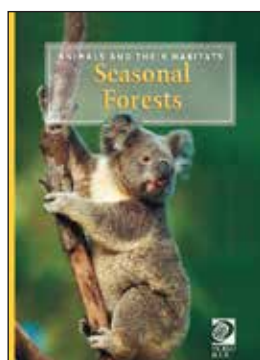
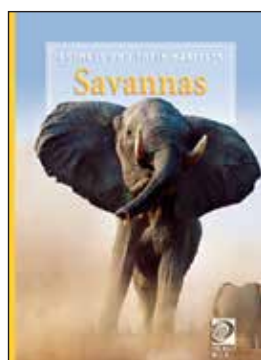
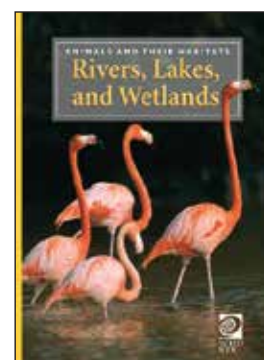
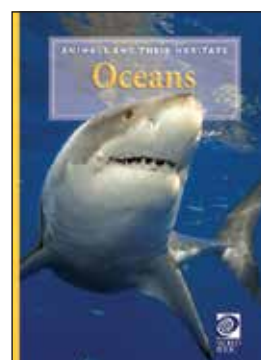
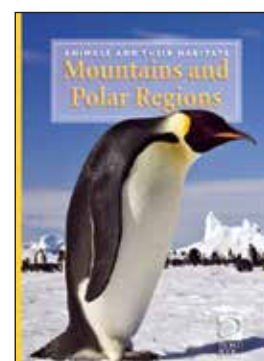
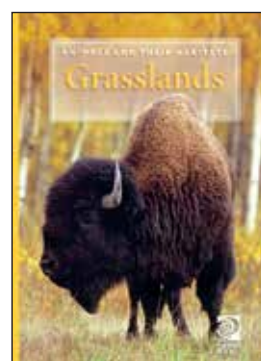
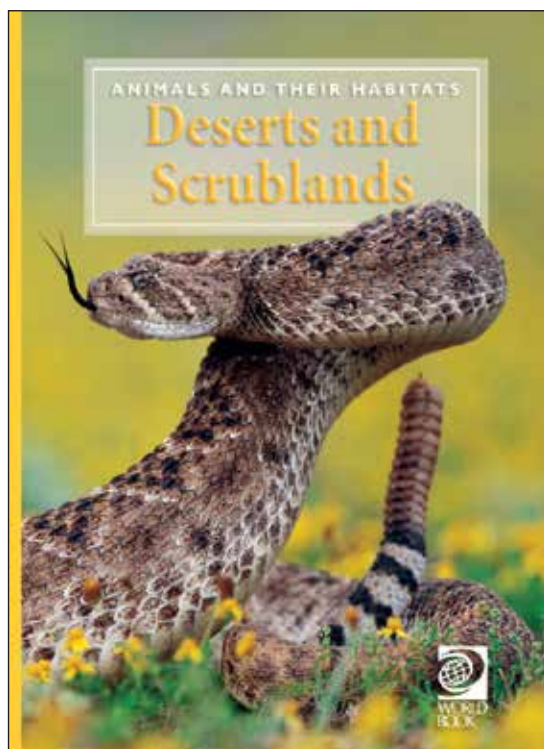
NEW!

# Animals and Their Habitats

Each book in this eight-volume series associates animals with their principal habitats. From icy polar wastes to scorched deserts to the ocean depths, each volume enumerates representative animals of a habitat. This in-depth and beautifully illustrated series places animals in regional contexts to expand readers' understanding and appreciation of the living world.

## Titles:

Deserts and Scrublands  
 Grasslands  
 Mountains and Polar Regions  
 Oceans  
 Rivers, Lakes, and Wetlands  
 Savannas  
 Seasonal Forests  
 Tropical Regions and Rain Forests



## Key features

- Hundreds of magnificent illustrations and photographs provide additional information and facilitate visual understanding
- A "Vital Statistics" box describes each animal's length, weight, and other significant characteristics
- Text boxes link to illustrated significant features of each animal
- Maps show where in the world each animal lives
- A "How Big Is It?" feature provides easily understood graphical size comparison

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**Short-Beaked Echidna**

SPECIES • *Tachylons aculeatus*

**VITAL STATISTICS**

**Weight** 5-10 lb (2-5 kg)  
**Length** 12-20 in (30-50 cm)  
**Life Span** 2 years, but hibernates and may live several years more  
**Reproductive Rate** Egg-layers in the body for 21-28 days and a mother feeds the young for 10 weeks later  
**Reproductive Season** 1, varying across as at 6 months  
**Diet** Insects, snails, and other insects  
**Enemies** Coyotes and cats

Echidnas are extremely unusual among mammals in laying eggs. Egg-laying mammals are known as monotremes. Echidnas and the platypus are the only surviving monotremes.



Found throughout Australia and Tasmania.

**ANIMAL FACTS**

The echidna sleeps up most prey with its sticky tongue. It is widespread in Australia, in forests, deserts, and grasslands. The female carries her leathery egg in a pouch on her underside. After hatching, the youngster, called a puggle, remains in the pouch for several weeks. It is then raised in a burrow. The puggle suckles for more than half a year. Unlike other mammals, monotremes lack nipples. Instead, a patch of skin secretes milk. The milk is pink because it is high in iron. The milk is so rich that the female can leave her puggle alone for up to 10 days after a feeding.

