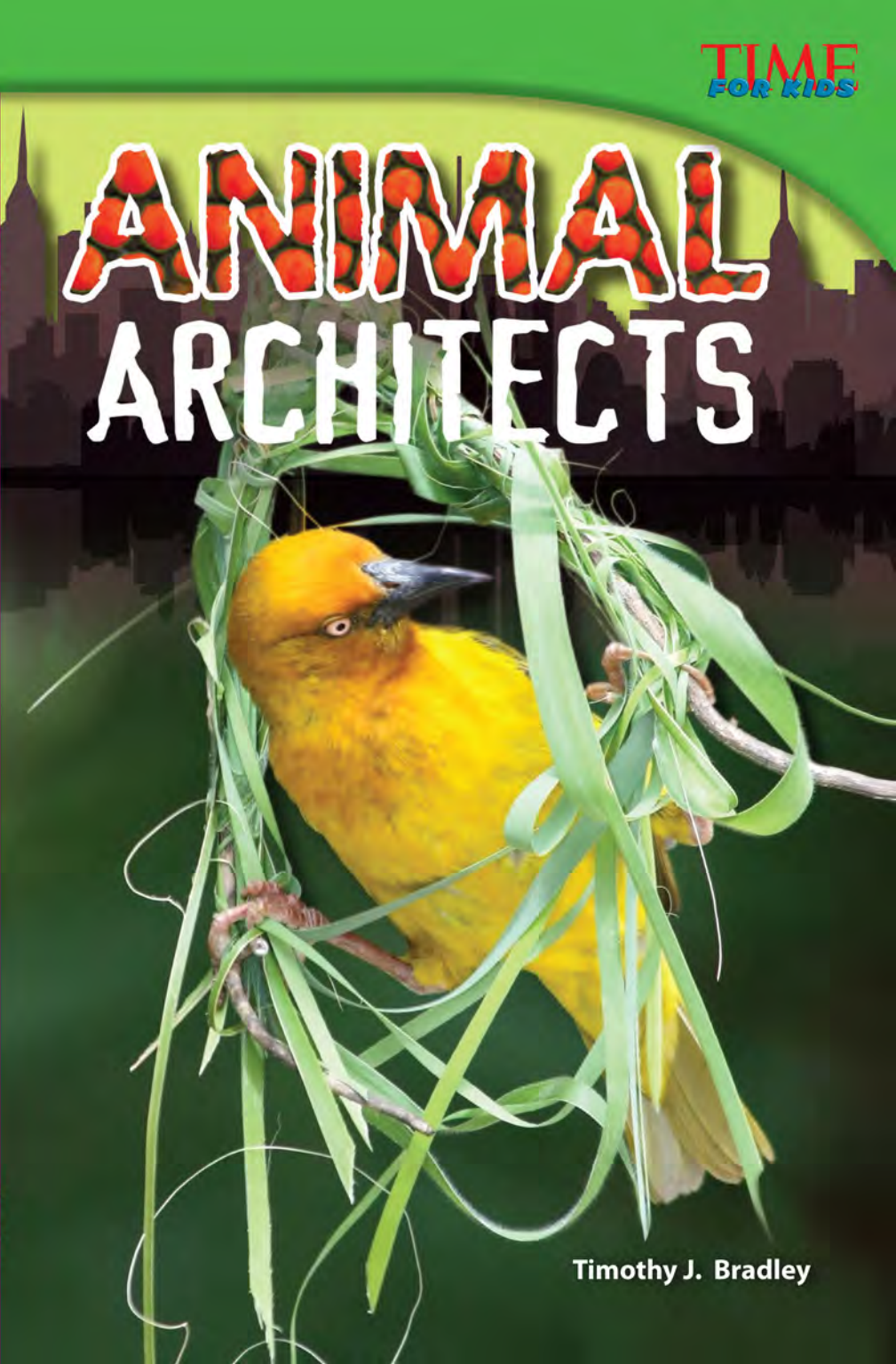
TIME FOR KIDS

ANIMAL ARCHITECTS



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NATURE'S BUILDERS

Humans build everything from **spectacular** skyscrapers to tiny tents. Around the world, people build **shelters** to protect them from weather and danger. The best buildings make people feel safe and secure.

Animals are builders, too. Some, such as snails, use their bodies to build a shelter. Others use the scraps they find around them.

For those who know where to look, the homes built in nature are as amazing as human cities. Travel underground to explore an ant city. Step inside to investigate a busy beehive. And discover the secret **dams** beavers build wherever they go. Even in the wild, there's no place like home.



Animal Architects

An **architect** is someone who designs and plans houses, skyscrapers, and other buildings. Animals don't plan their work in the same way humans do, but they still need safe places to live. As they work to stay safe, many animals create stunning structures.



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There are over 1,300,000 different types of animals in the world!

