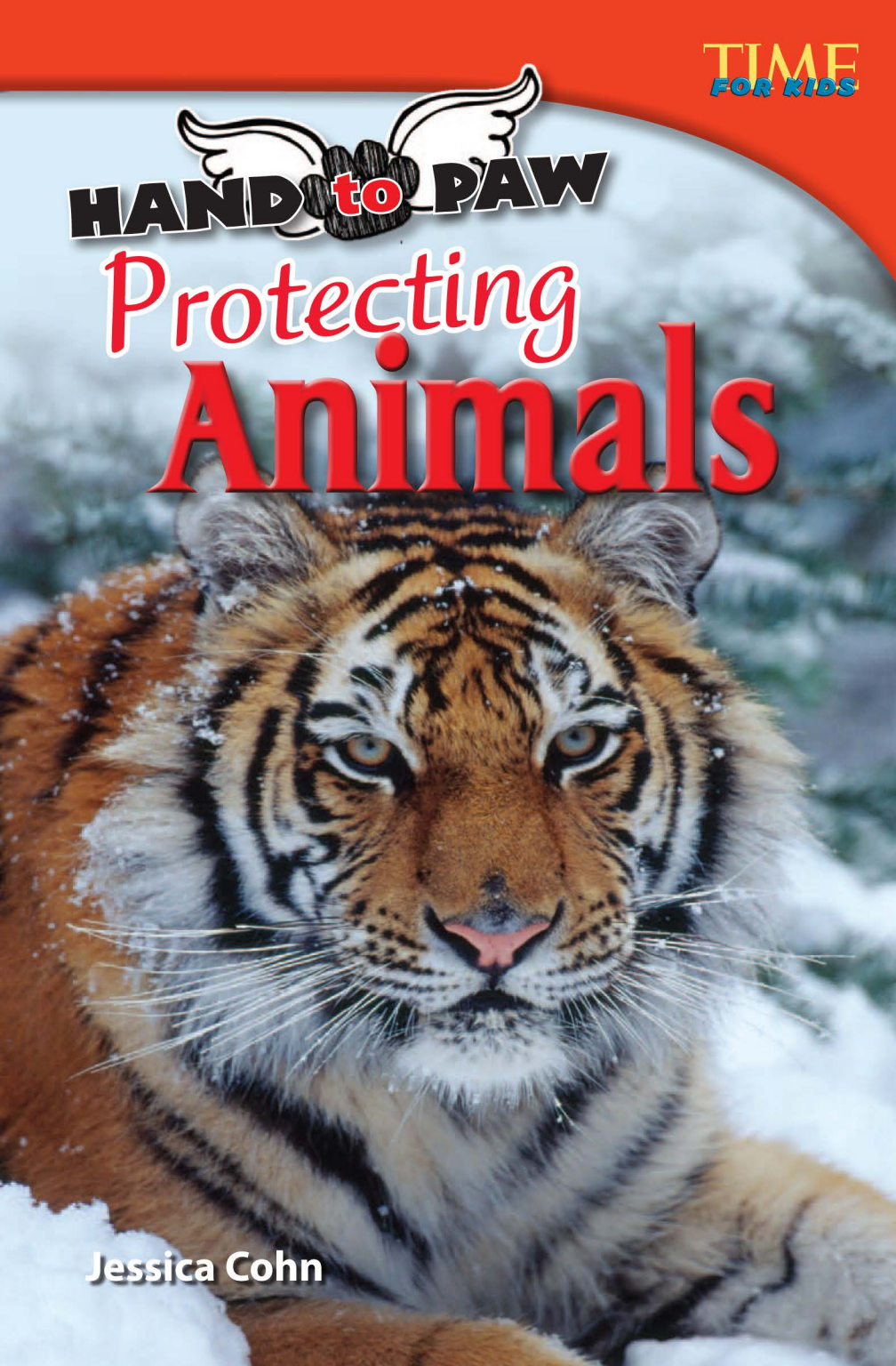

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For Review Only

Celebrate Animals

Animals live everywhere on Earth. Insects, mammals, reptiles, birds, and fish come in every color and shape you can imagine. They hunt, mate, and build their homes around the world.

Domesticated animals live on farms. They help with herding sheep, producing milk, and making **fertilizer**. Domesticated animals can also be our pets. Cats, dogs, iguanas, mice, and even spiders can be pets. The animals we bring into our homes can comfort and care for us. And we care for them.

Wild and domestic animals all play a role in our world. Humans are animals, too. But unlike most animals, we have power. We can protect and care for other animals.

THINK LINK

- Why are animals important to people around the world?
- In what ways are animals in danger?
- How can we help animals?



