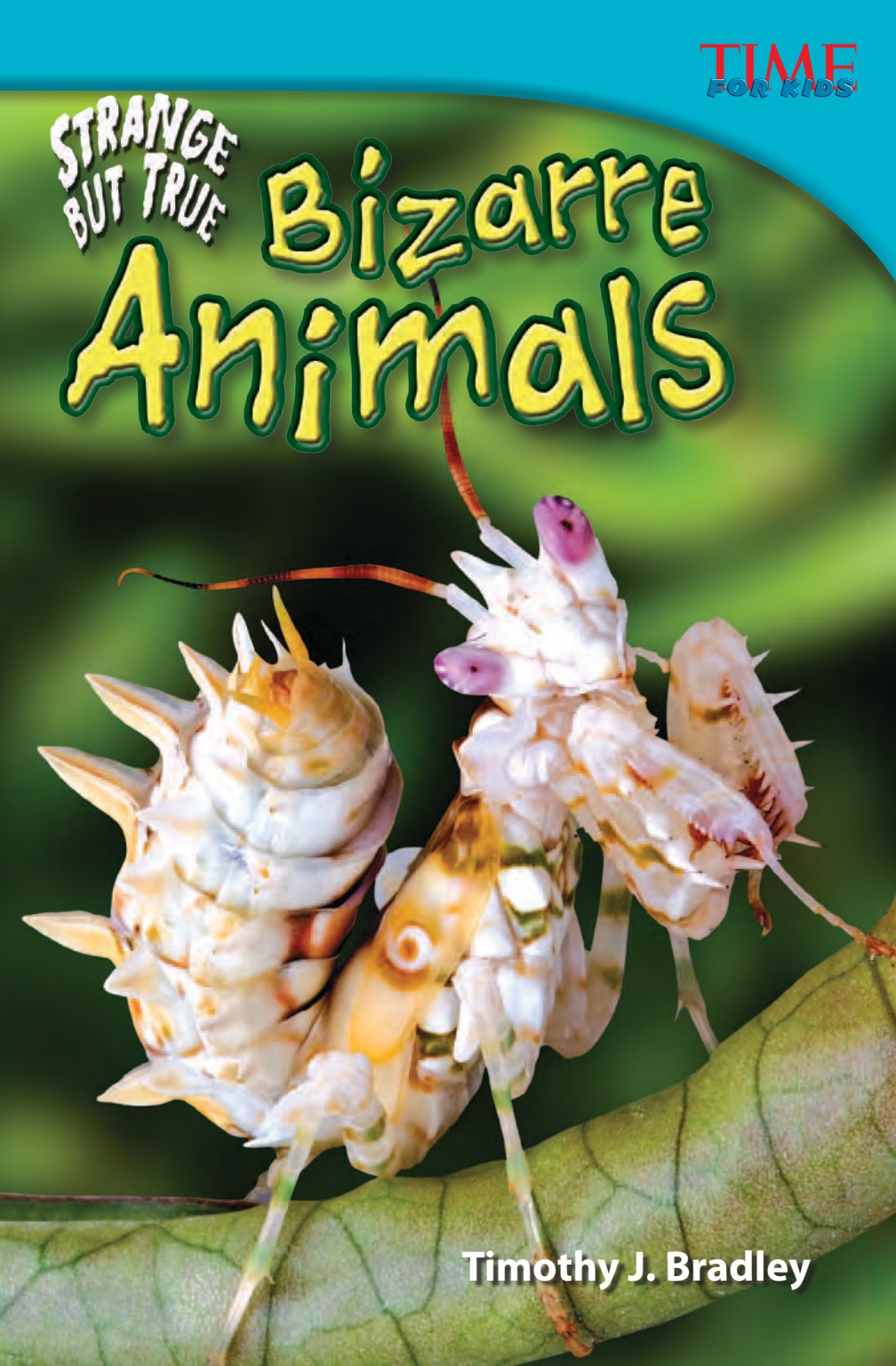
TIME FOR KIDS

STRANGE BUT TRUE

Bizarre Animals



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Teacher Created Materials
5301 Oceanus Drive
Huntington Beach, CA 92649-1030
http://www.tcmpub.com
ISBN 978-1-4333-4861-7
© 2013 Teacher Created Materials, Inc.



