TIME FOR KIDS

Amazon Rainforest



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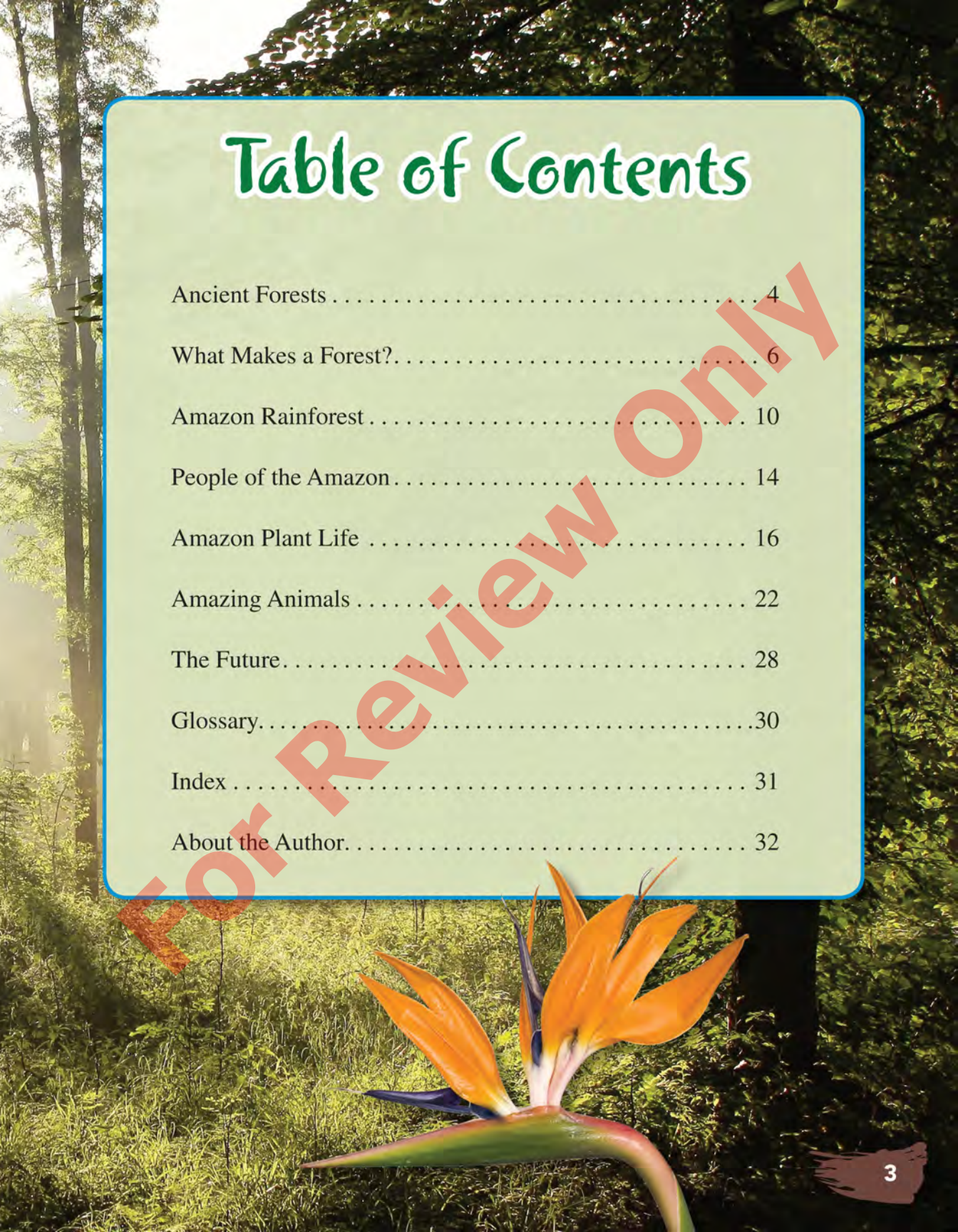
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Ancient Forests