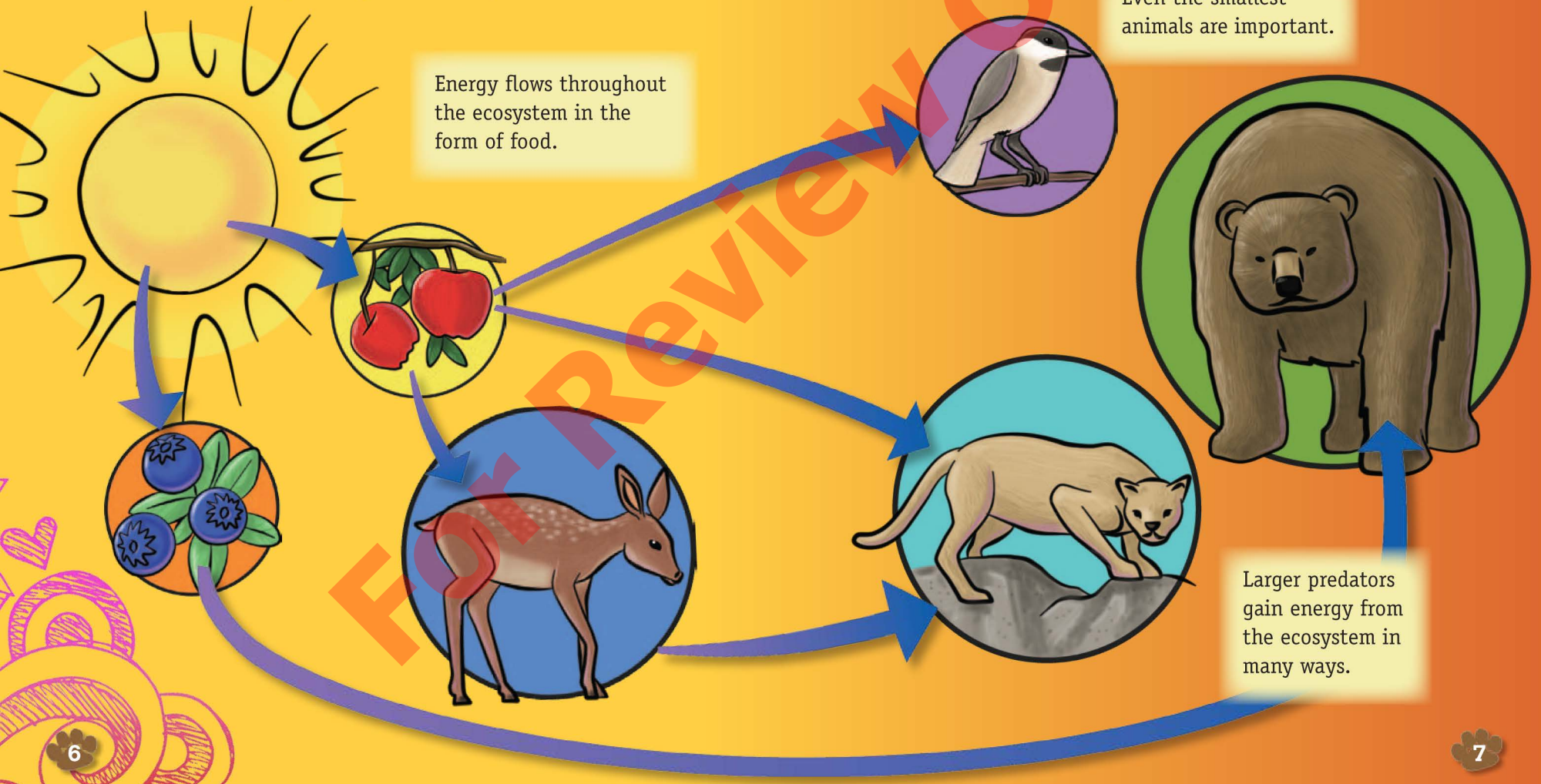
Animals can be a best friend or a ferocious predator, but they all need our protection.

For Review Only

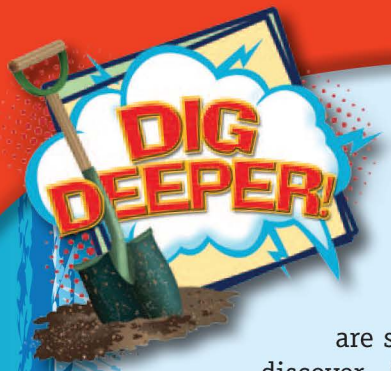
In the Wild

Earth's animals come in a wild assortment. You know the long-necked giraffe and the harsh spikes of the porcupine. But there are many other strange creatures we are just discovering. In Africa, there is a spider that makes a web stronger than a bulletproof vest! In the Gulf of Mexico, **biologists** found an odd fish that walks on its fins. Scientists are calling it the *pancake batfish*.

Each wild animal plays a big role in our **environment**. Larger animals eat smaller ones. Some animals eat plants. This helps to spread seeds. All the animals in an **ecosystem** are connected. Adding or removing just one animal can destroy the balance.



For Review Only



Fast Facts

Scientists are discovering new **species** every week. And they estimate there are still millions of animals to discover. Check out some of the most extreme animals found so far.



Extremely Fast

The cheetah is the fastest animal on land. In the heat of the hunt, it can run up to 68 miles per hour. That's the same speed as a car on the freeway!



Extremely Big

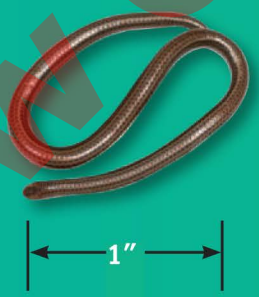
As far as we know, the blue whale the largest animal that has ever lived. It can weigh over 150 tons, which is about as much as a locomotive.

WOW

Extremely Weird

The leafy sea dragon is a relative of the seahorse. It lives in the southern waters of Australia. It is hard to see because it looks like floating seaweed.





Extremely Small

The smallest snake in the world is found on the island of Barbados. It is as thin as spaghetti. And it is only about four inches long.

Extremely Colorful

Male peacocks have beautifully colored, iridescent-blue tail feathers. He shows them off to win over females.



For Review Only