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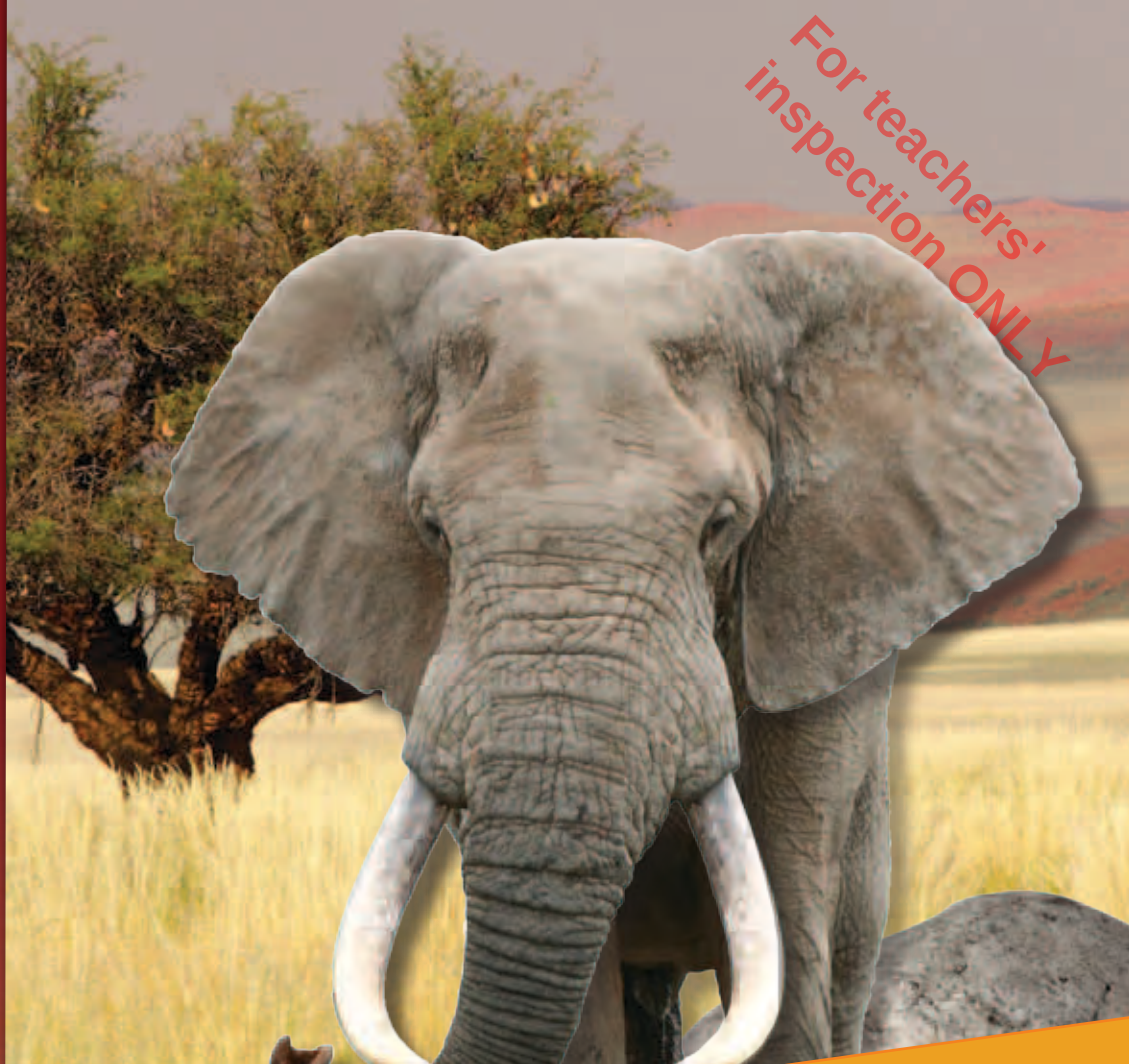
Why Are Animals So WEIRD?



Nature can be strange. Very strange. Many animals seem **bizarre** to us. Giraffes have long necks. Elephants have huge ears and long trunks. Rhinoceroses have sharp horns. And these animals aren't even the strangest!

What makes some animals so weird? It's all because of **evolution**. Creatures need to adapt in order to survive. Some animals live in harsh places such as the desert or deep in the ocean. Over time, they must evolve. They develop **adaptations** that help them survive in this wild world. These adaptations may seem weird to us, but these animals couldn't live without them.







1. What adaptations help animals survive?
2. How do extreme environments cause animals to evolve?
3. In what ways are humans bizarre animals?

Baffling Bugs

Arthropods have developed some creepy features to help them survive. These critters have lived on Earth for over 500 million years. Scientists believe they were the first creatures to live on land. And now they can be found almost every place on Earth.

Insects are a type of arthropod. They are **invertebrates**. They have an **exoskeleton**, a segmented body, and jointed legs. Everything from a common brown spider to a crab is an arthropod. This group of animals includes some of the strangest species on Earth.



arthropod fossil

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Grasshoppers use their legs to hear!

Incredible Insects

Today, the Goliath beetle is one of the largest insects on Earth. It's about the size of a computer mouse. And millions of years ago, dragonflies nearly two feet long flew through the sky!

Actual size!

Peppered Moth

Our world is always changing. And every creature must adapt to survive. Evolution occurs when animals change over time and increase their chances of survival. The peppered moth once spent its days resting on light-color trees. Its black-and-white wings blended in perfectly. But then the **Industrial Revolution** changed the world. People began using more machines. These machines produced pollution that filled the air. The light-colored trees became covered in dark soot. The peppered moth needed to adapt to the new environment. Some moths evolved darker wings and bodies. The darker moths were better able to hide from predators. In time, only black moths remained. This change didn't happen overnight. It took more than 50 years. But it allowed the peppered moth to survive.



Changing Colors

The peppered moth changed from white to black through 50 years of evolution. The moths that were best suited to the new environment survived.

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