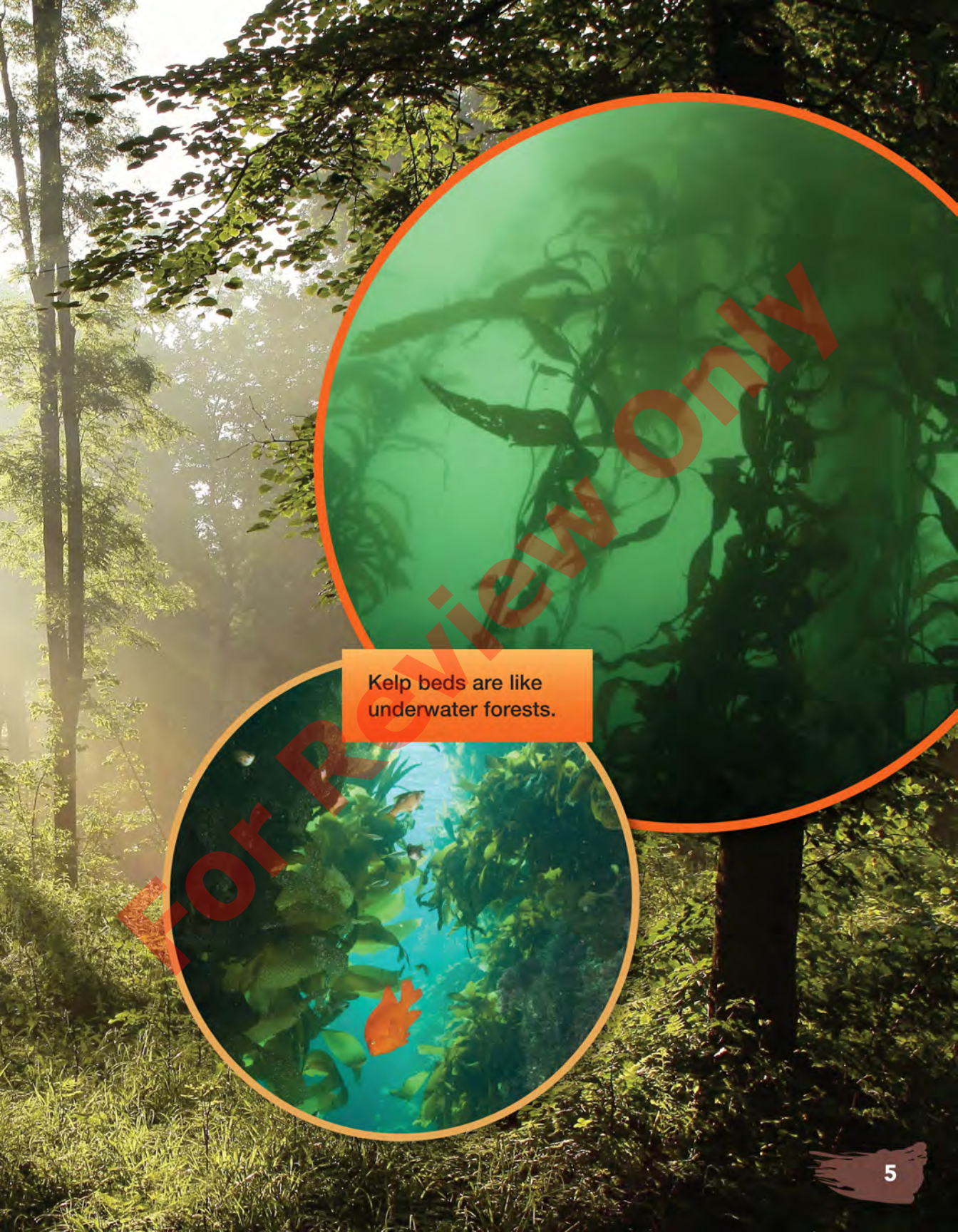
Forests have been around for a long time. They were here on Earth before people were. Forests cover huge areas of land. They cross many, many miles.

Forests may be the most beautiful places on Earth. There is so much to see, smell, and hear there. Trees grow thick and tall. Animals are in the trees and on the ground.

Tropical rainforests may be the most beautiful forests of all. This book is about the largest tropical rainforest in the world, the Amazon.



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Kelp beds are like underwater forests.

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What Makes a Forest?

Forests are places where many trees and plants grow thickly across a large area of land. Of course, trees and plants grow all over. But they do not always make a forest. It takes many trees and plants growing close together to make a forest.



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Trees are a key part of forests. It does not matter what type of trees they are. Different trees and plants like to grow in different settings. Some trees and plants grow where it is hot and dry, as in deserts. Some trees and plants grow where it is wet and cold, as in mountains. Some grow where it is rainy and hot most of the year. Those are tropical rainforests.

About Trees

Trees are woody plants with a single main stem or trunk and many branches. Most experts define trees as being at least 10 feet tall and alive for many years. This diagram shows the main parts of a tree.



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Tropical rainforests are exactly as they sound. They are rainy and wet. Some can get over six feet of rain each year!

The tropics are the area around the middle of Earth. So, rainforests there are tropical rainforests. Another word for them is *jungle*.



Temperate Rainforest

The Hoh Rainforest is found in the northwest United States. It is a **temperate rainforest**. A rainforest is called *temperate* when it is located within the temperate zones on Earth, and it is usually cooler than the tropics. The Hoh can get over 150 inches of rain each year.

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Hoh Rainforest,
Olympic National Park

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