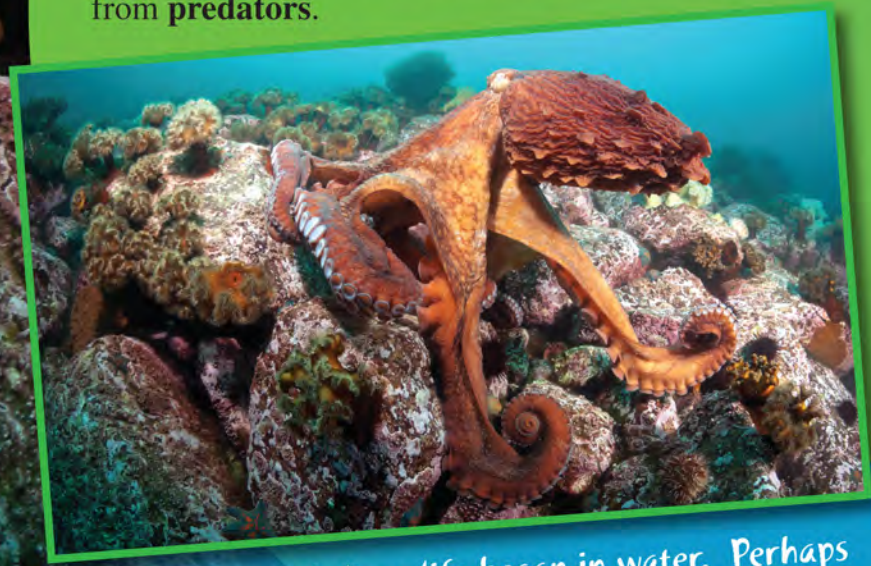


- Where do animals make their homes?
- How do animals defend their homes?
- What can we learn from animals?

HOMES AT SEA

About 70 percent of Earth is covered in water. Most of that water is in the oceans. Animal life in the ocean is **diverse.** There are more than 200,000 species that live in the ocean. Every species has a unique home.

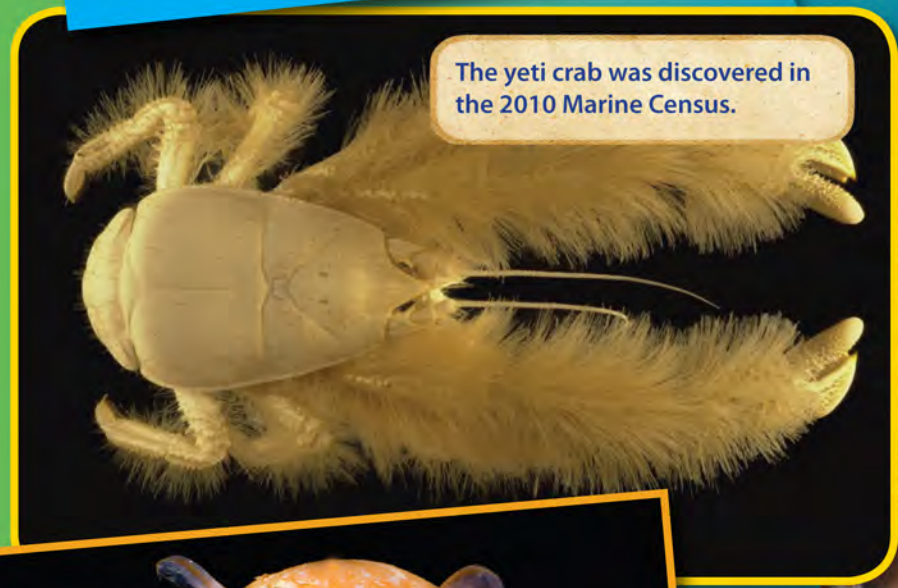
Just like humans, animals want a home that will keep them safe. The ocean is a big place. And, there is plenty of room for every creature. But it is a dangerous place. Every creature must protect itself from **predators**.



Scientists believe life began in water. Perhaps the first animal homes were built in water.

2010 Marine Census

The Marine **Census** is a collection of information about the ocean. It took 10 years and more than 2,700 scientists to create it. But now we can learn about all the plants and animals that have been discovered in the ocean. The Census tells us where each species lives and how many there are. The ocean is so large that scientists are still finding new species to add to the list.



The yeti crab was discovered in the 2010 Marine Census.



Marine Census scientists named the Dumbo octopus for its fins that look like ears.

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Chambered Nautilus

The chambered nautilus is related to the octopus and squid. Like its relatives, it has many arms—up to 90! But the nautilus has something the others don't have. It has a beautiful shell that protects it from predators. The shell offers **camouflage**. The top of the shell is dark. It blends in with the dark sea. It is light on the bottom. This blends in with the light coming from above the water. The shell is divided inside. New rooms, or **chambers**, are added to the shell as the animal grows. The nautilus can pull itself inside the shell if it feels threatened.



Protection from Predators

The nautilus's hard shell offers protection from the sharp teeth of predators. Snails and hermit crabs also use shells for protection. In this same way, humans once built walls around castles. These tall rock walls protected the people inside the castle from arrows and cannons.

Clever Colors

From Above



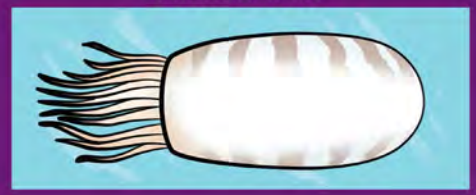
The top of the shell is dark and blends in with the dark sea.

From the Side



The nautilus's blended colors hide it from predators swimming above and below.

From Below



The shell is light on the bottom and blends in with the light coming from above the water.



The nautilus's shell is made up of many chambers.

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