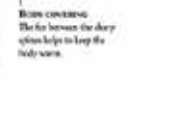


**SNOUT** The snout measures 3 inches (7.5 centimeters), with the tiny mouth at the end only opening to 0.2 inch (0.5 centimeter).

**SCUR** Main hair spines on the hind legs. Called the platypus, the spine of the echidna do not carry poison.



**LEGS** Short legs equipped with strong claws enable the echidna to burrow quickly when threatened.



**Body covering** The hair between the sharp spines helps to keep the body warm.



**DIAGNOSTIC** Echidna an ordinary except for the leathery pouch, when males gather to compete for each female.

**HOW BIG IS IT?**



**CHEW ON THIS**

The underside of the body is covered by fat, so echidnas dig quickly to escape danger, leaving their spines exposed.



The echidna can defend itself with its spines and roll into a ball.

**Fire Salamander**

SPECIES • *Salamandrina atra*

**VITAL STATISTICS**

**Length** Typically 6-10 in (15-25 cm) males are smaller  
**Life Span** 4-7 years  
**Reproductive Rate** 10-20  
**Reproductive Season** 10-20  
**Diet** Tadpoles, worms, snails, and other small insects  
**Enemies** 10-20

The black and orange-yellow marking of these amphibians serves as warning coloration. It signals to predators (hunting animals) that the skin of the salamander is poisonous.



Occurs across much of western and central Europe, to the western shores of the Black Sea.

**ANIMAL FACTS**

The fire salamander is a shy amphibian that is active mainly at night. During the day, it hides under logs or rocks. It requires a moist habitat (living places), or its moist skin will dry out. The fire salamander's skin tastes bad, so most predators will spit it out even before they are poisoned. In addition, the salamander can spray its poison at predators to discourage attack. The salamander's eggs develop inside the female's body. After the eggs hatch, the mother gives birth to larvae (young) that resemble tadpoles. The larvae mature in water, where they go through metamorphosis (transformation) into adults. The adults typically spend most of their time on land. The number of these salamanders is falling, mostly because of damage to the environment.

**Tail** Tail is 1/3 length of the body. The tail has a muscular tip.

**Toes** The toes are webbed and sticky.

**Legs** These salamanders can run to cover quite quickly, but they are not strong swimmers.

**HOW BIG IS IT?**



**TO EACH HIS OWN**

No two fire salamanders are identical in appearance. The yellow-orange spots and lines form different patterns.



**Poison Glands** Glands in the skin produce poisons that can sicken predators.



**Hippopotamus**

SPECIES • *Hippopotamus amphibius*

**VITAL STATISTICS**

**Weight** 4,000-10,000 lb (1,800-4,500 kg)  
**Length** 10-16 ft (3-5 m)  
**Life Span** 40-60 years  
**Reproductive Rate** 1-2 calves a year  
**Reproductive Season** 1-2 years  
**Diet** Grasses, aquatic plants, and other vegetation  
**Enemies** Lions, crocodiles, and other predators

There is no mistaking the appearance of the hippopotamus. The broad head allows it to wade with its eyes and ears above the surface of the water.



Occurs in Africa, south of the Sahara, usually close to rivers and swamps. Almost none the south of the continent.



**Snout** Flares out to form a paddle on the surface of the water, which allows it to breathe.

**Head** The head is large and broad, almost twice the body's length.

**Legs** The legs are short but powerful, allowing the hippopotamus to wade quickly in land and water.

**Neck** The neck is short but powerful, allowing the hippopotamus to wade quickly in land and water.

**HOW BIG IS IT?**



**BEHAVIOR & HABIT**

Young hippopotamuses in a group may rest on their mothers' flanks, where the water is too deep for them to wade.



Hippos have very thick skin.

**Duck-Billed Platypus**

SPECIES • *Ornithorhynchus anatinus*

**VITAL STATISTICS**

**Weight** 4-10 lb (1.8-4.5 kg)  
**Length** 10-16 in (25-40 cm)  
**Life Span** 10-15 years  
**Reproductive Rate** 1-2 young a year  
**Reproductive Season** 1-2 years  
**Diet** Aquatic insects, mollusks, and other small aquatic animals  
**Enemies** 10-15

When this species first became known to Europeans in 1796, its appearance was considered so bizarre it was thought to be a hoax.



Restricted to Australia, occurring along suitable watercourses in the east of the continent, ranging from eastern Queensland south to Victoria (the platypus is absent in Tasmania).



**Beak** Unlike its name, the bill is neither sharp nor pointed. It is flat and is used for catching prey.

**Snout** The snout is sensitive to the temperature of the water, helping the platypus locate its prey.

**Head** Broad and flat, the head helps the platypus stay under water.

**Legs** The legs are short but powerful, allowing the platypus to wade quickly in land and water.

**ANIMAL FACTS**

One of the things that makes the duck-billed platypus so unusual is the fact that it is an egg-laying mammal. It was not until almost a century after its discovery that the method of reproduction was understood. Another unique feature of this species is the way in which it locates its prey underwater by means of electroreception. It uses fine sensory receptors in its bill, but the electroreceptors confirm the presence of living prey.

**HOW BIG IS IT?**



**BEHAVIOR & HABIT**

The female incubates the eggs by curling around them. The young are blind and hairless when they hatch.



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